

## GENESIS CHAPMAN

My art aims to examine and investigate Bent Mountain, Virginia, which is the place I grew up, and a place I deeply love. As a small rural community in the Blue Ridge Mountains, Bent Mountain is known for its natural beauty. I want my art to show the respect and love I have for nature and to highlight the changes, which have occurred to this place during my life time. These changes, (some natural and gradual, some, accelerated by technology) have left me with a deep sense of loss.

Through drawing and painting, I intimately describe Bent Mountain. Through meticulous marking, I distill my emotions, observations, ideas and experience to make sense of the changes that have occurred while attempting to preserve its fundamental essence for the future generations. I record the changing dynamics of the mountain in a historical, geological, and personal scale of time.

To do so, I investigate the *genus loci*, or spirit of this place. Historically, this spirit is often represented as a mythological creature such as a nymph or satyr. However, I choose to represent the *genus loci* of Bent Mountain in a more tangible form; as a natural force that existed before me, before the mountain, or before life itself. To me, this is embodied in the most basic elements of the land, and the processes that shape the landscape; the actions of weather, air, water, stones and rocks. While these forces act in concert to form the mountain, water is the most important, element to me.

Not only is it the most dynamic and life-like, it is most primal element of life. Water is where life begins, it determines if an environment is habitable, and what organisms can exist. It is only by its continued presence that our own existence is assured. It also has the power to erode mountains and change the terrain of every facet of our planet.

I think that this creative and destructive power is embodied in the insignificant creek I choose to draw. The subtle flow of its water, moving across the land contains "the spirit" of my mountain. In my drawings, I depict "the spirit" through the water's action. Stripping out most of the landscape allows me to concentrate on the movements, currents, and flow of the water rather than the effects of light, color or surface reflections.

The use of black and white India ink is important because of its directness and simplicity. It is the drawing media I take with me when I walk and hike and what I use exclusively when I draw

the creek from direct. Through the inks infinite shades of gray to black, I focus my brushwork on the patterns across the surface of the water. Metaphorically and literally, water carries the ink across the paper and evaporates to leave a sedimentary. The improvisational nature of the spontaneous mark empowers me as an artist as who acutely observes nature. While part of me that wants to describe the creek with scientific precision, I challenge myself to let go of a perfectly realistic rendering, to open up and pay attention to the spontaneity of my process. Consequently, through the drawing I experience the water's dynamic movement and flow. Instead of literally depicting the water I describe its action and energy with obsessive marks that range from large spontaneous gestures to intricate detailed meditations.

I choose to depict the landscape as a white featureless void, rather than yet another romanticized version of the mountains. The trees, plants, animals, soil, rocks, light, sun, and reflections are present in their glaring and painful absence. This hollowness is further emphasized in the spontaneous shapes and voids the creek creates. While emphasizing what may disappear or is lost, this depiction also questions the transitional aspect of what we really see or experience in nature. These questions are most relevant to the landscape of my childhood, and the place with which I most identify: the Appalachian Mountains. The past hundred years of settlement have also left these mountains a ghost of their former selves. This region – its land and culture ignored, minimized, stereotyped and looked on as insignificant – has cleared the path for outsiders to harvest the natural resources. The Appalachians are manipulated for their minerals, coal, timber, wind, water, and open land. Even as I walk on the ridges overlooking the valley, I see suburbs and development encroaching my home, diminishing its wildness, diversity, natural beauty and sense of individuality, in favor of the homogenized culture of suburbanized America.

Ultimately, I wonder and ask - what does it mean to love and identify with a place, to call it home, and to watch it change? Bent Mountain whether I like it or not, is going to change. Even this small insignificant creek is an agent of change, which trickles down from the spring outside my bedroom window taking with it the sediments, soil, stones, bones, ashes and memories.

GENESIS N. CHAPMAN  
1427 West Laburnum, Richmond VA, 23227

EDUCATION

Virginia Commonwealth University M.F.A. Painting and Printmaking	Richmond VA May 2010
Kansas City Art Institute B.F.A. Painting and Printmaking Graduated Cum Laude	Kansas City, MO June 2001
Virginia Western Community College	Roanoke, VA 1989 - 1996

