

September 18-October 31 in The Ellen Nelson Gallery

# UNDERCOVER: 6 ARTISTS/24 BOOKS

by Melissa Eddings-Mancuso

Some of humanity's greatest treasures are early books such as cuneiform tablets, illuminated manuscripts on vellum, and oriental calligraphy on silk. In the late 17<sup>th</sup> century, printing presses brought together artists and writers resulting in an abundance of finely crafted, published collaborations.

Not until the mid-1960s and through the 1970s did this collaborative tradition expand to define books by artists as unique works of art. Today, colleges, universities and art schools offer an array of book-arts programs. The artist's book has continued to gain prominence in the fine art world largely due to its ability to encompass virtually any other art form, providing the opportunity to create added meaning in an intimate structure.

When we take the time to think about a book, what our mind conjures up are those rectilinear objects that sit on bookshelves with pages, covers, words, and images.

Most books, in the traditional sense, have an illustrator, art director, writer, editor, typographer, printer and binder involved in their production. With an artist's book, the artist often fills



each of those roles. Today, the artist has many more technological elements at his or her disposal, allowing them to be more experimental in their choices of structure and medium.

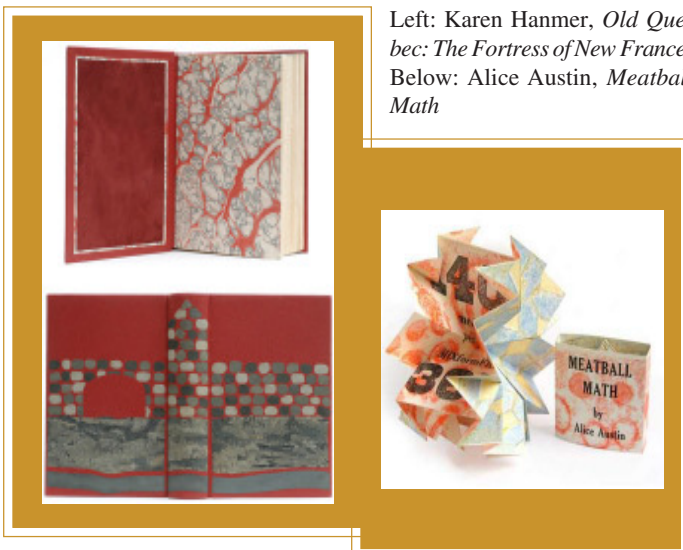
On first glance, each of the artists participating in ArtSpace's exhibit, *Undercover*, faithfully adheres to maintaining the anatomy of a book: text block, binding, and cover are clearly evident. What makes a book more than merely a collection of words and images is the relationship between form and content. What entices and engages is the way structure and text combine to create an experience that becomes greater than the individual parts.

This exhibit is a diverse sampling. The six participating artists are an extremely versatile, dedicated and talented group who continually push themselves and their craft to new levels.

Alice Austin, from Philadelphia, takes everyday life as inspiration and adds her own twist to create books that are whimsical yet introspective.

Alisa Golden, from Berkeley, has been making books for over twenty years and is the author of three books on the creation

Left: Karen Hanmer, *Old Quebec: The Fortress of New France*;  
Below: Alice Austin, *Meatball Math*



A Class Act

## ArtSpace Offers Variety of Fall and Winter Classes for Children and Adults

**T**his year's Fall and Winter class schedule will include instructors who have taught many classes here at ArtSpace/Lima.

Most of these names will be familiar to our membership: Anna Fisher, Phil Hugo, Beth Chiles, Maia Fisher, David Adams, and Anita Lehman. They will teach an array of Photography, Cartooning, Ceramics, Design, and Stained Glass classes during the upcoming months. These classes are always welcomed and well-attended here at ArtSpace/Lima. We are happy these instructors have continued to support our class programs and inspire our students.

One of the many benefits of my position here at ArtSpace/Lima is that I get to meet a lot of very talented people. If I am lucky, I may even convince them to teach a class or two. This was the case with Alan Miller who will join us twice, in both Fall and Winter, offering

adult classes in Charcoal Rendering. A native of Wapakoneta, Allen won The Best of Show award in this year's *Spring Show* and was also "People's Choice" winner. The Charcoal classes will be a first for ArtSpace.

Sometimes, I am approached by those that wish to teach classes. This season we are happy to offer a series of Watercolor classes by Barbara Spurgeon. Barbara is a former teacher and an award-winning artist. And sometimes, I find a teacher very close to hand: I will be doing a class in Holiday Décor in which students will learn the basics of floral design, bow-making, and placement, creating a lovely centerpiece with matching wreath and swag.

