

# shay herring clanton

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## Background

Shay Herring Clanton was born in 1953 in Birmingham, Alabama, the eldest of five children. She grew up in North Alabama and returns there often to her family land near Maysville. She now lives with her husband, Kim Clanton, a glassblower, and her son, Kim Bass Clanton, in Marble Valley near Deerfield Virginia where she maintains her studio. Shay received a BA from Mary Baldwin College with a combined major in studio and art history and an MFA from James Madison University in drawing and painting. She teaches drawing, painting and design at Mary Baldwin College and also teaches watercolor workshops at Beverley Street Studio School.

Shay lived for 10 years on Hatteras Island, on the North Carolina Outer Banks, where she won recognition for her work in helping to create the Buxton Woods Coastal Reserve. She is currently involved in the movement to stop mountaintop removal coal mining in the Southern Appalachians and in the protection of the George Washington National Forest, which borders her home in Marble Valley. Shay is also a student of medical herbalism with a particular interest in native medicinal plants and the Southern Appalachian herbal tradition. Her land in Deerfield is managed as a botanical sanctuary called "Walker Mountain Botanical Sanctuary" and is part of the Botanical Sanctuary Network created by **United Plant Savers**, an activist and educational non-profit organization dedicated to preserving the habitat of native medicinal plants.

In her paintings, inspired by the rivers and streams of her home in the mountains of rural Virginia, or the Alabama countryside of her birthplace, Shay seeks to capture what has informed her life long love of the natural world. In her abstracted watercolors of rivers and streams, she records her perception of a moment in time and the movement and flux of light, shadow and form. Her larger oil paintings are created in a slow process of applying layer after layer of paint while observing the changes of light and weather and season in a particular place over time so that the painting becomes less about the moment and more about a personal connection to place. The quality of light, in both a physical and a symbolic sense, is always an integral part of the work.

## Contact

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## Photo Credits

Large Watercolors, *Watershed*, & *Herbarium* by Brian Arthur - The Artful Image  
Ponderosa Pine, Ponderosa Pines, White Pine by Ellen Martin  
All other photographs by Scott F. Smith, Scott Smith Photography

## Education

BA with a combined major in Studio Art and Art History at Mary Baldwin College 1974

Completed course work towards a masters in Art History at Vanderbilt University 1974-1976

MFA in Drawing and Painting at James Madison University 2000

## Additional Education

Foundations of Medical Herbalism 2007 to 2008 and continuing studies with Kathleen Maier, Sacred Plant Traditions, Charlottesville, Virginia

Southern Appalachian Traditional Herbal Medicine continuing studies with Phyllis Light, Southern Appalachian Herbal Traditions, Arab, Alabama

Botany for Artists Blue Ridge Community College, 2000

Nature Journaling Across the Curriculum with Claire Walker Leslie Mary Baldwin College Graduate Teacher Education, 2009

## Teaching Experience

Graduate Teaching Assistantship (Drawing, Painting and Figure Drawing) James Madison University, 1997-2000

Visiting Artist, James Madison University Summer Program at Orkney Springs, Virginia

Visiting Artist Gifted and Talented Program Middle and High Schools Staunton, Virginia

Adjunct Assistant Professor of Art, Mary Baldwin College (Basic Drawing, Basic Painting, Principles of Color and Design, Watercolor) 2000 to present

Beverley Street Studio School: Weekend Workshops in Watercolor Painting 2005 to present

## Professional Committees

Standards Committee, Staunton Augusta Fine Arts Center, 2006-2009

Standards Committee, Beverley Street Studio School, 2009 to present

## Selected Recent Exhibitions

*The Fractured Mirror; Imaging the Magic Tale*, curated by Dina Ryan, Mary Baldwin College 2004

Staunton Fine Arts Center, joint exhibition with Bill Wallace, Woodworker, 2004

William King Regional Arts Center 2005

*Minds Wide Open, Women in the Arts*, les Yeux de Monde Gallery, 2006

Faculty Exhibition, Mary Baldwin College, 2006

*Water Media*, Piedmont Community College, 2007

*Artists and Place*, Smith Center, Staunton Augusta Fine Arts Center, 2007

*Paint and Glass*, The Art Gallery, Norfolk, Virginia, joint exhibition with Kim Clanton, glass artist 2009

*Paint and Glass*, The Smith Center, Staunton Augusta Art Center, joint exhibition with Kim Clanton 2011

Mary Baldwin College Faculty Exhibition, Blue Ridge Community Fine Arts Gallery, 2012

Beverley Street Studio School Faculty Exhibition, Fine Arts Gallery, Waynesboro, VA, 2013

*Drawings and Paintings by Shay Herring Clanton and Blown Glass by Kim Clanton*, Fine Arts Gallery, Blue Ridge Community College

*The American Landscape*, National Juried Exhibition, 2014

*Creation and Motivation: Beverley Street Studio School Faculty and Their Students*, Shenandoah Valley Art Center, 2015

*Watershed: New Work by Shay Herring Clanton*, Hunt Gallery, Mary Baldwin College, 2016

## Corporate Collections

Rockingham Memorial Hospital Harrisonburg, Virginia

Augusta Medical Center Staunton, Virginia

## Artist Lectures

Visiting Artist's Lecture in honor of Women's History Month "Artists in the Service of the Environment" Mary Baldwin College 2007

Beverley Street Studio School Artist's Lecture Series 2005,,2008, 2009

Staunton Augusta Art Center, 2011