

# Vadim Bora: A Retrospective at Warren Wilson

*"In the end, life is quite short. What you leave behind is your legacy, and for an artist – that is his soul poured onto canvas, sculpted into clay and stone."* ~ Vadim Bora (1954-2011)



The artist's self-portrait (Photo by Richard Brown)

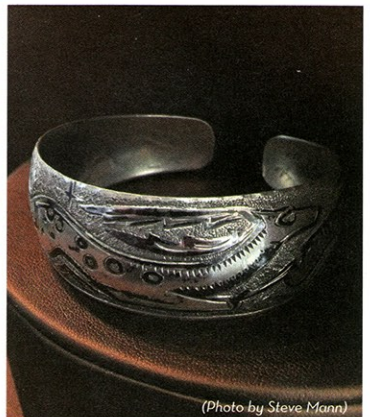
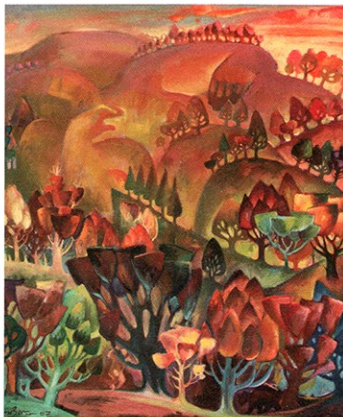
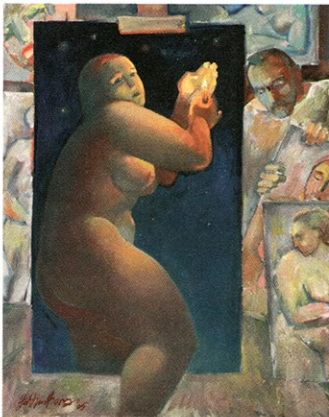
An exhibition featuring the life and works of master sculptor and painter Vadim Bora will open with a reception from 6-9 P.M. on Friday, September 28, and run through November 26 at Elizabeth Holden Gallery at Warren Wilson College.

*Vadim Bora: A Visual Legacy of Expressive Freedom ~ From Initial Spark to Final Form* is curated by the artist's widow, Constance E. Richards, and Dusty Benedict, recently retired art professor at Warren Wilson College and department chair. It will include the artist's drawings, paintings, sculpture, jewelry designs, and architectural ornamentation project renderings. Shown will be finished works, projects in progress, and ideas he was just beginning to formulate on notebook pages.

"Vadim always imagined an exhibition that displayed the entire breadth of his work—from the 'spark of the idea' to the final consummation of that idea into a fully formed work of art," says Richards. The artist worked in every medium imaginable, never favoring one over the other, but always noting that "the materials are just words for my art language."

Richards—who describes her role with Vadim as his "muse, manager, memory keeper"—has spent the last year since his passing, culling and cataloging works from collectors, archives, and their home collection to show her husband's many bodies of work, transcending genres and styles, since his coming to the United States in 1993. Also included will be the early works he did in his native Russia.

"Vadim was very conscious that the art continues to live on," she says, "far beyond the life of an artist. Though his life was cut tragically short, and it is hard to come to terms with that loss (both personally and for the arts community), continuing to show his works in the public realm is how he and his art continue to live for us all."



(Photo by Steve Mann)