A special feature for autumn will be two "art book" workshops conducted by Melissa Eddings-Mancuso, Professor of Art at Ohio Northern University. Melissa will offer "Pop-up books" for ages 6-12 on Saturday, September 26,



from 10-12 noon. On Tuesday, October 20 and Thursday, October 22, she will conduct a 2-day workshop in Art Books for adults. The adult workshops will meet from 7-9 pm.

Adult classes are scheduled for evenings, beginning September 29. Children's classes meet on Saturday mornings, beginning October 3 (Autumn) and January 2 (Winter). Complete details and an enrollment application are available at ArtSpace or on the website: [www.artspacelima.com](http://www.artspacelima.com). Spaces are limited and classes need a minimum enrollment to "make." Please enroll early to be sure of your place in what promises to be a special education program.

-- Kay VanMeter

*Kay VanMeter is Associate Manager of ArtSpace/Lima.*

November 6-December 16

## Those Who Teach Can Likewise Do

**T**hose Who Can't Do Teach." This quote, attributed to George Bernard Shaw, is in its original form much more convoluted and pompous than its all-too-often repeated, short version.

Shaw once wrote a play titled "The Devil's Disciple". For an artist/educator that drama's title would seem appropriate for Mr. Shaw's biography or at least an accurate retort to his low opinion of "those who teach". ArtSpace / Lima's November 6-December 16, 2009 exhibition, "Those Who Teach Can Likewise Do," will serve to prove Mr. Shaw quite wrong.

All work in this show is by area Art Educators. More specifically, by artists who are involved in kindergarten through twelfth grade context, better known as schools.

The driving criterion for selecting and assembling this group was that each maintains a constantly evolving flow of new work and avails him/herself of the few exhibition opportunities in this northwest Ohio Visual Art wasteland, where a spot like ArtSpace/Lima is a true oasis.

Throughout the variety of subject, form, and content, we are sure the viewer will recognize a dominating

constant in this exhibition, that being "thoughtful, evocative and even provocative" works of art. Contrary to one man's opinion, "those who teach can likewise do".

--Mike Huffman



*Mike Huffman teaches at the North Arts Magnet Middle School. He is the former Director of Arts and Magnet Programs in the Lima City Schools and winner of the 2008 Governor's Award for Arts in Education.*

Artists on Artists (An Occasional Series)

## Bruce Grimes on Bob Farmer

*Bruce Grimes has been creatively involved with the art scenes of Ohio, New Mexico, Arizona, and Florida for the past 50 years, and has exhibited his work in more than 300 national, regional, and local shows (including this year's Spring Show at ArtSpace/Lima). In the early days of the Lima Art Association, Grimes and the late Bob Farmer were instrumental in guiding the fledgling institution along its early path. Grimes currently lives and operates his studio in Cedarville, OH. He is preparing for solo shows at One Dayton Gallery and the Springfield Museum of Art. His mantra is simple: "I love life. I love clay. Clay is life."*

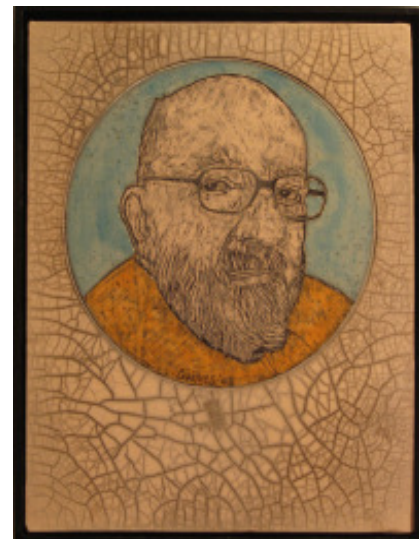
Artists impact other artists in a variety of ways. Almost 45 years ago I met Bob Farmer in what could only be described as serendipitous. I had spent a day exhibiting my art under "the big top" of a mammoth canvas tent on the grounds of the Allen County Historical Society. Afterwards I sought refuge from the chilly weather in a historic log cabin that sits snugly on the grounds. It was there that I enjoyed the warmth of the fireplace, the taste of freshly popped corn, and a developing friendship with Bob Farmer that extended almost half a century.

Bob had a profound interest in the visual arts, theater, and music. His love for all of these art forms continued to be reflected in his paintings, drawings, photography, and pottery. Although a gifted teacher, he was also the consummate student. He was a voracious reader who continually sought to learn more from the great artists that adorn so many of our major museums today.

