

SEARCH ...

HOME

ABOUT

CONTACT / SUBMISSIONS

EDUCATION

SUPPORTERS

ARCHITECTURE / ART / BOOKS / EDUCATION /
HISTORY / LANDSCAPE / PEOPLE

Les Yeux du Monde Gallery

Posted on December 3, 2012 by V A M O D E R N

1 Comment



Subscribe

VAMODERN SUPPORTERS



smbw

CULTURAL RESOURCES

Virginia Society **AIA**





Photographer, Scott Smith

On a sunny autumn Saturday afternoon in November, I took some time to visit Lyn Bolen Warren at her rural hilltop home and gallery twelve miles Northeast of downtown Charlottesville. It sits high and well away from the road leading up through a forest, and when rounding the final bend, what appears is the panorama of a Piedmont vista framed by two very

unique modern buildings. On the left is villa-like series of residential pavilions for her family and on the right is a new art gallery designed by W G Clark sandwiched between walls translucent glass block and sheets of Corten steel. Beyond this is a gently sloping grassy meadow, and beyond that is a humble gable form horse barn set into the trees.

All in all, it's just an amazing place to be – a true respite for one's soul. I left with the sense that Lyn is a special person with a purposeful vision, and I am thrilled to share her mission with you here.

Interview with Lyn Bolen Warren | by [Josh McCullar](#)



Q. With a background in modern art history, you originally began hosting artist receptions and shows in your home on the outskirts of Charlottesville before opening Les Yeux du Monde Gallery in downtown Charlottesville. Over a decade later (14 years and 17 since inception), you returned the gallery to where it began, on your rural property in a new modern building. What drove that decision and how did the

building come to be?

{Lyn Warren, left | Jen Fariello, Photographer}

A. Yes, I actually named the gallery Les Yeux du Monde (the Eyes of the World) when I started having the receptions and shows in my home in 1995, referring to



RECENT POSTS

Les Yeux du Monde Gallery
vaMODERN featured in A+A
Bishop's Chapel
a Rural Library
UVA School of Architecture Additions
Furniture in Nature's Finish

the incredible views of Charlottesville and the mountains from this spot just off of 20 North. Even then I dreamed of building a separate gallery on the land, and our architect Kate Nesbitt who designed the house, included a separate gallery in a Master Plan. In 1999 I moved the gallery from the house to West Main Street in Charlottesville for three years and then to the downtown mall off of Water Street for six years. When my husband Russ Warren retired from teaching art in 2008, we realized that he would need a studio and perhaps now was the time to try to build on the land that inspired the gallery's name. I had admired W.G. Clark's work for a long time, even before I knew that he was teaching in Charlottesville, so it seemed especially fortuitous when he agreed to the project.

Q. The new gallery is art unto itself and a real piece of sculpture. What was the design process like with W G Clark?

A. It was a dream, pure and simple. After meeting with W.G. and his one and only assistant, another brilliant architect, Josh Stastny at their office to hear about the process, I drove W.G. to the site. His first remark – "Jefferson didn't have it any better than this at Monticello" – was encouraging. Siting the gallery was crucial. We had 30 acres to work with, but he chose to keep all of the buildings (house, garage and gallery) in close proximity to one another. He and Josh came up with three possible sites for the building and built models of each to show us in relation to the house. One model was more finished than the others and it was the one that was the obvious choice. All Russ and I told him was that we each needed a space to work, but still wanted the spaces to be connected somehow. They came up with the perfect solution and we were continually surprised by each and every amazing detail. Peter Johnson was excellent at interpreting and building and Josh oversaw the project while Russ and I were able to sit back and witness the masterpiece come into being.

Q. What was your childhood like and did it expose you to art or inspire that interest in you?



A. I grew up on a farm in Galax Virginia, and was, for most of my childhood and teen years more interested in horses than in art! My first real exposure to art was at Davidson College. I majored in art history because those classes were the most exciting to me. I also had to take three studio courses as an art

finding Soul in the Place
Debi Stadlin's New World
Creating Home on Richmond's
Riverside Drive
Architect Jim Burton's own house for sale
Perfect Imperfection
house by WG Clark for sale {updated}
Zen Pavilions Create Calm for Patients
Horsepen Road
S T U D I E S: WG Clark
"The Essence of a Cemetery Landscape"
va Artisans Studio Tour 2011
Xu Bing Tobacco Project
New York artists open Gallery in Danville
Covington Farmer's Market
VMFA Shortlisted for the RIBA
Lubetkin Prize
Lost Virginia
Saucy's Walkup
Steven Holl to Design VCU Art Museum
Modern Respite
The Crib
Richmond on Archdaily
Jefferson's Modern
Cameron Foundation
Maya Lin to be 2011 Thomas Jefferson
Medalist in Architecture
Cork Countertops | Eco Supply Center
a place
Arritt Farmhouse
Bellini Cafe
W G Clark House
Mid Atlantic Region
Charles Goodman House
Drawing like a Child
about the publisher
Minimalist

