

art6 eastbroad



Photographs by R. Eugene Brown

Photos and general info courtesy www.richmonder.com/ShockoeReader



Broad Strokes

(summer poetry edition, 2004)

Poetry's 'Brewing' at art6 : Shockoe Espresso Poets to Read in June

As part of its summer performance series, art6 is pleased to present a reading by the **Shockoe Espresso Poets**. Saturday, June 26, 8:00 pm., with a reception to follow. Included in the reading and group are art6 members **Wesley Childress**, **Shann Palmer**, and **Jimmy Warner**. The event is free and open to the public. Please join us.

As a writer/editor, former English major, and poet, this reviewer was immediately intrigued by this fine, rather 'Algonquin' assemblage of writers and poets----what essentially amounts to its own 'moveable feast.'

People need to be reminded periodically that poetry lives and matters. Poetry allows us to deflect and reflect on our world and on human proclivity. Poetry pushes parameters, asking that participants and practitioners expand their minds beyond conventional, hackneyed idioms and rote ways of thinking.

Moreover, in this 'technocracy' and time of quick-fix unsubstantiveness and relative idiocy, I would urge the public and civil society to recognize the need for more thoughtful, intelligent, and philosophical pursuits.

And though it isn't always easy or readily accessible, poetry invariably rewards study and careful consideration. Through this amalgam of sound and language takes place catharsis and some sense of accomplishment at having 'given voice,' expressing ideas, experience, opinion, and ultimately, shared truth. These are among the unique and wondrous charms of 'poesy.'

I would also point out that studies at Harvard University have shown that persons with an affinity for more complex and refined art forms and endeavors (such as jazz and poetry) have a more heightened and developed sense of 'the abstract' than those who do not. These more arcane types of entertainment and scholarship help immeasurably in a person's critical thinking skills and cerebral development, especially when introduced at a very young age.

Poetry challenges, it may provoke, but it almost always calls on you to use the full potential and powers of your ear and your intellect. Of the sublimest endeavors and pursuits, poetry incorporates music/language/art/truth/and beauty----[and] "That is all / Ye know on earth, and all ye need to know." (Keats)

For this issue of **Broad Strokes**, art6 would like to recognize several persons: thank you to the **Shockoe Espresso Poets**, and in particular, poet **Jimmy Warner** (left, with beard) for allowing me to use photos and general info from his website as well as links to others; thank you to art6 **Performing Arts Director Marian Hollowell** for her continuing efforts to make outstanding events like these possible; thank you to **Linda Sawyers** for her continued lobbying and work on behalf of art6; and finally, thank you to the artists and art6 members and patrons who have generously donated works or purchased pieces from art6's **Sales Gallery**.

Our nascent 'art for art6' program seeks to feature donated works and offer patrons the opportunity to purchase original art, which, in turn, provides proceeds which help art6 to maintain consistently high-quality exhibitions and performances such as those demonstrated by the writing talents of the **Espresso Poets**, the powerfully intimate rural photography of **Rob Amberg's Sodom Laurel Album**, or the faultless work of the very fine **ONE/OFF printmakers** presently in our **Upstairs Gallery**. We invite you to visit our **Sales Gallery** and to attend these outstanding current showcases.

To contact the editor of art6 and **Broad Strokes** for writing, editorial, or brochure project inquiries, phone **Thomas M. Humphrey** at 804.794.7579. **Shockoe Espresso & Roastery** is located at 104 Shockoe Slip, Richmond, Virginia 23019. **SE&R** may be reached at 804.648.3734. art6 is located at a 6 East Broad Street, Richmond, Virginia 23219. TMH

