



Women Artists Group Introduces Themselves With Group Exhibition

Lexington—August 1, 2000 marks the first official public appearance of the Women Artists Group (affectionately known as WAG) with their group exhibit, *The View Obliterated*. Charter members Lisa Banyai, Libby Barnes, Mary Kuster, Laura Ray and Michelle Whitman each participated in the exhibit, which will be displayed at The Alternative Jewelry Shop in Nicholasville, Kentucky, from August 1 to September 30.

WAG is an informal group of women who are dedicated to the arts. Begun last summer as a way to share information and creative sparks, and to interact with fellow artists, the group has come together with their first exhibit.

The exhibit's premise is built upon blurring the lines between the literary and visual arts. Ms. Whitman wrote two poems, each about environment and memories of past experiences within environment. The participating visual artists of the group, all University of Kentucky graduates, participated by creating works inspired by her words. Ms. Banyai has created a Z-fold book of collaged images, while Ms. Barnes composed a mixed media piece using found objects, precious gems and metals, and other elements. Ms. Kuster has created prints influenced by textures, forms, shapes and colors found within nature; whereas Ms. Ray created color photographs of nature that involve mist and mountains. Each work promises to be a unique and expressive inducing interaction with the poetry to create a dialogue between the five artists.

For further information about the exhibit, contact Libby Barnes at The Alternative Jewelry Shop in Nicholasville at 859-885-4109. The Shop is located at 118-1/2 Main Street (across from the courthouse).

For more information about WAG, contact the group by email: wagky@hotmail.com or tajshop@aol.com.