

FOUNDRY GALLERY

A cooperative of artists, more than 30 years strong
1314 18th Street, N.W. Washington, DC 20036
South of Massachusetts Avenue
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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“Dual Reality”

Recent Paintings and Prints by Ann and Philip Bennet

Dates: July 2 through July 27, 2008

Reception: Friday, JULY 11, 2008, 6-8pm

Gallery Hours: Wednesday-Sunday, 12-6pm

The Foundry Gallery is pleased to present recent paintings and prints by its only husband/wife members, Ann and Philip Bennet. They are the products of a long marriage and an equally long interest in painting. Informed by the same experiences, the Bennets' interpretations differ radically. They are each other's muse as well as each other's severest critics. As in marriage and vocations (Philip an attorney and Ann a tutor of dyslexic children), their styles diverged. Ann's reality is based on her reaction to landscapes and architecture that have affected her emotionally. Philip's reality is more inner directed, a response to mood and feeling transformed to line, shape, and color.

Ann's pastels and monotypes are based upon photographs she has taken of places whose beauty has inspired her. Her travels in the United States and Europe are represented. When working with monotypes Ann uses a lithograph plate to ink an image, then paints a watercolor on mylar of the same subject and combines the two images on one sheet of paper. Although the prints are representational, the vibrant, expressionistic colors Ann uses make her interpretations unique. Likewise her pastels, though representational, simplify shapes and push color to intensify her personal response to time and place.

Philip's abstracts emphasize saturated color and texture. His pastels on beeswax involve etching into roughly applied beeswax to create heavily textured color and line. By contrast his monotypes often combine subtle watercolor washes as a background over which rich lithographic inks are printed. To do this he uses multiple plates and numerous printings on the same paper to create his abstract expressionist images. Also, included in the exhibit are some large stained acrylics on unprimed canvas. In the last two years he has won awards in three juried exhibits and his paintings are in private collections nationally and internationally.