

# CAROL GOVE: Intimate Drawings and Collages



Space by Carol Gove

**S**outhern New Hampshire's surface was worked and reworked (first volcanically, then glacially) leaving two sentinel mountains: Pack and Mount Monadnock. In fact, Mount Monadnock is the most-climbed mountain in the world. The area has beckoned to artists and eccentrics, writers and hikers for a century and a half. Artists ring the mountain's broad granite shoulders and art colonies settle at their feet (presently McDowell Colony and historically the Dublin Art Colony). Abbott Thayer painted angels, women, lilies and landscapes here. Cigar-chomping imagist poet Amy Lowell held summer court. Mark Twain was a frequent visitor on the Lyceum circuit.

Carol Gove:  
September 7 through 23

Monadnock Arts/Friends  
of the Dublin Art Colony:  
September 28 through  
October 8

Redmond Bennett Gallery  
1283 Main Street  
Dublin, New Hampshire



Timing by Carol Gove

There's something comforting about having those mountains as visual touchstones if you live nearby. Carol Gove lives in Temple, near the foot of Pack Monadnock. The artists of the Friends of the Dublin Arts Colony live widely scattered to Mount Monadnock's north, south and northwest. Their fall shows at the Bennett Redmond Gallery keep with the area's rich fine arts tradition and mark the turning of the season nicely.

Carol Gove writes: "History. Recollection. Found material." She begins the textual representation of her latest show very much like her collages, with evocative snippets, with leading inferences. Gove is a guest artist at the gallery in mid-September presenting "Intimate Drawings and Collages." Her works, some initially inspired by friends and intimates, others by concepts, are all realized in bright colors and with careful composition. "I love collage and masking-out areas," she said. "I like the assemblage as much as the painting." Her compositional decisions are actually more of a formal

than intuitive process. Working on paper and panel, in multiples, she'll sometimes accomplish an effect that belongs elsewhere, cut it loose and transplant it to a different work or, she said, "I'll decide that I need a certain color or a curve in a quadrant."

Collage serves Gove well. She creates interesting tensions and paradoxes, unifying and juxtaposing at the same time. The elements that infer color fields, planes, layers, lines and intersections vie for attention with the things that mean old letters, sheet music, border graphics, bills, photos and aphoristic notes. What lends itself to inclusion? Gove said her recent work includes, "'40s and '50s sheet music, music played in that era by a woman who was very important in my life." It also includes bits of what she calls "Americana" or "old letters I found at a Temple yard sale."

Their details are obscured in the layers of wash and overpainting but Gove feels that they lend an underlying tone. If these items

have personal meaning, she said, then "occasionally they come paired with a palette. People I paint about have certain color associations for me." While painting and layering colors, Gove reworks prodigiously, honoring each pass as a chapter in a narrative. To her mind, the results are a chronicle of investigation, "a natural history of the surface of the painting."

Following Gove's show, gallery co-owner Laura Redmond is excited to serve up "Monadnock Art," 54 works by 54 artists who live in the six towns surrounding Monadnock: Hancock, Jaffrey, Dublin, Harrisville, Peterborough and Marlborough. A launching pad show, Monadnock Arts is up for a scant 10 days, concurrent with the 12th Open Studio Arts Tour held by the Friends of the Dublin Arts Colony. It's good place to begin the weekend and plot out your course. As you circumnavigate the mountain you'll feel part of the natural history of New Hampshire and the art history of the region.

Rick Agran



Patience by Carol Gove