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# Husband, Wife Collaborate for Landscape Art Exhibit

By Maggie Wolff Peterson  
*Special to The Winchester Star*

It was only after nearly 25 years of marriage that Bruce Kiefer and his wife, Geraldine, began collaborating on art.

An architect and photographer, Bruce Kiefer had been looking at the world with a creative eye since childhood. A collagist and art professor, Geraldine had been articulating her own vision for years.

Then, last summer, with Bruce Kiefer recovering from illness, the two traveled to an artists' retreat in southern Virginia, where Geraldine had received a study grant.

Suddenly, the photos that Bruce was making, of green glens and slightly wild spaces, became inspirational.

"It was of interest to me to experiment with them," Geraldine Kiefer said.



Shenandoah University student, Julie Bean of Augusta, W.Va., prepares the exhibit, "Twixt Two: Landscapes by Bruce and Geraldine Kiefer," opening today at the Shenandoah Arts Council building in Winchester and continuing through Dec. 3. (Photo by Jeff Taylor)

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The result is “Twixt Two: Landscapes by Bruce and Geraldine Kiefer,” that opens today at the Shenandoah Arts Council.

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From 6 to 8 p.m., an opening reception will include live music by jazz flute and guitar. The show runs through Dec. 3.

Occupying the center's front gallery, the installation contains large photographs that Bruce Kiefer shot digitally and manipulated on his computer, and smaller collages by Geraldine Kiefer that include her husband’s compositions as well as handmade paper, colored pencil overlays and natural elements such as rocks and leaves.

An associate professor at Shenandoah University and SAC board member, Geraldine Kiefer has had work exhibited previously at the council and elsewhere in the area. But this is Bruce Kiefer’s first show here.

He began in photography as a teenager, covering local sports and news for his hometown weekly newspaper in Hunterdon County, N.J. Later, his architecture career sharpened his eye for composition and scale.

Shooting photographs commercially was part of Bruce Kiefer's work. He created photo illustrations for catalogues and architectural magazines.

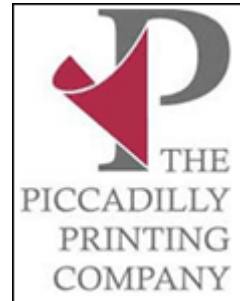
“Architects love to give each other design awards. I made the projects look really good and appealing,” he said.

“That’s where I learned my chops,” he said. “It’s a short step from commercial to fine art.”



This photo, “Reflections,” by Bruce Kiefer is part of an exhibit at the Shenandoah Arts Council building in Winchester. He collaborated with his wife, Geraldine, for the show of landscapes.  
*(Photo Provided by Bruce Kiefer)*

Until working with his wife, Bruce Kiefer followed the photographic style of “heroic landscape,” capturing large vistas, he said. “That comes out of architectural



training.”

With Geraldine, his viewpoint has become more intimate.

“There are lots of landscape photographers out there working in the style of Ansel Adams,” he said. “It’s been done. They don’t need me to do that.”

And the locations of the photos are equally understated. Much of the series at SAC was made along the short walking trail along Abram’s Creek off Jubal Early Drive. The pieces involve intricate close shots of leaves, grasses, creek water and rocks.

Some of the images are manipulated by computer to form mirror images.

Some are made to look as if they were painted. Some are bled of color to provide Geraldine Kiefer with a palette for her pencils.

One series of six pieces has been imagined as patterned tiles. The natural rhythms of stalks and leaves drove Geraldine Kiefer to imagine Middle Eastern mosque decoration. “I had just been teaching Islamic art,” she said.

The show also includes images made at Blandy Farm, as well as the Nimrod Hall artist retreat. Geraldine Kiefer said her art depends on finding the spirituality in a place.

“The place has to have some resonance,” she said. “But you can find these things anywhere.”

The Shenandoah Arts Council is located at 811 S. Loudoun St., Winchester. Gallery hours are Thursdays, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Fridays and Saturdays, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Sundays, 1 to 4 p.m. Call 667-5166 or visit [www.shenarts.org](http://www.shenarts.org) for more information about the Shenandoah Arts Council.



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