



CHRISTINA FLOWERS

COMMUNITY LOST & FOUND

**A zine of community-sourced responses on
considerations of togetherness in times of separation**

Second Street Gallery - May 2022

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In February / March 2022, Second Street Gallery and artist Christina Flowers invited the community to participate in a call for writing submissions, inspired by considerations of community and togetherness in times of separation. The community was prompted to answer four questions:

1. What does “Community” mean to you?
2. How has the idea of “Togetherness” changed for you in recent years?
3. Where do you find a sense of community? Is it tied to people or place?
4. What is something about our local community that gives you hope?

Flowers derived inspiration and motivation from community responses to create the body of hard-edge abstract artworks featured in her solo exhibition in the Dové Gallery, *Community Lost & Found*, on view from May 6 - May 27, 2022. This booklet houses select responses from the call for submissions alongside Flowers’ artworks.



A Sense of Belonging, 2022
Acrylic on canvas
48 x 48 inches

What does community mean to you?

“People who can live, share, coexist with each other with peace, respect, and empathy.”

“To me, community means a group of people who interact with each other on a shared platform. That platform could be places like a city hall, a school auditorium, or even a Discord server.”

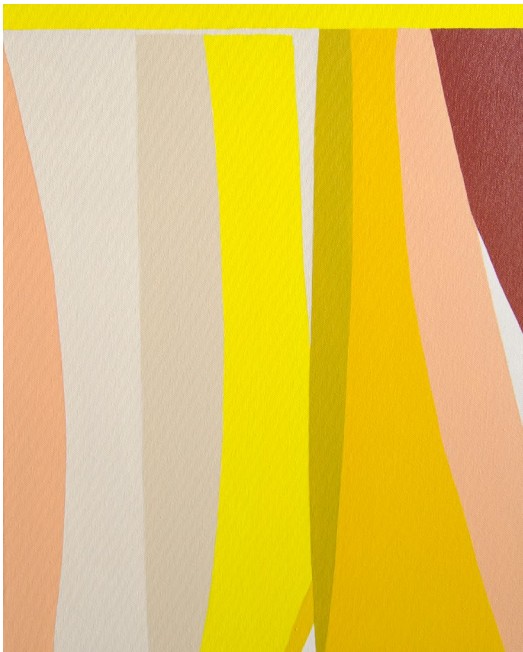
“To me, community means a sense of belonging. The idea that you are a part of something that makes you happy and brings you a sense of purpose is very fulfilling. Community is exactly that, since it is a group of people that look after you while you also look after them. In a community of people, mutual respect is key and you can learn just how much value respect has whenever you take the time to listen to others and others listen to you.”

What does community mean to you?

“Common vision; recognizing, supporting and celebrating differences; having hard conversations that move us forward.”

“A group of people that feel comfortable around each other and safe and happy in each others company.”

“Community is feeling at home, whether or not you are geographically together. It is constantly evolving, intertwining relationships between people and groups based on their aspirations, perceptions, expectations, fears and love.”



Common Vision, 2022
Acrylic on canvas
20 x 16 inches



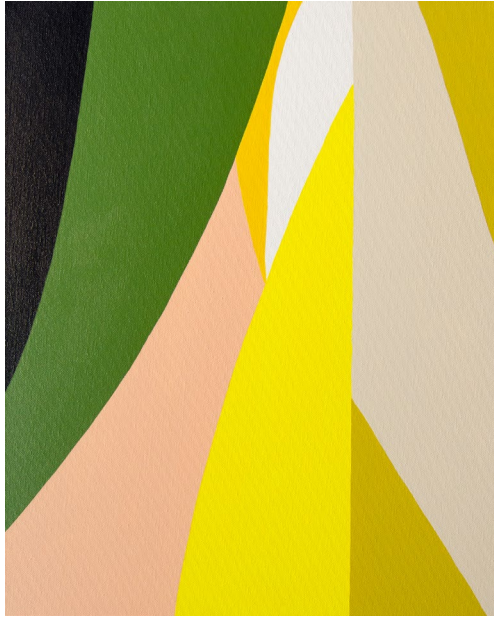
Harmony, 2022
Acrylic on canvas
48 x 60 inches

What does community mean to you?

