

I read a story of many volumes in a painting.

ART Review, The Present Exhibit At ARTGALLERY - 21st St., Norfolk



DANA ELLYN 'STORYTELLING'

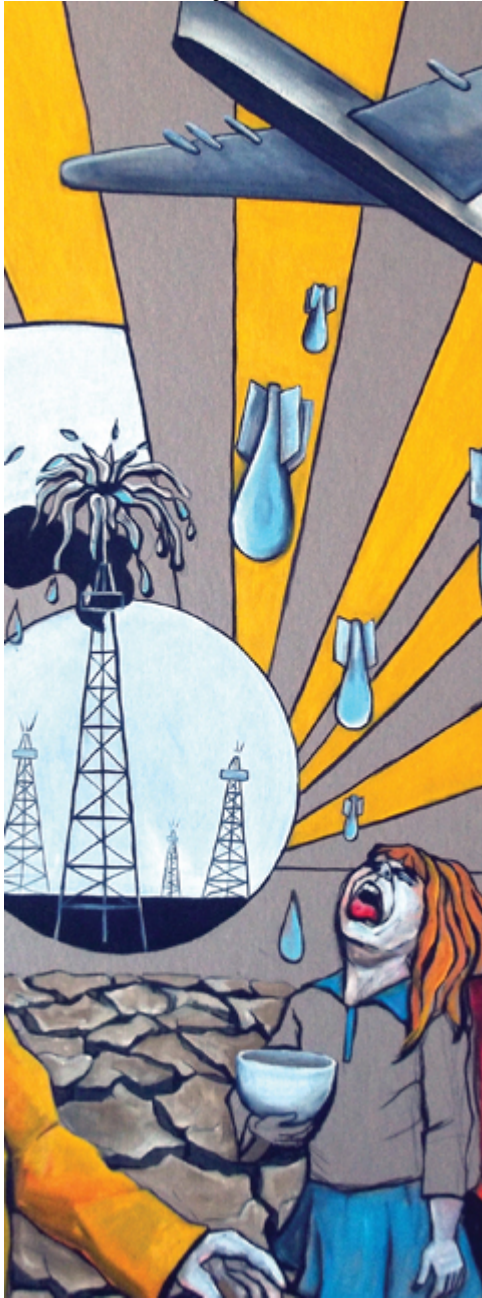
I recently attended a one person Art exhibit at a newer contemporary gallery in Norfolk, Va. The ARTGALLERY located in a trendy hip - avant-garde urban community

The exhibit invite was intriguing, 'STORYTELLING', the image on the invite was compelling with a title of "Bombs and Oil Everywhere but not a drop to drink". Children standing on arid draught stricken ground, with their heads held back, mouths wide open, much like young birds anticipating the morsels from their mother, mouths wide open, yearning to catch rain water falling from the sky, but instead, falling from the sky are droplets of oil,

and bombs dropped from indifferent looking military flying fortresses. The image was all it took for me to understand the message the artist was conveying to the masses about our world conditions, and provoking me to attend this exhibit to see more. Quite a composition and this was merely the post card size image on the invite.

The familiar refrain "One picture is worth ten thousand words" is very apropos to describe and explain the simple but complex messages the Artist works convey concerning contemporary issues and events. Illiterate and literate people are all educated and influenced by pictures, I and my peers during our years of teenage angst fit that bill, we were 'illiterate' functionally illiterate, couldn't comprehend sacrifice, carnage, decrepit, barbaric, in words, way over our heads, we would be considered 'simple minded' then. However, had it not been for the artist that produced the visual images of our popular comic books in story board fashion, bringing us the tone and issues of contemporary times in an entertaining fashion, we 'simpleton's' would not have grown compelled to learn more, react more. The Comics brought important stories when reading was a challenge, images depicting all contemporary issues. Reading ability was secondary when it came to 'comics'; Sgt. Rock (War, Loyalty), Archie (Social Networking and Tolerance), Tarzan (Travel, Bravery, Empathy), The

Phantom (politics, greed and evil), even MAD Magazine (Politics, Parody and Sarcasm dark comedy), most young people had a stack of them, today their art is very collectable and their messages are still valid and fresh.



It was this blast to my past that occurred when I viewed the many works on display at the gallery. These paintings concerning very contemporary issues would educate and influence all observers, heated, controversial and amusing, which one way or another affect one and all on this planet today. Questions I would anticipate from a young visitor observing a large contemporary piece, ‘why is that man on fire?’ ‘Why is he on a pedestal?’ ‘why is he wearing a halo’ and on, in response, only to be educated to the recent Martyr who set himself on fire as a cry against the injustice of his governing powers in the middle east, when all he was trying to do was feed his family but the powers that be, stole all he had, over and over again, his sacrifice ignited the peoples revolution overthrowing the governments of Egypt, Syria, Libya and on.. This one painting contains so much more and in Senator Joe McCarthy’s era of oppression of expression, the Artist, Dana Ellyn, would have been persecuted, jailed and shot because the work also includes a message concerning U.S. Foreign Aid abetting dictator’s oppression of human rights, in such a perverse way. A brave artist Dana Ellyn with her well known online ‘31 Days in July Series’ and with this current exhibit

in my opinion, is very in tune with the events of the day that affect all of us and with her artistic talent she creates vibrant, flowing pertinent stories on a board to educate one and all as to what is occurring all around us without the viewer’s effort to read, they’ve been educated and perhaps influenced to action. So compelling in their composition they can be fun to view.

The 'piece de resistance' of Dana's work STORYTELLING is, the works are painted on 'chipboard'.

Take a moment, take a friend, your children, take a look and experience visual stimulating true relevant Story Telling.

ARTGallery - 424 W. 21st St. Norfolk. (757) 627-9808 Call Ahead before a visit.

Show Continues; November 19 – January 13, 2012

A personal review and opinion submitted by;

capt.carl ~ Artist – Collector ~ Advocate