

Kestenbaum, Church, and Rice Honored as Distinguished Educators

Three important people in the area of education will be honored at a brunch on Sunday at 10 a.m. at the Four Seasons Hotel in Georgetown.

In the next pages are three articles and photographs of each of these educators: Stuart Kestenbaum, director and administrator of Haystack Mountain School of Craft, Deer Isle, ME; Sharon Church, professor of art, the University of the Arts, Philadelphia; and Jacquelyn Rice, former professor of ceramics, Rhode Island School of Design, Providence, RI.

Marilyn Barrett is in charge of the morning's events.

Cost of the lunch is \$95, and valet parking at \$20 is available.

What Jacquie Rice Means to Me as an Educator

By Tamara Laird, Corcoran School of Art, Ceramics Department

Note: Excerpts from the nominating letter for the Distinguished Educator Award

I first met Jacquie (Jacquelyn Rice) when I was a student. She quickly became a favorite and respected teacher, a deeply trusted and

Jacquelyn Rice, former professor at Rhode Island School of Design and current fiber artist, meets with Tamara Laird, former student and now mentor and friend, at Jacquie's booth at the American Craft Council Baltimore Craft Fair.

demanding mentor and finally a dear friend. It is in her role as mentor that demands my attention to this nomination and the writing of this letter so important.

Jacquie has worked as an artist and teacher for over 35 years. During her career she has taught and mentored numerous artists, many who have become influential instructors and accomplished professional artists, furthering a legacy of creative exploration, intense personal experimentation and the great generosity of teaching.

In researching the location of former students of Jacquie's, I found myself even more awed by her creative accomplishments, a list of over 300 students completing either the MFA or BFA program at Rhode Island School of Design. Nearly 50% of these students remain working in clay; a majority of this 50% also work in the field of education with a large number teaching at college level. A fair number of the remaining 50% have businesses or careers involved in the arts as designers, artists/makers using other media or in arts administration. These numbers do not include those Jacquie has inspired in workshops, lectures or as a visiting artist during her many travels. Former students from RISD include Linda Arbuckle, Adrian Arleo, Susan Thayer, Paul Eshelman, Kim Dickey, Michael Lamar, Eunjung Park, Stan Anderson and Kate Blacklock.

As former students became successful artists, many on this distinguished list also entered the rank of academia, continuing to work with Jacquie on numerous collaborations, creative projects and teaching adventures.

With her skill for constructive criticism, a dynamic unflagging energy and a sharp personal understanding focused on her charges, Jacquie brings to the classroom and beyond a passion and drive for excellence that appears limitless. Students with interest and motivation would be steered to the correct door to explore a vast array of opportunities. This door often appeared on a scrap of paper with names, phone numbers and instructions

to: "...call and send some slides. And right away!" The rest was up to you, although you could be sure Jacquie had already contributed her words of support.

My own experience of her influence has been critical to developing and supporting my passion of being in her words "a maker". After receiving my B.F.A. at RISD, I deviated from the expected course of studies by moving to Africa with my young family to live for six years in Kenya. Jacquie was a reliable pen pal, encouraging me to sit tight and wait out the frustration that can come with raising young children. She assured me that I was "...just building up steam" and, "Don't worry. It will all come out later". How right she was and how sorely those words were needed.

Since retiring from teaching Jacquie has been devoted full time to a new medium and technology, drawing on all of her life long passions in the decorative arts with Gild the Lily. This company was created in 1999 with her husband and creative partner Uosis Juodvalkis. Together they use digital printing and computer imaging technology to create limited production of silk, wool, and leather, "Art to Wear."

Jacquie's long and loved devotion to teaching continues with the multiple informational lectures she has presented with her partner, explaining the use of digital photographic technology and keeping us up to date with the latest developments out there. The work produced by this relatively new company has been recognized nationally and received several awards for artistic achievement and innovative use of emerging digital technology. The excitement, energy, and generous sharing of each new discovery and innovation continue to flow from this remarkable creative fountain.

While preparing to nominate Jacquie, I have been simply "blown away" by the careers she has helped further, not to mention the quality of creative work she has helped to engender. I believe the basis of the award is more than fulfilled by the number of her former students who have gone on to become significant, accomplished and very successful educators. As does my nominee, each of these former students continues to contribute to the future of the craft field and craft education. The community of artists, educators and colleagues has become a part of this legacy of inquisition and creative pursuit and remain ever grateful.



Jacquie, with a tray of shibori rolls.



Photo by Miriam Rosenthal

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