history major and I realized it was much harder to make great art than to study it! I really became hooked when I traveled and saw the works I had studied face to face. This was particularly important the summer after college during an internship I had at the Guggenheim Museum in New York. I had the luxury to spend, for example, a whole lunch hour with one painting at the Metropolitan or hours before work with the Van Gogh drawings at the Guggenheim. Those experiences are what really motivated me to continue to want to work with art itself, not just slides and books. So throughout graduate school I also worked at the UVA Bayly (now Fralin) Art Museum, and this desire to stay in touch with the actual art I'm sure also factored into my decision to open the gallery.

Q. What has been the mission of Les Yeux du Monde since inception, and has it evolved or remained the same?

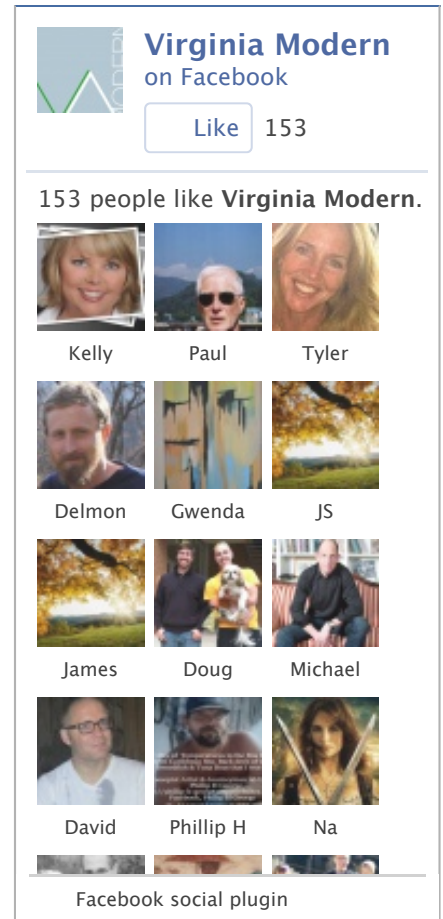
A. The mission has always been to educate, inspire and disseminate the best in modern and contemporary art and ideas. The methods and ways of doing this may change, but the mission is still the same – to exhibit and sell the best art available while offering educational opportunities about the art. I show what I think is art historically important and what I think has staying power.

Q. You speak fondly of your good friend and former teacher Lydia Gasman. Who was she?

A. I could go on forever about Lydia Gasman. She grew up in Romania and was later a painter there winning many awards and the largest studio, but she was forced to paint in the Social Realist style. She planned her escape and left in 1961. She went through Israel (where her family was after WWII) and Paris where she was captivated by Picasso and other modernist artists. Upon arrival in New York with her husband, she decided to go to Columbia for her doctorate in art history. Here she wrote an exhaustive and groundbreaking dissertation, Magic, Mystery, and Love in Picasso, 1928-1938 that changed the direction of Picasso studies. Yale offered to publish it and gave her a contract, but she refused to edit it, and instead started working feverishly on Picasso's writings during the war years. Not many make royalties from dissertations but she did. And probably hers was the only dissertation to be reviewed in the New York Review of Books, which John Richardson did in 1984. Most every major Picasso scholar and book since then has been indebted to her scholarship in some way.

Q. It is intriguing that Lydia left her collection of books and writings to you. What are you going to do with it?

A. She left all of her papers, manuscripts and books to me and Victoria Beck



VA ARTISTS OR GALLERIES

Danvillian Gallery
 Delmon Brown Hall IV
 Duane Keiser
 Glave Kocen Gallery
 J Ferguson Gallery
 Kay Franz Handbuilt Pottery
 Les Yeux du Monde Gallery
 Lorrie Saunders ArtGallery
 Page Bond Gallery
 Russ Warren
 Sanjay Vora

