

Arts

Museums ♦ Literature

Ritchie gives familiar suburbs an artist's touch

By GLENN McNATT
SUNART CRITIC

The prints, drawings and watercolors of artist and National Gallery of Art curator Charles Ritchie, on view at the Albin O. Kuhn Library Gallery at the University of Maryland Baltimore County, reveal an artist who transforms even the most ordinary subjects into luminous objects of delight.



Technical mastery is evident at UMBC show

Ritchie's art, shown in the exhibit *Suburban Journals: The Sketchbooks, Drawings and Prints of Charles Ritchie*, is inspired mostly by the view from his Montgomery County studio window — trees, streets, flowers and the ephemeral atmospheric effects of season and weather.

From such seemingly simple materials, Ritchie creates works that are beautiful, subtle and incredibly labor-intensive — the artist can work for up to a year on a single image.

His work demonstrates a complete technical mastery of traditional printing processes such as mezzotint, etching and aquatint. The UMBC show presents work spanning 20 years



Charles Ritchie's "Self Portrait with Oranges IV" and "Daffodils with Astronomical Chart."

IMAGES © CHARLES RITCHIE

and traces the evolution of the artist's creations from pen-and-ink and watercolor sketches in his notebooks through their final realization in a variety of print forms.

Perhaps because of his work as a curator, Ritchie's vision is very much inspired by the art of the past. He works in a time-honored realist style, and his technical proficiency makes him

seem like a contemporary Old Master.

In that sense, his work is traditional and tradition-laden rather than avant-garde. His prints are steeped in the history of art and plumb a familiar visual world with the assurance of one who appreciates the great lessons of the past.

The exhibition runs through March 26. The Kuhn Library is

on the campus of UMBC, 1000 Hilltop Circle in Catonsville. Hours are noon to 4:30 p.m. Monday-Wednesday and Friday, noon to 8 p.m. Thursday and 1 p.m.-5 p.m. Saturday. Admission is free. Call 410-455-2270.

For more arts events, see Page 36.

Best bets

Joyce Scott show

In conjunction with *Tour de Clay*, local artist Joyce J. Scott puts stereotypes on display at C. Grimaldis Gallery. The exhibit *Dirt Works* uses glass beads, ceramics and a bit of humor to bring attention to racism, sexuality and violence.

A second exhibit at the gallery features medium- to large-scale ceramic sculptures and wood-fired pottery by three internationally renowned artists: Anthony Caro, Paul Chaleff and Dimitri Hadzi.

Both exhibits go up today, and an opening reception will run tonight from 6 to 8. The



DAN VAN ALLEN

Paint-by-numbers art is based on a Burning Man Festival slide.

shows will remain through April 2. Gallery hours are 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Tuesdays through Saturdays. C. Grimaldis Gallery is at 523 N. Charles St. Call 410-539-1080.

Interactive clay

Clay comes to life in a new sculpture exhibit at Gallery ID8. Artist Bridget Parlato invites viewers to wear and touch her papier-mache masks, sit on her ceramic chairs and enter her large floor pieces. Largely modeled after nature, these organic and spiritual sculptures are functional and interactive.

Everything in the show combines clay with other media, including wall-hung collages.

Parlato's work goes up tomorrow and will be on display through April 24. Gallery ID8 is at 207 Fleet St. Gallery hours are 5 p.m.-10 p.m. Fridays; noon-9 p.m. Saturdays; 2 p.m.-8 p.m. Sundays. Call 410-276-8190.

Burning Man photos

Local artist Dan Van Allen

has documented the Burning Man Festival, an annual artistic free-for-all in Nevada's Black Rock Desert, for the past six years.

His paint-by-number prints and photographs of sculptures give viewers a glimpse of the harsh and bizarre environment that influences the festival's art.

An opening reception takes place from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. Sunday at Soo's Kimchee House restaurant and will feature a slide show and live music by Mongolian Glow.

The show runs through March 31 at Soo's Kimchee House, 11 W. Preston St. Restaurant hours are 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Tuesdays through Fridays; 5:30 p.m.-9:30 p.m. Thursdays through Sundays. Call 410-234-1377.

— Kim Hart

THE WEEK'S BEST

Eats

Ellicott City's Serafino's, long a favorite for pizza and takeout, now offers 220 seats, a bar, a banquet room and welcoming atmosphere. Italian favorites are still the main attraction, though. **page 16**



GENE SWEENEY JR. SUN STAFF

Stage

Franz Schubert found inspiration in the poetry of Wilhelm Muller, and the result is two song cycles, one of which — *Die schone Mullerin* — will be performed tomorrow at Evergreen House by baritone Randall Scarlata and pianist Jeremy Denk. **page 12**



AMY DAVIS : SUN STAFF

Family

The Maryland Zoo in Baltimore reopens this weekend with a "Spring Thaw" celebration. Updates include three new trams, new signs, new food kiosks and more staff. **page 30**



©CHARLES RITCHIE

Art

The exhibit *Suburban Journals: The Sketchbooks, Drawings and Prints of Charles Ritchie*, at University of Maryland, Baltimore County, showcases the intensely detailed work of the artist. **page 14**

Trips

Washington's National Building Museum offers a close-up view of an intricate yet expansive interior. The building, in brick Italian Renaissance style, has been the site of inaugural galas for every president since Grover Cleveland in 1885. **page 26**



RONALD HUBE : SPECIAL TO THE SUN

PICK OF THE WEEK

What: Carmina Burana Monumental Opera

Where: MCI Center, 601 F St. N.W., Washington

When: Tonight at 8

Why: Because if you like the composition *Carmina Burana*, why not experience it along with pyrotechnics, 30 dancers in 300 costumes, a choir, a full orchestra and a host of soloists?

Tickets: \$53-\$128, available through Ticketmaster at 410-547-SEAT or www.ticketmaster.com.

Information: www.carmina-burana.com