



Title: Treasures of Time

Artist: Rhonda T Whitehurst

No matter the time one visits a garden, if one uses all their senses there will be a treasure.

Brief Artist BIO

Rhonda Toler Whitehurst was born in Greenville, North Carolina. She has been involved in the arts for over fifty years. Her mother was an artist (oil paintings) so she was exposed to the arts at an early age. She entered her first art exhibition at the age of fifteen where she won first place in acrylic painting. During the summers, she was allowed to take art classes at the Community College by special permission. After high school, she continued her art education at East Carolina University until she met and married her husband, Henry C. Whitehurst. Soon after, her painting took a back seat to marriage, work and later to family. However, she could design and sell needle arts and quilting as she stayed at home to raise her two daughters. Rhonda began teaching needle arts classes at night for the Community College. She taught night and weekend classes in arts and crafts for the Greenville Parks and Recreation for both children and adults. It was through these that she became involved with the local art community and the Greenville Museum of Art.

Rhonda did return to college once her youngest child started school. She received her degree in Paralegal and worked in that profession until her children finished their education. Even then, she continued to develop and broaden her skills by taking classes and workshops in many forms of art including watercolor, oil and ink, acrylics, pastels, decorative painting, stain glass, pottery and jewelry making. She has taught classes in various mediums throughout North Carolina, South Carolina, Eastern Tennessee and Southwest Virginia. She has served as president and held many offices in guilds and organizations throughout the years. She has traveled to many countries and has had the opportunity to live in Chile and China for several years.

Rhonda now resides in Pulaski, Virginia with her husband. She has been a member of the Fine Arts Center for the New River Valley since moving here over 15 years ago and has served on its board. There she met Edna Love, Lyndall Mason and Martha Preston, three retired art teachers that became her mentors and muses. Rhonda teaches adult and teen classes in stain glass, painting and jewelry along with setting up other artist classes and workshops, and youth art camps. She still finds time to bring the arts to the community (with the help of her husband and friends). They provide free art programs for day and afterschool care, seniors and free children's art at local festivals. Rhonda loves teaching but she especially loves learning from other artists as well.

Contact: rhondawhitehurst@gmail.com (540) 239-4882

Art Statement:

Extra-large wind chime made from copper circles graduating down in size with large chunks of colored glass, glass beads and a hammered textured copper bell in a downward flower shape. The size, shine, colors, and textures like plants in a garden, should attract us to the piece. The movement and sound, like water in a garden, should keep us there. If all these elements create a memorable experience then one has witnessed the timelessness of a garden.

