



Virginia Gardner's mosaics are sold at the 10-year-old co-op.

'Crafters' celebrate 10 years with new name, good home

BY DAVID A. MAURER
dmaurer@dailypgress.com | 978-7244

The challenges that often accompany an artistic career can be as varied as they are daunting. Creating art is often an individual endeavor that can have an isolating effect on the artist. At the other extreme is the all-important aspect of selling the art, which usually benefits from the widest possible exposure to the buying public.

A decade ago a handful of local crafters joined forces to help remedy both these problems of artistic life. Their answer was to found Transient Crafters.

The name recently changed to C'ville Arts to better define what the cooperative gallery is all about, but the concept of working together for

the benefit of all remains unchanged, and continues to flourish.

"Ten years ago a small group of crafters decided to start a seasonal retail outlet for their work," said Amy Melville, a fiber artist who serves as administrator for the shop at 118 E. Main St. on Charlottesville's Downtown Mall.

"They rented a space in the downtown area and sold their work for a month at Christmas time. They really enjoyed it, and it went well, so they repeated doing it for the next two years.

"Each holiday season it was in a different location, so that's how the name Transient Crafters came about. Seven years ago the group decided to become a full-time, year-round retail outlet.

"They were at a location on First Street for a year and then we moved

C'VILLE ARTS

www.charlottesvillearts.com

See CRAFTERS on B2