

Mont Vernon

Lamson Farm Day is September 25

Save the Date!

Happenings on the Hill - The Mont Vernon Artisans Fair

By JULI HARVEY

The Town of Mont Vernon has long been a place of inspiration for creative types and home to some of New Hampshire's most talented artists. This year the Mont Vernon Artisans Fair will be held on November 6 and 7 at the Town Hall and Fire Station in Mont Vernon from 10-4 on Saturday and 10-3 on Sunday. The fair will provide an opportunity to meet the members of the Mont Vernon Artisans, discuss their work and purchase beautiful locally made gifts before the holidays. Over thirty artists will be displaying handmade silver and glass jewelry, 2-D and 3-D art as well as various textiles. The fair is held in conjunction with the New Hampshire Open Doors event ([www.nhpendoors.com](http://www.nhpendoors.com)) which includes hundreds of artists, craftspeople, wineries, restaurants and lodging establishments throughout the state.

Mont Vernon is a special town for a number of reasons, not the least of which is the enormous number of talented people relative to the size of the total population. In preparation for the fair this fall, four members of the Mont Vernon Artisans agreed to share the stories behind their chosen media and why Mont Vernon is an integral part of everything they create.

For more information and a complete list of the Mont Vernon Artisans please visit <http://mvtartisans.wordpress.com>.

**CHERYL MILLER:** Oil paint and fabric  
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*How did you choose the media you currently work with? What attracted you to metal/fabric/paint?*

Right now I'm working in 2 separate mediums. I'm primarily an oil painter but I also have sewn and quilted for a long time and as a result of cleaning out my studio last winter I rediscovered my fabric stash and have been making small fabric collages.

My work has a lot of color, it's really one of my main inspirations. I love painting in oil because the colors are so intense and it flows nicely on the canvas. It's also a forgiving medium as you can paint layers on top of layers until you are satis-

fied with the results. I tend to paint fast (alla prima) in somewhat of an impressionistic style and oil paint works well for this painting technique.

As for fabric color and pattern are what inspire me. I use hand dyed and printed cottons, lots of batiks and reproduction fabrics which I layer and stitch by machine to achieve a final piece.

*What inspires you?*  
I'm inspired by nature, the garden and color. My work tends to reflect peace and calm. My subjects are mostly landscapes or simple still lifes of fruits and vegetables.

*What do you love about Mont Vernon/how does Mont Vernon influence your art?*

Mont Vernon constantly influences my work. I have so many paintings that are inspired from looking out my studio window onto my wooded backyard. I spend a lot of time walking my dog in Mont Vernon and find ideas for new paintings on our walks. I especially like painting snow paintings. There is something about the quiet stillness of new fallen snow that always inspires me.

*How would you like to be remembered?*  
I think part of being an artist is knowing that you will create things that will be left behind for other generations. I like to think my paintings will be around long after I'm gone. This gives me a sense of place and peace. I would like to be remembered for creating art that brings some joy or peacefulness to the viewer.



Example of Cheryl Miller's work.

**JOANN KITCHEL:** Illustrator  
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Illustration by Joann Kitchel

I decided to become a children's book illustrator after spending nearly four years living in the West Indies. While there I was an art teacher, among other things, teaching over 700 children a week, with little to no art supplies! The landscape of the islands overcame my senses, and I just had a very real need to paint what I saw. Coming home to Michigan in the middle of the winter, with all of the cold and white, left a strong desire to paint. I guess I just got started and didn't want to stop. Leaving the West Indies was so sad, painting was really like a form of meditation. I just got lucky that someone wanted to publish my work.

I paint in watercolors and ink and pencil. Repetitive pattern inspires me most, I think. I started out painting folk tales, but for the past several years I've been illustrating a series of children's books that tell different stories about musical composers. Currently I am working on Vivaldi's Four Seasons. This project will keep me busy until the new year.

I love the Mont Vernon Artisans because it's such a creative and supportive bunch. So much talent! After every meeting I leave thinking, "I want to learn how to do that!" If only there were more time in the day and someone to clean my house, I'd be all set!

**EMILY ARCHER:** Feltmaker  
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*How did you choose the media you currently work with? What attracted you to metal/fabric/paint?*

When I began making felt in 2003 I thought that the first workshop was simply about getting familiar with another textile technique I ought to know about. "Ought to" turned quickly into "want to!" as I discovered how feltmaking offers unlimited possibilities for blending art with function, that the process itself is forgiving and demanding, the results rewarding and surprising, and the craft is ancient but adaptable to the



Felt hat by Emily Archer

21st century imagination. In order to practice it, I didn't need to abandon any of the other fiber skills I'd learned; instead, it gave my knitting, spinning, and stitching an exciting "new" partner!

*What inspires you?*  
Images and colors from woods and words (or nature and poetry); also patterns, rhythm, ancient symbols, the art of the abstract expressionists.

