

# Sherrye Lantz



Artist and art historian living in the beautiful Blue Ridge

Mountains of Virginia,  
Ms. Lantz is an

internationally known artist with works in private and public collections in the contiguous 48 states as well as Europe, Australia, and Turkey. She has won numerous awards throughout her career for intaglio printmaking, drawing and painting. She was also included in the Virginia Museum of Fine Art Biennial of Prints and Drawings, the National Juried exhibition at Nelson Gallery, the Lynchburg Academy of Fine Arts Annual National Juried Exhibition," and 'Virginia Celebrates Women in Arts: Minds Wide Open; she received the 2010 YWCA Women of Achievement Awards for Arts. She has exhibited in many groups shows as well. With over 300 intaglio images, 1000+ drawings and pastels, and who knows how many paintings, she now turns her energies to painting and graphite (not pencils, rather large pieces of pure graphite manipulated into different shapes for her tools). She is also the founder and first curator of the Community Art Collection located at Virginia Western Community College, the largest permanently displayed collection of the artists of Southwestern Virginia. She had to remove and sell her own piece from this collection to defray medical expenses and has since recovered the work, hoping to return it to the collection in the near future. VWCC is



where she also taught as a Professor of Studio Art (intaglio printing, silkscreen, lithography, wood block printing, life drawing) and Art History (complete survey of Western Art also developing and teaching Survey of American Art from Pre-Columbian era to the present) until her tragic disability in 1998.

Ms. Lantz was one of the first to experience what is now loosely known as environmental toxicity. From 1998 until 2005, her world was about simply staying alive. Too many near death moments during that time period taught her much about life and living as she fought for her own survival. Although today she deals with constant pain, and must lead a very reclusive life for the effects of environmental diseases caused by chemical exposure never end and, like life itself, constantly change. She ruefully laughs each day as her body reminds her with every movement, even with each thing she eats, that every day is a precious challenge, and she best be careful never to push to hard or she'll just 'go splat again' like a bug on a windshield. That is not something she wants to happen, though admits the fear of such is always there.

She says quite frankly it is and was her love of visual art that kept her going. Working in small sketchbooks during the worst years when getting out of bed was almost impossible, she recorded the visual images of pain and near death moments. She has looked at these sketchbooks only once since those years, 'saying living through it was enough, recording it was tough, and looking back too often is rough'.

Today Ms. Lantz devotes her good time to art making, art history, and reading the worlds literature and history. She has adapted her studio to her physical limitation as did Frido Kahlo whose dairies provided inspiration and hope. When asked why she continues, another laugh with the answer 'I came this way'. She has drawn since childhood and for her art is her life, and life is her art.

She began her career working in a realistic style but was a hidden abstract artist. Today, she revels in this abstraction, no longer hiding her love of images inspired by nature, memories, and the feelings evoked. She is all things considered, having the time of her life, saying that she is finally painting the

images she wanted to be able to create when she was younger.



Sherrye has also found herself cast in a new role, that of an advocate for those with disabilities and an educator in a new area, the rights of persons' with disabilities as set out in the American's with Disabilities Act. Her greatest challenge has been with peoples preconceived notions of what a person with disabilities should be, as if there were a prescribed model! Some disabilities are visible, others not. For her the irony is intense as visual perception is involved, except for a cane or walker, hers are hidden disabilities. It never ceases to amaze Ms. Lantz that people don't think of the hidden organs beneath the clothing, beneath the skin, could be a reason for a person disabilities. In her mind, she is still the same person, older and with a new set of challenges. One dear friend says she is a 'phoenix', she just hopes her wings hold up!

All in all, she'd rather be in her studio painting, yet realizes she is no longer the hare, rather the tortoise who must be very caring of her body and environment in order to have those wondrous days where paint speaks for her instead of words.

Her website, [www.sherryelantz.com](http://www.sherryelantz.com), will be available in June 2012. And for current Ashford Publishing Members, Please check out her profile at <http://ashfordpublishing.com/members/slantz>

Join Sherrye's captivating interview and participate in a uniquely interactive show on **Monday April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2012 at 3:00PM (EST) at [www.ashfordradio.com](http://www.ashfordradio.com)**. If you have any questions about this show, or would like copies of this show after it airs, please call the following number: (516) 222-2266