VA DESIGNERS OR ARCHITECTS

Newman, my best friend from graduate school who was also one of Lydia's doctoral students. There are over 170 boxes of books, notes and papers, many with her unique coding and note taking system of all colors of magic markers and sticky notes on legal pads, then arranged in files by theme. We formed the **Lydia Csato Gasman Archives** (LCGA) for Picasso and Modernist Studies and have received the status of a 501(3) (c) non profit foundation to help us in our mission to preserve and disseminate her important contributions to the scholarship. After having all of the papers scanned, the LCGA will seek to publish for a wider audience her dissertation and her later self published book War and the Cosmos in Picasso's Texts, 1936-1940. Then we hope to publish her lectures on Modernism, which are also just as groundbreaking for others artists and areas as her dissertation was for Picasso studies. She was always searching and breaking through all of the interpretations to date, using the most recent methods and critical theories and still coming up with a brilliant thoroughly worked out new interpretation. Hundreds of students flocked to her classes to hear these inspirational lectures, and she never repeated the same lecture twice. So all of this will be a project! In the future we also hope to bring great Picasso and modernist scholars to Charlottesville for symposia and to offer fellowships to younger promising scholars in the field.

Q. What will be the legacy of Les Yeux du Monde?

A. I hope that it will have played a role in disseminating great art and ideas to as many people as possible. I also believe its legacy will be intertwined with that of many of the important artists I carry – Dean Doss, Sanda Iliescu, Annie Harris Massie, Lincoln Perry, David Summers, Russ Warren, and of course Lydia Gasman. Architect and artist Sanda Iliescu, another Romanian says, "Modernism is not over, there's still more to be done." I agree with her and hope that Les Yeux du Monde will be remembered as having supported and continued the modernist project in a meaningful way.

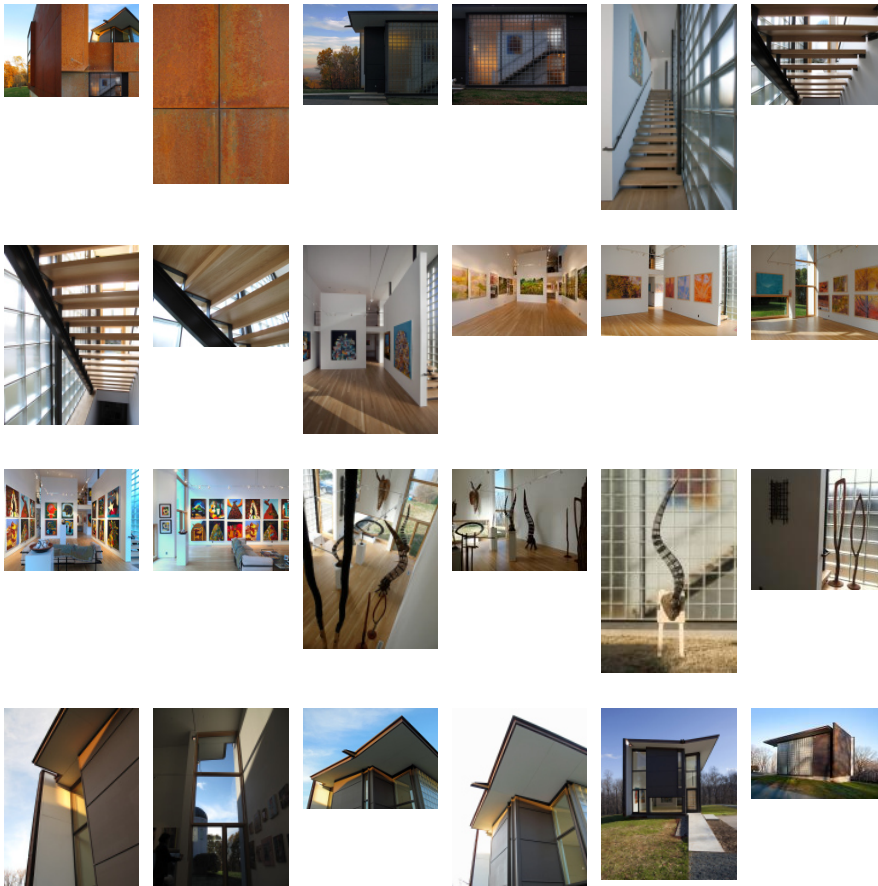
LesYeuxduMonde.com

10 1/2 Studios
3North
510 Studio
AmesStudio
B A M
Barnes Vance
Bartzen+Ball
BCWH
Blackburn Architects
Bruce Wardell
Bushman Dreyfus
Camden Whitehead
Carter + Burton
Charles Menefee III
Cole Prevost
David Jameson
Dills Architects
Edward R. Ford
Enteros Design
FORMWORK DESIGN
Fred Ortiz
Fultz Architects
Geier Brown Renfrow
Grimm+Parker
Hanbury Evans Wright Vlattas
Hays+Ewing
Jacobsen Architects
James Hill
James Ritter
Jim Rounsevell
Johannas Design Group
John Quale
Josh McCullar
Kelly Brown
Kube
Latitude 38
LMA Studio
Noritake Associates
Odell
onSITE
Parabola
Peter Waldman
Rab McClure
Randall Kipp
Randall Mars



