

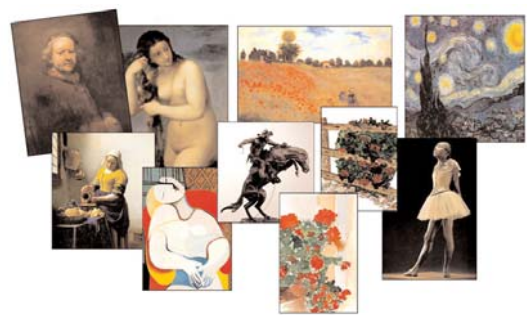
# A DAY IN THE ARTS

## Making art accessible to all

February 18, 2009

ADA008

[www.dayinthearts.com](http://www.dayinthearts.com)



### Vanessa Pooley

British artist Vanessa Pooley has been exhibiting her sculptures since 1984 but she traces her development as an artist back to young childhood when she instinctively drew and redrew the human form over and over again. Over the years she went from drawing to sculpture. Today her works can

be found throughout the UK.

While viewing her work, I was especially struck by her Mother and Child series. Pooley began these series after she became a mother herself. No doubt you can see the tenderness and joy in her work that she finds in being a mom.


*Mother with Child on Lap* (19" high, bronze) is pictured in the top left. The warm patina is unusual for her but she says that she can't imagine it any other way. It retails for £4900.

*Large Mother and Child*, found to our left (13" high, bronze) was a study in form and contrast. Pooley wanted to have the mother sitting, yet leaning into the child. Also, she chose to make the hair more textural, making it stand out from the round forms. Pooley mentioned on her web site that one of the people who own a copy of this sculpture is blind and enjoys touching and feeling the difference in textures on the piece. *Large Mother and Child* sells for £4650.

*Flip* (12" high, bronze) is one of her newer works in the series. It shows the same

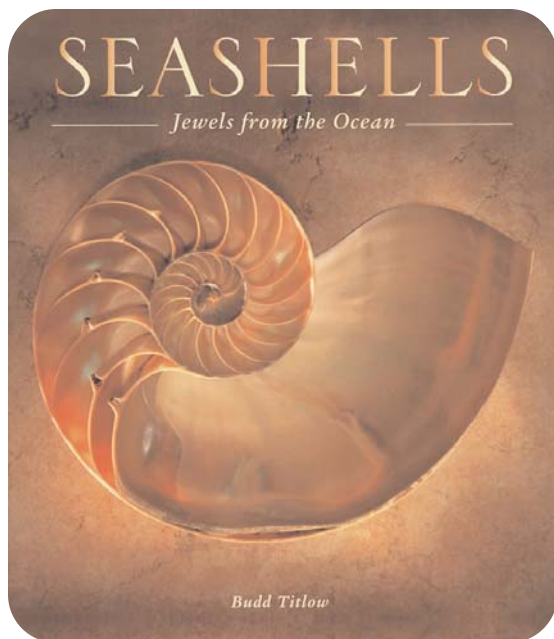
love and affection but also show a bit of independence on the child's part.. *Flip* is no longer available.

*Flying Lessons* (12" long, bronze) sells for £3450. Pooley was inspired by an illustration on a magazine cover. The piece reflects the joy of both the child and it's mother, enjoying time spent playing. The upward movement of the piece reflects the optimism the artist was striving for.

More of Vanessa Pooley's work can be found on her website. You may also find her article on how a sculpture is created to be quite interesting.  (All work and photos belong to the artist.)



# BOOK REVIEW



## SEASHELLS - JEWELS FROM THE OCEAN

By Budd Titlow  
Voyageur Press  
ISBN 978-0-7603-2593-3

**S**eashells is not an art book per se, but it is a wonderful book filled with beautiful photographs, each an inspiration to the artist.

