

# 12<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL VOICES OF THE RIVER ART AND POETRY CONTEST JUDGES

## 2D ART JUDGES



CARRIE JENSEN

Much of Carrie's life has involved recreating on, studying about, painting scenes of, and otherwise being near Appalachian rivers. Carrie enjoys using acrylics to create colorful, expressionistic paintings, most recently of her favorite river, the Chattooga. She believes art can help people connect to natural spaces like rivers, as not everyone automatically feels as if they "belong" outside or in a particular environment. Painting is currently a hobby and side job for Carrie, who serves as an AmeriCorps member with the Environmental Quality Institute, a non-profit organization focused on monitoring (surprise!) water quality.

LAURIE CAFFERY

Laurie Caffery grew up in Boone, North Carolina, a small town surrounded by the peaks and valleys of the Blue Ridge Mountains. She earned her Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree in Studio Art with an emphasis in ceramics at Appalachian State University in May 2014. She is currently an Artist in Residence at Odyssey Clayworks in Asheville, North Carolina where she is a full time ceramic artist. Laurie's work is rooted in the significance of home in nature.



OLGA DORENKO

In Ukraine, Olga received a traditional Soviet education and then attended the Krivoy Rog Art Institute where she studied for five years, receiving many top honors during her studies. Olga's enthusiasm for seeking beauty and inspiration in her surroundings evolved during this time, her abiding love of nature is characterized in much of her art. In 1998, Olga arrived to North Carolina, where she has since remained, becoming a proud American citizen in 2008, and fulfilling her dream. In 2006, she opened her own gallery, the Olga Dorenko Fine Art Gallery, and has become a successful and respected artist in the greater Asheville area.



## 3D ART JUDGES

### ELIANA RODREIGEZ

Eliana E. Rodriguez is an emerging artist living Asheville, North Carolina who works primarily in Printmaking and Ceramics. She is a recent graduate of Appalachian State University where she earned her BFA in Studio Art with a concentration in Printmaking. This past summer she worked as a Summer Resident at Odyssey Clay Works and has stayed on as a Studio Assistant. Rodriguez is currently working as a lead teacher in the Roots + Wings After-School Community Design Lab program at Asheville Primary School. She is also on the board of the Southern Graphics Council International as the Student Representative. Rodriguez continues to experiment with the combination of Ceramics and Printmaking through the use of cultural and identity themes in her artwork.



### ALYSSA RUBERTO

From the Pittsburgh area, Alyssa specializes in functional wares, often with hemp cord detail. Earlier this year, she presented her work in her first solo exhibition, *Aligning Profiles: an Exploration of Form*. Alyssa is currently developing her work as Artist in Residence with Odyssey Clayworks in Asheville, NC where she continues to advance in her craft.

## POETRY AND WRITING JUDGES

### CONSTANCE LOMBARDO

Constance Lombardo is the author/illustrator of the middle grade *Mr. Puffball* series (HarperCollins.) Her first picture book, *Everybody Says Meow*, publishes in November 2019. She loves visiting classrooms and talking to kids about writing and drawing. When I'm not writing or drawing, I enjoy visiting the many waterfalls in Western North Carolina.





## JOHN ROSS

Living in Asheville, N.C., John Ross writes about the environment and is the author of several books and numerous articles in national sporting journals. He is currently working on a new book about the French Broad watershed. Ross is principal of RossWrites which provides strategic communications counsel to non-profit organizations, primarily those engaged with enhancing the environment or education. He is a member of RiverLink's Board of Directors and a founding co-chair of The Center for Coldwaters Restoration a non-profit dedicated to revitalizing Waynesboro, Va. through natural resource-based economic development.

## VIDEO COMPOSITION



## JASON FAULDS

Jason Faulds is a Conserving Carolina - Americorps member concentrating on farmland preservation in Polk County, NC. Jason has a degree in Digital Media and Television Production from Eastern Florida State College as well as an Environmental Studies degree with a Sustainable Agriculture concentration from Warren Wilson College in Swannanoa, NC. Jason is honored to be a judging a competition that educates viewers with a juxtaposition of video and environmental concerns!

## REGGIE TIDWELL

Reggie Tidwell is an award-winning designer and photographer. He received his BFA in Graphic Design in 1997 from Maryville University in St. Louis. He's worked with clients all over the world, helping them connect with their audiences. He is also an FAA licensed drone pilot and uses the drone as a tool for photography and videography. I love RiverLink, because the French Broad River shows up in my work a lot and their advocacy of it keeps it beautiful and accessible.



THANK YOU TO ALL JUDGES FOR DONATING THEIR TIME  
TO THE VOICES OF THE RIVER CONTEST!