“Connecting with people who share my values and interests but who also help expand my world of ideas and possibilities in a supportive manner”

“Community begins by loving and accepting ourselves, overflowing with this love and acceptance, and then freely sharing our love and acceptance with others.”

“Community, in my limited experience, is a shared feeling of belonging, of togetherness, and support. Views may differ. Interests may not overlap. But the people in my community fit together, not like puzzle pieces, but like the notes of a song. Contrasting but harmonious. Coming together to form a melody.



Possibility, 2022
Acrylic on canvas
20 x 16 inches

How has the idea of “Togetherness” changed for you in recent years?

“Being with my family, specifically children, has been a blessing. Being denied the ability to be with others made my relationship with children stronger and I feel I got to enjoy a part of their childhood more intimately.”

“I used to always believe that being together with other people was the only way that you could feel connected to them, but I’ve come to realize that that is not at all the case. Learning to appreciate the little memories that you create with people helps you to feel their presence whenever you think of them, and it makes you feel even more connected to them.”



To Listen and Be Heard, 2022
Acrylic on canvas
48 x 60 inches

How has the idea of “Togetherness” changed for you in recent years?

“In the past, I hoped for harmony and assumed that’s what others hoped for, too. Before, I would have called that togetherness: a shared hope for harmony. Now, I begin to see that togetherness means transcending my assumptions, listening deeply, hearing, understanding and valuing differences. Togetherness, means inclusion.”

“I think in the past i would have thought of togetherness as unity, but now i think togetherness has to do with a willingness to lean into spending time in conversation and time.”

Where do you find a sense of community? Is it tied to people or place?

“I find community in people that share common interests and values. People who I can endlessly talk with, people who fight for causes that are important to me, and places where I feel welcomed all bring me a sense of community.”

“We are nature, so we won’t live without the planet. In that sense, we are in community whether we realize it or not. So, I guess I find a sense of community in all things. I’m beginning to see by answering these questions that my sense of community and togetherness are the shared.”



Constantly Evolving, Intertwining, 2022
Acrylic on canvas
20 x 16 inches



Idealism and Pragmatism are Compelling Companions, 2022
Acrylic on canvas
48 x 48 inches

What is something about our local community that gives you hope?

“I moved to Charlottesville for the people. As a freelancer, I kept getting clients from Charlottesville who had their feet on the ground while chasing their dreams. Idealism and pragmatism are compelling companions. I haven’t seen that change over the past 14 years. People are up to good things here, and that gives me hope.”

“LGBTQIA+ community - they support me for my chosen name and pronouns.”

“Our youth! I am awestruck and humbled by how amazing the youth in our community are--they embody ideas that we need to move forward in Cville. Their voices aren’t heard nearly enough outside of the four walls of the classroom.”



Collective Action (diptych), 2022
Acrylic on canvas
48 x 60 inches

What is something about our local community that gives you hope?

“I think our local community thinks fairly broadly about humanity and connection and caring for ourselves and our neighbors. It’s the waves, the smiles, the helping a friend or stranger, it is the caring of our green spaces and groups that organize to do good for those who need an uplifting hand. All of these things bring me hope.”

“People seem to be emerging from Covid yearning to interact with community and celebrate what’s special about their community they may have taken for granted in the past.”



From the artist, Christina Flowers:

“Thank you to everyone who read, considered and responded to the call for community response. It was a joy to read your words. When you view the work, know that your voice helped shape these paintings.”

Learn more about Flowers through her website (www.hellochristinaflowers.com) or her Instagram (@hellochristinaflowers).



Second Street Gallery

115 2nd Street SE, Charlottesville, VA 22902

www.secondstreetgallery.org | [@secondstreetgallery](https://www.instagram.com/secondstreetgallery)

**Scan the QR Code to learn more about
Christina Flowers' exhibition:**