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

April 2010	Bent Mountain VA, instillation at Plant Zero with Russell Projects	Richmond, VA
January 2010	Genus Loci, New Drawings, Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens	Richmond, VA
April 2008	The Spirit of Place, Perspective Gallery, Virginia Tech	Blacksburg VA
September 2008	Genesis Chapman, Emerging Artist Series	Roanoke VA
January 2007	<i>Genus Loki</i> , Ferrum College	Ferrum, VA
December 2006	<i>Water</i> , Patrick Henry Community College	Martinsville, VA
October 2006	<i>New Drawings</i> , The Water Heater Gallery	Roanoke, VA
February 2004	<i>Rosetta Stone</i> , Roanoke College	Roanoke, VA
February 2003	<i>Road Rationale</i> , Western Virginia Community College	Roanoke, VA
February 2002	<i>Tales from the Haunted Hollow</i> , Patrick Henry Community College	Martinsville, VA

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

August 2010	Monster Drawing Rally, 1708 Gallery	Richmond VA
April 2010	Sky was Yellow, Sun was Blue, Russell Projects	Richmond VA
May 2010	MFA Thesis Exhibition, Anderson Gallery	Richmond VA
August 2009	Second Year Painters FAB Gallery, VCU	Richmond VA
May 2009	It's in the Bank, MFA Candidacy, Central National Bank	Richmond VA
May 2009	Metamorphosis, Ginter Gallery, Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens	Richmond VA
July 2007	WVTF Public Radio Benefit Show, Honorable Mention	Roanoke, VA
March 2007	Roanoke Survey Show, Olin Gallery, Roanoke College	Roanoke, VA
July 2005	Stick to Your Guns Annual Art Show	Roanoke, VA
August 2004	Stick to Your Guns Annual Art Show	Roanoke, VA
July 2003	Stick to Your Guns Annual Art Show	Roanoke, VA

May 2003	<i>Guest Artist, Artist Studio Tour</i>	Roanoke, VA
July 2002	Stick to Your Guns Annual Art Show	Roanoke, VA
February 2002	<i>Treehouse Meeting, Calvin Gallery</i>	Kansas City, MO
July 2001	Stick to Your Guns Annual Art Show	Roanoke, VA
May 2001	<i>B.F.A. Show, H&amp;R Block Space</i>	Kansas City, MO

#### PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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Spring 2009	V.C.U. Painting Department	Richmond VA
1989 – Present	T.A. for Intermediate Painting Taught by Christine Gray, Peter Chapman Studio	Bent Mountain, VA
	> Design and create hand-carved wood puzzles	
	> <i>Niche Award Nominee 2001</i>	
2001 – 2005	Stick to Your Guns Annual Art Show	Roanoke, VA
	> Co-founder	
	> Curator	
2002	Bent Mountain Elementary School – Art Teacher	Bent Mountain, VA
	> Kindergarten & First Grade	
2001	Kansas City Art Institute – Studio Assistant	Kansas City, MO
	> Assistant to Lester Goldman, Professor of Painting, KCAI	
	> Aided in installation of <i>Welcome to the Rag Ball</i> , Joseph Neese Gallery	
2000 – 2001	Kansas City Art Institute – Studio Assistant	Kansas City, MO
	> Assistant to Warren Rosser, William T. Kemper Distinguished Professor & Chair, Painting Department, KCAI	
	> Aided with renovation of <i>Spirit Catcher</i> (Sculpture, Kansas City Airport)	
2000 – 2001	Heartland Cabinetry – Woodworker	Kansas City, MO
1999	Byrne & Co. Woodworking – Woodworker	Kansas City, MO

#### GUEST LECTURER IN ART

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2005	University of Northern Iowa	Cedar Falls, IA
2004	Community School	Roanoke, VA
2003	Roanoke College	Roanoke, VA
2002	Patrick Henry Community College	Martinsville, VA
2001 – 2002	Virginia Western Community College	Roanoke, VA

#### MEDIA

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November 2006	<i>Genesis Chapman At Patrick Henry Community College - Ann Weinstien</i>	Senior News Blue Ridge Edition
July 2005	- Kevin Kittridge	Roanoke Times & World News
Aug 13, 2004	<i>Wild Art - Stephanie Ogilvie</i>	Roanoke Times & World News
July 10, 2003	<i>Opens Friday, Stick To Your Guns - Kevin Kittridge</i>	Roanoke Times & World News
August 2002	<i>Art Review - Ann Weinstien</i>	Senior News Blue Ridge Edition
July 2002	- Joe Kennedy	Roanoke Times & World News
July 2001	<i>Stick To Your Guns, New Art From Old Roanoke</i>	City Magazine
July 2001	<i>Young Artist Kick Up Dust in Roanoke - Joe Kennedy</i>	Roanoke Times & World News