



## The Art Count Project

During the millennial year 2000 the non-profit 1708 Gallery took on the ambitious task of creating a census of Virginia artists. The resulting Art Count Project celebrated the vast talent and diversity of this creative community by depicting images from nearly 1000 Virginia artists' portfolios. Curators throughout the state sent out calls for submissions for this project and contributed to the identification of artists from their regions. Galleries sent postcards from their stables of artists while art schools encouraged their students to participate. A secondary goal of this project was to encourage each artist of age to register to vote. 1708 Gallery was founded a quarter century ago on the idea that artists' voices count - and more so if they vote.

Art Count 2000 was partially funded by a Museum of the Millennium Grant from the Virginia Association of Museums in conjunction with the Virginia Department of Tourism.

## Artist Biographies

**Aylene Fallah** was born in Iran and in 1985 her family immigrated to the U.S. She graduated from Virginia Commonwealth University with a BFA in Sculpture in 1998. Recent solo shows include "Traces of the Spirit," at Glenview Mansion Art Gallery in Md. and Gallery 10 in Washington, D.C. in 2000. Fallah's work can also be seen in solo and group exhibitions throughout the Mid-Atlantic region, California and Florida. Fallah currently lives in Burke, Va.

**Joan Gaustad** completed her BFA at Virginia Commonwealth University in 1976. Her education also included art studies in Bangkok, China in 1969 and Germany in 1971. She is a member of the One-Off Printmakers Collective and an artist emeritus member of 1708 Gallery. Recent projects include a survey at Mary Baldwin College in 2002, the solo exhibition "HANDheld" at the Fine Arts Building Gallery at Virginia Commonwealth University and "BABY= BUDDHA," a billboard commissioned by 64 Magazine. Joan shares her life in Richmond, Va. with painter Gerald Donato.

**Todd Murphy** was born in Chicago, Ill., and graduated from the University of Georgia in 1986. His work is represented by Lowes Gallery in Atlanta, Ga. and can be seen in the following collections: The High Museum of Art, Atlanta, Ga.; The New Orleans Museum of Art, New Orleans, La.; The Mint Museum, Charlotte, N.C.; The Triton Museum, Santa Clara, Ca.; The Tampa Museum of Art, Tampa, Fl.; McKissick Museum of Art, Columbia, S.C.; and The University of Georgia, Athens, Ga. Murphy currently lives in Charlottesville, Va.

**Tom Nakashima** was born in Seattle, Wa. and received his MFA from the University of Notre Dame in 1968. He maintained a residence in Berryville, Va. until last fall. While there he developed an international following for his art work showing in over 30 solo exhibitions including shows at The Washington Project for the Arts; The Sasakawa Peace Foundation; Henri Gallery and Anton Gallery, all in Washington, D.C. as well as The Yamanashi Museum of Art, Kofu, Japan; Steinbaum Krauss Gallery, New York City; and galleries in Santa Fe, N.M., Chicago, Ill. and Cincinnati, Oh. His paintings and prints are in the permanent collections of over 50 public collections. Included are The Corcoran Gallery of Art, The Smithsonian American Art Museum, The Long Beach Museum of Art, The Jane Voorhees Zimmerli Art Museum (Rutgers), The Jersey City Museum and The Nelson Fine Arts Center, Arizona State University. Nakashima was recently named the William Morris Eminent Scholar in Art at Augusta State University in Augusta, Ga.

**Craig Pleasants** is a native of High Point, N.C. and received his BFA from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill in 1976. Post graduate studies include L'Institut d'arts visuels, Orleans, France; an M.Ed. from Converse College in South Carolina in 1983 and an ABD from New York University in 1985. Pleasants' installations and sculpture have been shown throughout the Mid-Atlantic region and have been supported by the Pollock-Krasner Foundation, Art Matters, Inc and the Virginia and South Carolina Arts Commissions. His indoor installations at White Columns, the Alternative Museum in New York City and the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts provide compelling contrast to his exterior installations at sites such as the Raleigh Museum of Art and the Nevada Museum of Art. Pleasants currently lives and works at the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts, Sweet Briar, Va.

**Ben Pranger** received his BFA from Oberlin College in Ohio in 1985 and his MFA from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. His work has been shown in numerous solo and group shows in Virginia, New York and Chicago. His most recent solo shows were at SUNY, Westbury, N.Y.; Hollins University Art Gallery in Roanoke, VA; the Marie Walsh Sharpe Space Program in NYC and the Fine Arts Work Center of Provincetown, Ma. His work has been supported by grants and fellowships from the Virginia Commission for the Arts, Virginia Center for the Creative Arts, Marie Walsh Sharpe NY Space Program, Fine Arts Work Center in Provincetown and the Vermont Studio Center. Pranger currently resides in Roanoke, Va.

**Kate Woodliff** is currently a candidate for the Master of Fine Arts in Painting and Printmaking at Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond, Va. She received her BFA from the Kendall College of Art and Design and studied in the SACI program in Florence, Italy. She has exhibited in group shows in Ohio, Michigan and Virginia. Her work was most recently seen in the Orange Door Gallery in Richmond, Va.

**Seven Messengers: Selections from the Art Count Project** will be on view at 1708 Gallery in Richmond, Va from June 6 - July 5. A virtual catalogue with complete information on the art and artists can be viewed at <http://www.1708gallery.org>

1708 is located at 319 W. Broad St. Please call 804.643.1708 for more information.

# 1708 GALLERY

A NON-PROFIT SPACE FOR NEW ART

319 West Broad Street • P.O. Box 12520 • Richmond, Virginia 23241  
tel 804.643.1708 • [www.1708GALLERY.org](http://www.1708GALLERY.org)

Gallery Sponsors and Benefactors: A Sharper Palate • Anonymous • Arts and Cultural Funding Consortium • Tom and Ellen Blackstone • BOB Architecture • Page and Sandy Bond • Sally Brown • The Bruce Ford Brown Charitable Trust • La Difference International Furnishings • Dominion Resources • William Jay Fields • The Sydney & Frances Lewis Foundation • Wallace B. & Nancy Millner • The National Endowment for the Arts • Tom & Susan Papa • The Mary Morton Parsons Foundation • The Virginia Commission for the Arts • Design by CODY Graphics, Inc. • Scans and Printing by Digital Ink