The publisher tells us: *"They have done time as jewelry and tools, as medicines, currency, and symbols of industry--and they have intrigued people, from beach-combing toddlers to serious scientists, since time began. Native interest meets natural history in*

*this exquisitely illustrated account of the science and culture of seashells.*

*With close-up photography and basic explanations of different shell types--univalves, bivalves, and cephalopods--how they are formed, what mollusks inhabit them, their morphology and life cycles, and much more, this is the book for anyone with an interest in seashells.*

*This book includes information on the bewildering array of shell shapes, colors, sizes, and types, and describes where the different shells can be found throughout the world. As informative as it is visually arresting, the book will appeal to amateur and expert, collector and casual beachcomber. "*

With that said, let's talk about what the book is not. It is not a field guide. While the author does provide some insight as to where to find some shells, it is not a comprehensive guide. It is also not a large book. At 112 pages, it is just long enough to teach you the basics.

However, it is packed with beautiful color photographs. One could spend hours just gazing at the various shells, sea stars, octopuses, and other creatures. There is nearly a photo on every page, photos that are large enough to thoroughly examine each item, each one a work of art unto themselves.



The writing is solid and friendly, not dry or stuffy. You feel like you are reading a letter from a friend. The author shares quite a bit of insight into this watery world too. For instance, he points out on page 44 that mollusks (such as oysters) actually have a very complicated nervous system, which provides sensitivity to touch to each part of the animal. Yes, oysters are sensitive animals. Read a little further and on page 50 you learn that shell shapes tell you about the living environment of the mollusk. According to the book, low, wide shells reflect an area of strong currents and many predators. Why? Emphasizing shell width over height gives them the ability to hold tight while minimizing visibility and the need to flee from predators. 🐌

### Available from Voyageur Press

([http://www.voyageurpress.com/Store/ProductDetails\\_38967.ncm](http://www.voyageurpress.com/Store/ProductDetails_38967.ncm))

Or Amazon (<http://tinyurl.com/bqbn5x>)



# ART NEWS

## PICASSO AT YALE



The "Picasso and the Allure of Language" exhibit will be showing at the Yale University Art Gallery which features poems, plays and 70 works of art. Yale has a collection of more than 100 Picasso works. "Picasso And The Allure Of Language" continues through May 24 at the Yale University Art Gallery

## VALUABLE PAINTING AT GOODWILL

A painting by Ellsworth Woodward was donated to Goodwill Industries last month by a local real estate developer. It was in with some other items belonging to his parents that he dropped off at the same time. Apparently he was unaware of the value of the picture but others did. The painting, a 1907 watercolor depicting a harbor at the Port of Capri in Italy, was then auctioned off. The winning bidder (who bid \$8,101) could not be contact so it is again going on the block. The family has not asked for the painting back and said that they are happy that the item is in the hands of Goodwill. You can view the auction, which closes on February 21, 2009, here: <http://www.shopgoodwill.com/viewItem.asp?ItemID=4479962>

## RUSSIAN EXHIBIT

Thirty paintings by 20th century artist Kuzma Petrov-Vodkin are on loan from St. Petersburg's State Russian Museum. They will be displayed in Samara, Russian in a gallery owned by Leonid Mikhelson, CEO of Novatek, the second largest gas firm in Russia. The paintings are worth are worth hundred of millions of dollars. Art critics and museum curators were flown in for the exhibit.

## WORD OF THE DAY

**Patina:** A sheen or coloration on the surface of a sculpture or other item, either unintended (perhaps caused by age) or produced by the artist directly using various chemicals. Metal objects have naturally acquired patinas when long buried in soil or immersed in water.

My contribution to the world is my ability to draw. I will draw as much as I can for as many people as I can for as long as I can. Drawing is still basically the same as it has been since prehistoric times. It brings together man and the world. It lives through magic. -Keith Haring

*(Keith Haring was an alternative artist from Pennsylvania. He died in 1990.)*

## ART AEROBICS



For today's exercise, use clay or Play-Doh to make a model of Michelangelo's David. You have five minutes. You can do it more than once, but you must reduce the clay to a ball between attempts.