

RIVERARTS

A breath of fresh air in the River District

By GLENN GARSON

Bethanne Cople's *plein air* landscapes seduce you into their world.

They tug gently at your sleeve and entice you to inhale the cool air off their verdant landscapes and then tickle your ears with the whisper of the breeze through their gently rustling leaves.

I felt like a kid standing on his tiptoes trying to look out a window, as I stared into her landscapes. I harkened back to the days before I had any responsibilities, when I would lie on my back and just imagine things in the clouds, as I gazed at the cotton white and smoky clouds of Bethanne's landscapes.

In her oil painting "Last Light" I can almost feel the sun slipping away, while the



Bethanne Cople "Evening Reflections"

hang heavy, over the woods and river below.

Plein air landscape painting has its roots in the French impressionistic movement when painters went to the actual outdoor scene rather than painting idealistic

temperature starts to drop, and sense the artist's futile attempt to hold on to the last moments of a warm summer day beside a sylvan stream. In her piece "Warm Reflections" Bethanne captures the warm sultry breath of the mother earth in the clouds, as they

landscapes in their studio. Bethanne has painted in blizzards in the Wasatch Mountains in Utah, on steep cliffs in Monhegan Island, Maine, in strong gales along the rugged northern California coast, in the sanctuary of summer and winter on the Eastern Shore of Maryland as well as along the Potomac River in Virginia.

Bella Vista Gallery, located in the heart of Asheville's River Arts District, will hold an opening reception for Bethanne Cople's landscapes Labor Day weekend from 1-4pm on Saturday, Sept. 2.

They will be on featured during the entire month of September. Call (828) 768-0246 or check their website (www.BellaVistaArt.com) for a map and their hours.