



PRESS RELEASE:

March 30, 2011

For immediate release:

Through April 30, 2011

For more information:

Emily Lightner, 770/949-2787

**AQUA & CHOCOLATE AT CAC --
An Exhibition of Recent Paintings & Collages by Elizabeth Chapman
Special Performance by pianist Nelson Fleming**

Douglasville, Georgia – The Cultural Arts Council of Douglasville/Douglas County is pleased to present paintings, collages and assemblages by Elizabeth Chapman in the April exhibition at the Cultural Arts Center in downtown Douglasville. The exhibition opens April 7th and will be on view through April 29th. Hosted by the Douglas County Chamber Singers, the reception will be held on Thursday, April 7th, from 6 until 8 p.m. During the reception, Douglas County-based musician Nelson Fleming will perform on piano. A gallery talk and tour, led by the artist, is scheduled for Sunday, April 10th, from 3 until 5 p.m. Both events are free and open to the public.

Artist and Acworth resident Elizabeth Chapman has been winning prizes in Georgia and Florida art competitions for more than a decade. She attended the Foundations Program at the Kansas City Art Institute and earned her Bachelor of Science degree from Southeast Missouri State University. Chapman received her Master of Science in Art Education from Florida International University and also studied at Cambridge University in England. A lifelong artist, she recalls one of her most joyous childhood memories as standing at the easel in kindergarten, painting Ferris wheels. Since that humble beginning, Chapman has progressed to exhibiting her art in national and international exhibitions where her works have earned many awards. She believes the role of the artist is to find the force and beauty of the creative process. She feels her paintings are personal narratives, portraying emotion in response to her current life and memories of the past. Her works are in private and corporate collections throughout the United States, Canada, France, Mexico and New Zealand.

Chapman's one-woman show, "Aqua and Chocolate," in Douglasville this month includes more than 80 artworks – often nostalgic sculptures often assembled of found objects including a worn chair leg, folded measuring sticks, a wooden shoe last and even repurposed clarinet parts; poetic collages created from handmade and imported papers occasionally embellished with found lettering and images from magazines; and wonderfully manipulated and realized canvases – all exploring our shared interest in finding meaning within the abstraction of multi-leveled mark-making. Visiting and viewing Chapman's tremendous and varied outpouring of creative energy is a richly rewarding process.

Even her smaller paintings on paper, like the almost monochromatic “Chocolate Rocks” and elegant mark-makings of “Hip Trip I” and “Hip Trip II,” offer subtle visual pleasures to an avid viewer. Her series of intriguing assemblages, “Choices,” incorporate an antique doll’s porcelain arm, tagged keys, and small numbered specimen jars, mounted and framed in wooden drawers. Her naturalist’s eye is evident in the flowers, birds and trees presented with delicate realism in “Illumination,” depicting an emblematic heron within a verdant floating landscape, the charming “Sweet Bird II” of a nuthatch upon a pine bough, and the tightly detailed and more traditionally realized “Ode to Orchids.” Among her most accessible works are the highly crafted and beautiful “woven watercolors,” the largest “Great Blue Heron,” a masterful eye-catching image, but equally interesting are “Frog,” “Spoonbill” and “Seahorse,” each basically centered, floating and iconic. Even most purely decorative works like her curvilinear “Nouveau” series are more than simply pleasurable, informed by visual associations and emotion. The exhibit also includes many enchanting small collages incorporating Japanese calligraphy and other block print lettering, scraps of sheet music, found images of ladders and fences as well as flowers, a peacock and the occasional gold glittering.

Among the major pieces here are gorgeous large abstract canvases, like “Enchanted,” “Aquatic Serenity,” and “Spontaneity,” with the pure aqueous abstraction of their making enhanced by the artist and interpreted by the viewer into ethereal landscapes, fog-shrouded waterfalls, misty forests and rising mountainsides. Her large collages, like “Trinity” and “Rhythm,” layer paint and paper that scraped and manipulated within a palette of umbers and other earth tones accented by scraps of sheet music and other textural motifs and grounded by iconic images like the silhouetted hand with spread fingers of “Trinity.” In other large abstractions including “Firecracker Fantasy,” “Precipice II,” and “Ardor IV,” her subtle colorations are interrupted and broken with bold red gestures. In the dramatic “Violado,” vivid vermilion slashes extend the curves created by a found object, a black zipper, centering a great jumbled alphabet cascading below and a warning notice in Spanish floating above.

The Cultural Arts Council and its exhibitions at the Cultural Arts Center are supported by its members, sponsors, the City of Douglasville, the Douglas County Board of Commissioners, and Georgia Council for the Arts through appropriations from the State General Assembly. The GCA is supported in part by the National Endowment for the Arts, which believes a great nation deserves great art.

Photos available upon request.

THE CULTURAL ARTS COUNCIL OF DOUGLASVILLE/DOUGLAS COUNTY

8652 Campbellton Street
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CALENDAR LISTINGS: EXHIBITS

TITLE: AQUA & CHOCOLATE:
Recent Paintings and Collages by Elizabeth Chapman

PLACE: The Cultural Arts Center of Douglasville / Douglas County
8652 Campbellton Street
Douglasville, Georgia 30134

DATES: April 7 - 29, 2011

RECEPTION: Thursday, April 7th, 6 – 8 p.m.

GALLERY TALK: Sunday, April 10th, 3 - 5 p.m.

GALLERY HOURS: Mondays – Fridays, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

COST: Free and open to the public

CONTACT: Emily Lightner, 770-949-2787

Directions from Atlanta: Take I-20 west 18 miles past I-285 to the Chapel Hills exit (Exit 36); stay right off the exit following signs for Campbellton Street; stay on Campbellton through 1 stop light and 3 stop signs; after Douglas County High School on the left, the Cultural Art Center is on the right; turn right on Duncan Street and take an immediate right into CAC's free public parking.

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