



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 23, 2008

Bungalow Homewares to hold opening reception for first art exhibit

ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA— Bungalow Homewares Gallery will hold an opening reception for its first art exhibit on Thursday, May 1, 2008, from 6 to 9 PM, in conjunction with Del Ray's popular First Thursday event, the first of the 2008 season. Visitors will be treated to refreshments and an opportunity to enjoy viewing the artwork and chatting with the artist, as well as to browse the store during extended evening hours.

The exhibit, "Jill Saxton Smith: Woodblock Prints," features the richly colored and sensitively abstract landscapes of local artist Jill Saxton Smith. Ms. Smith uses the reduction method of woodblock printing to create layers of translucent hues that imbue her images with an atmosphere of recalled emotion rendered in light and color. The technique gradually destroys the printing block as the image is built up. "I have found that landscapes," she says, "with their ever-changing light and seasons, are the perfect subjects to explore formal ideas. I focus on the use of light, its intensity and tonality, and on color and color relationships."

Her technique by its nature limits her prints to small editions, typically fewer than thirty. Ms. Smith adds, "The texture of the wood, which I often emphasize, gives an overall harmony to the composition and offers evidence to the viewer of what made the imprint. I enjoy using woodcut not only for this aesthetic quality, but also because of the primacy of the material and the directness of the process."

Ms. Smith, daughter of Jolene Burgess Saxton, a Utah artist, and Jeff Saxton, an outsider artist and inventor, grew up in a creative and artistic atmosphere near Orem, Utah. She studied art formally at Utah State University, in Logan, Utah, receiving a Bachelor's degree in fine arts with an emphasis in painting, but she quickly fell in love with the creative method of woodblock printmaking. She lives and works in the Washington, DC area with her husband, son, and two cats.

The exhibit will continue to be on view during regular store hours from now until July 31.

BUNGALOW HOMEWARES GALLERY is an independent retailer located in the Del Ray neighborhood of Alexandria, Virginia, offering home furnishings, accessories, and supplies with an eclectic style, a casual scale, and an eco-friendly emphasis. The store is open 10 AM–6 PM, Wednesday through Sunday. For more information, please contact Daryl Wakeley at 703.299.8899 or by email at info@bungalowhomewares.com.