

arts & culture visuals

McLarty Photographs at Color of Energy



By Jud Yalkut

At the color of Energy gallery, an exhibition featuring botanically designed color prints by Doug McLarty runs through Thursday, April 30. A retired Air force Colonel, McLarty, a Rhode Island native and Xenia resident, has photographed landscape and botanical images around the world for the past 40 years. With his past six years in digital photography, he has developed what he calls his “Nature by Design” series influenced by environmentalist/artist Andy Goldsworthy and glass artist Dale Chihuly.

With a painterly sense, many of McLarty’s images have a rich baroque swirling texture to them, typified by the iconic image titled “Scheherazade” inspired by the indefatigable story-telling princess of the “Arabian Nights.” A “red leaf study” has one leaf within the swirls of pale grass over a long golden and black striped pheasant feather. This is echoed by a pair of lace leaf red maple samples within another freely composed loop of grasses.

In addition, a burst of red and green vegetative forms is a “Sunset” over a horizon of twisted red and yellow fronds; a conical open pepper shape is a “Cone of Tranquility” descending from a mass of ornately baroque dried leaves; and another such grouping of leaf structures is suspended in the black space above a horizontal feather in “Black Duck.” McLarty’s pieces all have individual stories behind them and more of his work, including “By Design” and Classic botanicals,” can be seen on his Web site at www.signaturefocus.com.

The Color of Energy Gallery is located at 16 Brown in Dayton’s Oregon District