

For immediate release**Contact: SAC (540) 667-5166; Geraldine W. Kiefer (540) 545-7323, or gkiefer@su.edu*****Blossoms and Brushstrokes: Art and Apples in the Valley*
Winchester Apple Basket: A Members Show and Sale
Shenandoah Arts Council Gallery, April 28 – May 28, 2005**

The Shenandoah Arts Council will present “Blossoms and Brushstrokes,” its second juried exhibition; and “Winchester Apple Basket,” a members show and sale, from April 28 through May 28, 2005 in the Holliday and Kalbian-Harris galleries of its art center, located at 811 South Loudoun Street, Winchester. The themes of springtime, blossoms and apples will highlight the heritage of the famed Shenandoah Apple Blossom Festival. Twelve artists will exhibit: LaMishia Allen, Don Black, Ting-Yu Chen, Pamela diCola, Judith Einstman, Randolph Jackson, Amber Lycan, Karl F. Mueller, Eileen Stephanus, Jane Thompson, Edvard Thorsett and Gary W. Wake. Media include drawing, painting, printmaking and photography.

The artists of “Blossoms and Brushstrokes” were selected from proposals submitted to juror Rick Bruner, professor of art at Shepherd University. According to Bruner, “The artists represent a high standard of creativity and competence and a diversity of directions and media. They explore their surroundings and environment in ways that are thoroughly accessible and inviting, with a fillip of delight and visual pleasure. These qualities, combined with lightheartedness and a sense of humor, make this show a ‘not-to-be-missed’ event for the Winchester community.” Bruner’s Polaroid photograph, [*Untitled:*] *From the Flowers Series*, will be exhibited in the show.

The art work for the announcement was designed by Brooke E. Fillmore, a Winchester artist and the wordsmith of the “Blossoms and Brushstrokes” show title. “My pen and ink drawings reflect certain aspects of my personality--detail-oriented, realistic, a dash of color, hidden shadows, and motion in the motionless,” Fillmore says. Her pen-and-ink and colored pencil drawing, *Pollination* (2005), will be exhibited in the show.

Members of SAC will submit small-scale and reasonably priced work to “Winchester Apple Basket.” An opening reception on Thursday, April 28 from 6 to 9 p.m., will inaugurate both shows. The opening will feature a dance choreographed and performed by a Shenandoah University graduate student. Students in Geraldine Kiefer’s Introduction to Drawing and Composition class at Shenandoah University will have created and installed artworks as a set for the dance. Postcards, photographs and digitized images from the State Library of Virginia illustrating past Shenandoah Apple Blossom festivals will be exhibited in framed panels. Students in Kiefer’s American Art class are writing interpretive essays on these pictures. The essays will be framed and mounted adjacent to the images they describe.

Meagan Morrell, a Shenandoah University graduate student in arts administration, is serving as assistant to Geraldine Kiefer for these exhibitions and students in Kiefer’s art classes are installing the work. The exhibition is sponsored by National Fruit Product Company, Inc.

The Shenandoah Arts Council is a non-profit arts organization dedicated to bringing the arts to the people and the people to the arts. It is located at 811 S. Loudoun Street in Winchester. Telephone: (540) 667-5166 website: www.shenarts.org. Gallery Hours: Thursdays, 9-4; Fridays and Saturdays, 11-4; Sundays, 1-4