Reader & Swartz
 Richard Arentz
 Robert Gurney
 Roberto Ventura
 Seth McDowell
 Shank & Gray
 Shannon Dowling
 SMBW Architects
 SOURCE
 Sunbiosis
 Terre Design Studio
 Train Architects
 Tymoff + Moss
 VMDO
 W G Clark
 Watershed
 William McDonough + Partners
 William Sherman
 Wolf | Ackerman
 Work Program Architects

Images courtesy of Les Yeux du Monde Gallery



VA LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS

Gregg Bleam ASLA
 Nelson Byrd Woltz
 SiteWorks
 Stacey Farinholt, ASLA
 Water Street Studio

VA ARTISANS & CRAFTSMEN

3sixty
 Bradley Robinson Studio
 Chris Chase Studio
 Concrete IDEAS
 Fine Concrete
 KALA Studios
 Martin-Star
 Phoenix Handcrafts
 Todd Leback Furniture



Van Jester Woodworks

VA PHOTOGRAPHERS

Andrea Hubbell

Ansel Olson

Maxwell Mackenzie

Prakash Patel

Robert Llewellyn

VA BUILDING PRODUCTS

Alberene Soapstone

Buckingham Slate

E T Moore Lumber

Mountain Lumber Reclaimed Wood

Siewer's Lumber

VA DATA & RELATED ARCHIVES

Architecture Richmond

DC's Slayton House

Jefferson_Monticello

Jefferson_Poplar Forest

Jefferson_The UVA Archives

Library of Congress Prints and Photo Archive

Masterplan_Downtown Lynchburg

Masterplan_Downtown Norfolk 2020.pdf

Masterplan_Richmond Riverfront 2012.pdf

Photos_Norfolk Archive

Photos_Vanished Washington

Photos_Vintage Richmond

The Library of Virginia

Reply

share:

Print

Email

Facebook 17

LinkedIn

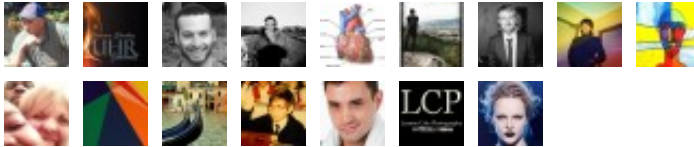
Twitter 3

Pinterest

Like this:

★ Like

16 bloggers like this.



Tags: [charlottesville](#), [corten steel](#), [gallery](#), [Les Yeux du Monde](#), [Lydia Gasman](#), [Picasso](#), [W G Clark](#). Bookmark the [permalink](#).

Previous post

vaMODERN featured in A+A

One thought on “Les Yeux du Monde Gallery”



CITRAGRAN CIBUBUR says:

December 3, 2012 at 8:37 pm

Reblogged this on CitraGran Cibubur.

Leave a Reply

Enter your comment here...

VA MUNICIPAL

City of Alexandria
City of Charlottesville
City of Danville
City of Fredericksburg
City of Norfolk
City of Petersburg
City of Roanoke
City of Virginia Beach
City of Winchester

WE LOVE

A R C H I T E C T

American-Architects
archdaily
Archello
archidose
Architects List
Architecture DC Magazine
Artnosh
C'ville Abode
Cassilhaus
Character Approved
Culture Fix
Dwell Blog
e-architect
GrassrootsModern
INFORM Magazine
Jebole
OpenBuildings

R E M O D E L I S T A

Style Weekly
The Hook – Charlottesville
themoderncabin
TheTinyLife
UVA Architecture School Expansion
UVA School of Architecture
VT Lumenhaus
YoungHouseLove

TAGS

Alexandria architecture **art** boys
and girls club cabin cameron foundation
Charles Goodman
charlottesville corten steel
enterosdesign gallery glass greek
revival **house** Jefferson Map
materials maya lin Mid Atlantic
modern modern addition
modern living mountain
museum photography Picasso
Portrait portraiture Real Estate
Regional **richmond**
roanoke **rural** Shenandoah Valley
smbw southern
modernism stair steel
sustainable Travel UVA
vernacular Virginia Beach
VMFA W G Clark

Blog at WordPress.com. | Theme: Customized Sight by WPShower.

5