

# InSpire

Every Woman Has A Story

September 2007



## A Buzz With Hope

Honey Bees Prove  
Helpful To Her Health

## Healing Power Of Words



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Evening Of  
InSpire  
Coming In October!

# Focus on Art & Theatre

## Kelly Parks Snider

Wisconsin artist Kelly Parks Snider uses a multi-medium fine art exhibit to showcase the various and integral roles that rural women have played. In collaboration with video producer/director Jane Bartell, *Rural Women: Voice and Spirit* explores the way women continue to redefine their views of and participation in agricultural production.

This is one of three traveling art exhibitions Kelly and Jane have worked on together. They use art as an intentional agent of social change. The exhibitions are a means to educate, inspire, reflect, and transform. Their hope as artists is that through contact with the art and imagery, the sounds and stories, the viewer will take away something of enduring value.

"As an artist, I give everything to the creative process," Kelly said. "I rely on my intuitions. I have few preconceived ideas, I paint to create a character, express a thought or make a connection. I am not concerned about adhering to a specific style, medium, or format. This allows me to be fully absorbed in the question, "What are all the possibilities here?" It is not important that the final work of art fits



Jane Bartell and Kelly Parks Snider

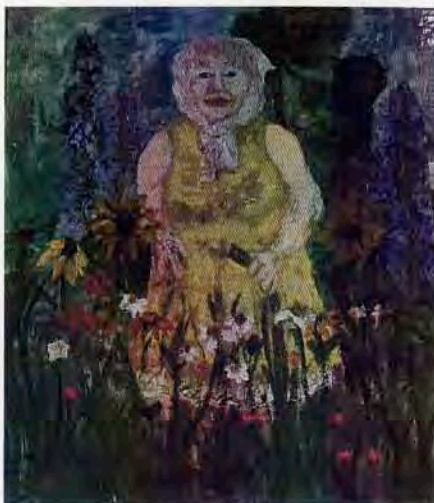
into one mold or another, whether it strikes someone as realism or abstraction or something else."

Kelly said that her paintings express the dimensions, the quirks, the many facets she detect in a subject. She relies on pastels and acrylic paint, but incorporates whatever other materials help her convey the traits she thinks are worth noticing, celebrating, or even puzzling over.

"My sheep wool, pieces of fabric, gravel, newspaper...these are some of the materials that I combine with pastels in order to draw attention to my

subject," she said. "What I am after is a forceful expression of the profound connection I feel to another person, an idea or a dimension of my life. My hope is that the viewers will feel that connection just as powerfully."

*Rural Women: Voice and Spirit* is the result of an intense, year-long artistic exploration of rural communities. Kelly draws her inspiration from the pure spirit, integrity and strength of women who farm. She believes in the positive power of fine art as a constructive means to promote thoughtful exploration of complex and emotionally-charged issues, like the changing face of Wisconsin agriculture. \*



Kelly's pieces left to right: Blazing Autumn, Katie, & Toxic Flowers