We spent hours together raku firing our latest creations while talking about art, artists, and the creative process. What started out as routine weekly gatherings turned into special experiences that spanned more than half my lifetime.

Bob was a dear friend. He was a person who continually encouraged me to submerge myself in the exploration of self-discovery. That search continues.

Bob Farmer loved to teach and he especially treasured the opportunity to share the treasures of the creative experience with the youth of Lima. As long as I can remember, Bob was involved with ArtSpace/Lima (Lima Art Association). Bob believed that ArtSpace/Lima was (and is) a valuable asset to the community of Lima. I believe Bob saw art as the golden thread that ran throughout the cultural fabric of Lima.



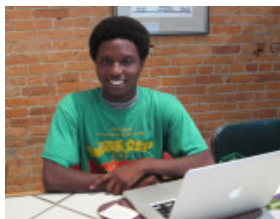
Bruce Grimes  
*Bob*  
Raku plaque



Bob Farmer  
*Allen County Courthouse*  
Watercolor 1980

### Personnel Profiles

## Terran Washington: An Intern In Design



Lima native Terran Washington loves his summer job at ArtSpace.

Terran has interned with us during his summer break from Kent State University, where he is majoring in Visual Communication Design. You've seen the fruit

of his labor in the postcard announcement for the current Phil Hugo/Bruce Chesser exhibit at St. Rita's Mezzanine Gallery.

And there will be more: Terran has redone the flyer for our Autumn and Winter class schedule, and he's at work on redesigning prospectuses for both the Photography Show and Spring Show.

His university department requires that he perform 200 hours of volunteer ser-

vice each year and doing it at ArtSpace was a no-brainer for him.

ArtSpace has done a lot for me. I wanted to give back." The "a lot" encompasses classes he took here as a youngster and the exhibit he participated in when he was in high school.

What has he learned over the summer? "ArtSpace is pretty complicated. It's not as easy as people think it is to run this organization."

But it became a lot easier this summer, not to mention very well-designed, with Terran on board.



ArtSpace/Lima is supported in part by a generous grant from the Ohio Arts Council.

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## Undercover

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of handmade books. Her artist's books are wise and are a treat for the eye as well as the hand.

Bea Nettles, from Urbana, Illinois, combines a personal narrative with stunning photography. Her books often present foreboding content with intelligence and power.

Marian Runk, from Chicago, has just received her MFA from Columbia College's Interdisciplinary Book and Paper Arts program this past spring. Her understated graphic books are full of wry wit and astute observations.

Pati Scobey, from Concord, Michigan, creates books that come to life with text and beautifully layered images that burst with color and emotion.

Karen Hanmer, from Chicago, has mastered the flag book structure and made it her own. Her books, combining historical elements with a dreamlike narrative, are captivating. Karen can find connections between seemingly disparate subjects with ease and willingly takes us on her journey.

This exhibition will be in the Ellen Nelson Gallery until October 31. It is my hope

that you will come and experience firsthand the remarkable talents and provocative insights of these artists. Yes, a book can be an object that sits on a shelf. It can also embody what this exhibition highlights—in the hand of an artist, a book is an intimate vehicle for expression through words, text, time, space, sound, past, present and future

*Undercover* is sponsored by The Book Club, Books in the Hood, and The Argonne Literary Society and Adventure Club.

*Melissa Eddings-Mancuso is Associate Professor of Art at Ohio Northern University.*

## Last Words from the Operations Manager

On Thursday, August 27, ArtSpace held its annual Membership Meeting, this year combined with the regular August meeting of the Board of Trustees. Kay Van Meter and I both gave reports on the 2008-2009 activities here at ASL. You can find both reports on the website [www.artspacelima.com](http://www.artspacelima.com) under *The State of (the) ArtSpace*.

What emerged from both reports was a sense that ArtSpace is entering a new era – of increased community presence and innovative programming. The categories of our activities are what they have long been, as dictated by our mission statement: Exhibits, Education, and Events. But there is a freshness in their execution.

During the fall and winter of last year alone, for instance, we offered for the first time the Holiday Dinner *Deck the Halls*, the *Jazz at the Greenhouse* concert, and the *Artist in the*

*Film* series with David Adams. The success of all three guarantees that we will be doing a second edition of each in the coming months. And there will be other, first-time events: look for a showing of *The Rocky Horror Picture Show* under our auspices around Hallowe'en and a series of illustrated soup and salad lectures focused on the upcoming excursion to Oaxaca, Mexico, designed for those going on the tour, but open to the general public.

As always, we hope you will join us for as many of these events as you can.



Best,  
Bill Sullivan