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INNOVATION

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Donna Drozda
Blind
2011
oil on canvas
70 x 51"

scientivity = science + creativity

DONNA IONA DROZDA



Each year Donna Drozda (center) presents a studio for middle school youth at Park Place Child Life Center in Norfolk. In 2010 the girls created a 'Communi-Tree' for their spring festival.

During an artist residency in a national park, I was asked to train college interns at the park's Environmental Education Center by offering them a way to blend their science with art.

I knew just where to turn having been inspired by Leonardo da Vinci's Principles for the Development of a Complete Mind:

1. Study the science of art
2. Study the art of science
3. Develop your senses...especially learn how to see
4. Realize that everything connects to everything else

Using these principles, which also apply to the study of sacred geometry and sacred architecture, I asked the EEC interns to take their science-trained brains out the door and open to the natural world while learning to use their "artist eyes." The results were quick and far reaching. It's been exciting to witness the interns work with a continuous flow of sixth graders who cycle through the EEC in week-long, work/study programs.

It was during this time that I coined the term "scientivity": science plus creativity.

It always has been natural for me to be curious about science as a connector to my art. In my work with artists of all ages, in studios that I develop for the Contemporary Art Center of Virginia, I level the playing field, no matter age or education, by teaching my scientivity game of "I Spy with My Artist Eye." It's a fabulous way to introduce scientivity.

My painting, *Blind*, spontaneously employs scientivity enlisting universal elements that da Vinci found occurring in all of nature. Our written alphabet contains 26 characters from which all printed works are composed. The artist's alphabet contains five primary elements that recur in countless variations inspiring endless adaptations.

Donna Iona Drozda is an artist and art educator who is based in Virginia Beach, VA. Because this journal serves as a major reference guide on African American artists, if we did not note that this is not her racial identity, a citation for Donna Iona Drozda inevitably will wind up in a listing such as "African American Artists Who Are Influenced by Nature." On this occasion, we also note the journal's policy for coverage: primarily artists of African descent but not exclusively because our lives are interconnected.