What do you love about Mont Vernon/how does Mont Vernon influence your art? I love the simple friendliness of Mont Vernon, its community spirit and traditions, the ways it protects what is uniquely beautiful to the town without growing stagnant. The Mont Vernon Artisans I count among my best friends, partners in art-making, and community-builders.

*How would you like to be remembered?*  
As a person who values and passes on a spirit of craftsmanship that embodies meaning beyond the material.

**MICHELLE KOLB:** Beaded jewelry  
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Michelle Kolb

I have been making jewelry since I was about 10. I was primarily a beader until I joined the MV Artisans and met Karen Mitchell who introduced me to the wonderful art of the silversmith. I am also a rabid fan of PMC (precious metal clay). I am now able to incorporate my love of precious and semi-precious gems into unique pieces that are frequently one-of-a-kind.

Joining the Artisans has opened a whole new world for me. Everyone is incredibly supportive, no noses in the air, no competition, just a shared passion for art in any and all of its forms. It's uncanny that this small New Hampshire town has become home for so many talented individuals.

Whimsey Gift Shoppe at Salzburg Square in Amherst and The Clothes Closet at Lorden Plaza in Milford both carry my jewelry. The Picket Fence Gift Shop in Mont Vernon (opening Friday, October 1st) will also be displaying my work.

Mont Vernon Historical Society News

Visit the Museum During September and October

The Mont Vernon Historical Society museum will be open three more days this year before closing for the season. It will be open three Saturdays: Sept. 18th, and Oct. 2nd and 16th. The museum will be open each day from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. For visits at other times, please contact the museum curator, Sandy Kent at [slkent57@gmail.com](mailto:slkent57@gmail.com). The museum is located on the second floor of the Town Hall on Main Street. Admission is free, though donations are accepted.

New exhibits this season include a display of the schools in Mont Vernon. Did you know there have been six elementary schools and four private high schools in town? Did you know the current Vil-

lage School opened 30 years ago in 1970? Check out the small collection of vintage hats, gloves and hankies. Another display focuses on cameras dating from the late 1890s to the early 1950s and up. Included in the camera display is a tintype, a photo taken on sensitized sheets of enameled tin or iron, and copies of photos taken with a glass plate negative camera. Look for the Brownie camera that cost \$2 brand new!! A collection of small kitchen utensils once used in Mont Vernon households is the focus of another display. Society members are pleased with the recent donation to the museum of an old desk that once belonged to Charles James Smith who wrote the first history of the town of Mont Vernon published in 1907. A descendant of Mr. Smith donated the desk.

Other displays of interest feature the old hotels of Mont Vernon including "The Grand", Lamson Farm memorabilia, and the window and mail boxes from the old post office when it was located behind the Mont Vernon General Store. Historical society publications, T-shirts and stationery are for sale in the museum store. Historical society members will be on hand to give informal tours and/or answer questions.

September 25 - Lamson Farm Day

Stop by the Mont Vernon Historical Society's table at Lamson Farm Day on Saturday, September 25. Find out more about the organization and consider joining. There will be members present to answer questions.

October 14 - Historical Society Meeting

The Mont Vernon Historical Society will hold its next business meeting on Thursday, October 14. The meeting will begin at 7:30 p.m. and be held in the Town Hall meeting room. The agenda will include discussing details of Steve Taylor's NH Humanities Council funded program "Cows and Communities: How the Lowly Bovine Has Nurtured New Hampshire Through Four Centuries" to be held on Thursday, October 21st. The historical society will be co-sponsoring the program with the Friends of the Library. New members are always welcome. Questions contact Sandy Kent at [slkent57@gmail.com](mailto:slkent57@gmail.com).

New Hampshire Humanities Council

"Cows and Communities: How the Lowly Bovine Has Nurtured New Hampshire Through Four Centuries."

MONT VERNON - A grant from the New Hampshire Humanities Council will bring independent scholar, journalist and farmer Steve Taylor to the Mont Vernon Congregational Church on Thursday, October 21st; at 7:30 p.m. He will present his program, "Cows and Communities: How the Lowly Bovine Has Nurtured New Hampshire Through Four Centuries."

Mr. Taylor operates a dairy and maple farm in Meriden and has held a life long interest in the rural culture of New Hampshire. He was NH's Commissioner of Agriculture for 25 years and was the first Executive Director of the NH Humanities Council. He has also been a newspaper reporter and editor.

The program is timely in light of the recent announcement that the Pomeroy's in Mont Vernon have been named New Hampshire Dairy Farmers of the Year by the New England Green Pastures program. This is considered a big honor in the dairy world. The Pomeroy Farm, one of the last operating farms in town, is run by brothers Kevin and Gregory, along with their father, Keith.

The program co-sponsored by the Friends of the Daland Memorial Library and the Mont Vernon Historical Society is free and open to all. There will be time for questions and refreshments will be served. Questions, please call the library at 673-7888.

More Mont Vernon News on page 15.

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