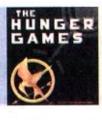




Winston-Salem Journal - Editor: Alan Cronk - (336) 727-7339 - acronk@wsjournal.com



Youthful look at good reads

Hannah McRae Young offers her compilation of some favorites for the young and not so young. Page 2







CADISTING KIDONIAC

New exhibit illuminates often-overlooked street newspaper hawkers

Eye on 'Papermen'

BY KEN KEUFFEL Winston-Salem Journal

hen Christine Kirouac, a Canadian artist, moved here in 2008, she felt a need to attach herself more deeply to her new home.

"I was trying to figure out what my place is here," she said. "I was searching for some way to belong."

One way she did that was by driving around the city. Each time she did, she kept coming across men who were selling copies of the Winston-Salem Journal on medians and street corners.

Could these people give her the sense of community that she was craving? And if a connection could be made, could she channel that through her art in ways that revealed sides of the newspaper hawkers that motorists seldom see?

Kirouac describes herself as tenacious and having an ability to open up to strangers. Before long, she was pulling over, introducing herself and striking up conversations with "these predominantly African-American guys who are not connected to me in any way, shape or form." She also started photographing the hawkers for an exhibition called "Papermen: Images of Christine Kirouac," which will open tonight at the Delta Arts Center.

Kenny-Ray Parks, one of the hawkers photographed by Kirouac, recalls her bringing "so much energy when she approached."

"She seemed enthused about it — which made me enthused," Parks said. "I think everybody liked her approach She got everybody at a certain level. I admire her."

Dianne Caesar is the exec-



DAVID ROUTE/SOURNAL

Christine Kirouac photographed newspaper hawkers for an exhibition showing through June 30 at the Delta Arts Center. "These guys not only tie the city together geographically, they're also a reminder to connect with another human being once in a while," Kirouac says.

utive director of Delta Fine Arts Inc., which is presenting "Papermen." Caesar pointed out that we look at the hawkers all the time.

"But we don't really see them," she said. "With this process of what Christine has done, it gives (us) a new view of

Just what that view is will vary from viewer to viewer. But Ki-

rouac clearly believes that her images will illuminate some larger truths.

"We can find great beauty and dignity and approachability and vulnerability and humanity in the most unexpected places — if you allow that moment to happen," Kirouac said. "These guys not only tie the city together geographically, they're also a reminder to connect with another human being once in a while, especially when people use so much technology."

Caesar said she hopes that viewers will "find art and beauty in the ordinary."

"These men are part of our communities," she said. "They give us a service. To consider the beauty of what they do is something we don't ordinarily Kirouac stressed that she is not a photographer per se, that she is just as apt to work with video or paint in her work.

"I respond to whatever the project is and then I try to think of what is the best way to bring this to life," she said. "Photos seemed to be something that was speaking to me, I had a

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Papermen'

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technical team that was very helpful to me.

synthetic surfaces hanging to an elaborate process in newsprint, photographed grant from the Arts Council of Winston-Salem and The team contributed again on stacks of newswhich Kirouac's photos papers and enlarged on in the gallery. A \$2,000 were transferred onto regional artist project

If you go

sents "Papermen: Images Delta Fine Arts Inc. pre-What: Winston-Salem by Christine Kirouac*

ter, 261 New Walkertown When: Through June 30 Where: Delta Arts Cen-

Cost: Free Road

www.deltafinearts.org or Information: See

call (336) 722-2625

able for gallery visitors to opening reception will be entertainment, Copies of Papermen" will be availrom 6 to 9 p.m. tonight take during the exhibi-Note: The exhibition's one of the images in Kenny-Ray Parks will provide the musical

Forsyth County helped finance the project.

That really did bring more depth and content. They newspaper with them ... rouac said. "I wanted to "It wasn't enough for merge the object of the me to take a photo," Ki-(the hawkers) become part of what they sell."

has been around for about and 30 people are doing it each day except Mondays 25 years, and between 15 and Tuesdays and some carriers, as independent The hawker program major holidays. They work, like newspaper contractors.

are in the exhibition's mix. males, though white men As "Papermen" reveals, Keith Petty, the Journal's circulation director, said worked as hawkers over most hawkers are black that some women have the years.

The backgrounds of the been incarcerated, Others he's seen retired teachers sawkers vary: Many have in the mix and some peogram's coordinator, said ple from as far away as McCullough, the proare homeless. Nate Chicago.

claim it," McCullough said grounds. "They come of the hawkers' back-"You name it; they from everywhere."

Cindy Hardison, the Jourdown on their luck," said Some hawkers "are

Jon's run.

nal's circulation and sales most of them love what they do. They have their retention manager. But followers."

hawkers "a lot of stability that they wouldn't ordihawker program gives Petty said that the narily have."

a documentary that would Kirouac said she wanted to make visual art, not spell out details of the hawkers' biographies.

"I've had some people story? The story's there. (ask), 'What's this guy's It's in his face. You can see his story. That's all

you need to know. I don't family and his life This visual-still image holds all of that for me and lets the need to tell you about his viewer ponder and wonder and investigate that for themselves.

Sometimes, the subects' faces are fully or

thing it almost makes you said. "It also speaks to the "If you can't see somemore curious," Kirouac idea of seeing the invispartially obscured. ible."

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DAVID ROLFE/JOURNAL Center along with Christine Kirouac's exhibit. One of the A stack of bundled newspapers stands in the Delta Arts portraits will be available on the pile for gallery visitors to take with them.

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