

# 'The Art of Geology'

Susan Connelly McClelland uses layering to recreate geologic wonders of art

## Want to go?

Susan Connelly McClelland currently has 32 pieces on display through Nov. 27 at the Clem Allison Gallery at the Shulman Center on the campus of Tusculum University, 60 Shiloh Road, in Greeneville, Tennessee. Call 423-636-7300.

BY JOE TENNIS  
BRISTOL HERALD COURIER

**S**usan Connelly McClelland is not only a rock hound. She's also a painter.

"I've been collecting rocks who regularly attends gem and mineral shows across the mountains of her native North Carolina.

For years, this affable artist made a living making murals in homes.

All through her 20s and 30s, she climbed ladders and created whatever you wanted on your walls.

She was a faux painter, working with interior designers, as she was able to make walls look like they were made of marble or leather.

"It was very physical," she said, "because I was always carrying ladders and scaffolding."

"My work is unique in that I does some sculpting. Then she layers her work — over and over — until she creates something that appears like a geologic wonder.

Folks want to touch; she prefers not.

"I produce my paintings in different layers," McClelland said.

McClelland makes her magic using a lot of glitter and gold and silver leaf, plus all kinds of paints.

"That way, they come off looking like a stone. And I have endless inspiration with these stones because they're all so unique."

tennis@bristolnews.com  
276-791-0709 | @BHC\_Tennis

CONTRIBUTED

Susan Connelly McClelland stands in front of some of her works on display at the Clem Allison Gallery. Her works will be on display at the Shulman Center on the campus of Tusculum University through Nov. 27.

