

# The WV INDEPENDENT Observer

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EXPLORE // ARTS & CULTURE

## THORNY ISSUES AT THE HOT BUTTON GALLERY

### For Carol Williams, Her Art Is Political Commentary



WHEN ASKED TO DESCRIBE HER ART, Carol Williams calls herself a “craftivist” who expresses satire and commentary with ordinary materials including buttons, wire, pins, miniature toys, and quilted cloth. She notes that she’s not a formally trained “artist,” explaining that she took up quilting in retirement after working two careers, first as a musician in the US Army and then as an emergency room nurse in Chicago. She says she started creating small pieces and began experimenting. At the same time, she was also writing commentary for a

local newspaper but remarked that she felt that the words alone didn’t really grab attention. “I’ve always enjoyed political cartoons,” Williams says, “but I don’t draw. These pieces are a way of expressing my opinions.” She remarked that the typical creative process has several ups and downs from concept to finished piece. “How to finish it is often the hardest part,” she remarked. “The title needs to convey what I’m expressing and work on different levels — I want people to know what I’m thinking, but without being preachy.”

Williams opened her gallery in downtown Shepherdstown in the spring of 2022. “I started creating these works in 2016 and exhibiting them in pop-up displays in Shepherdstown and some invited exhibitions around the country. When this gallery space became available, I knew the front window would be the perfect spot for the piece titled “The Definitive Thorny Issue,” a medical model of a human uterus surrounded by very sharp thorns.” She describes the space as a gallery, not a store — she reserves most of the original pieces for use in other exhibits, but you can purchase prints and cards of her work.

*The Hot Button Gallery is located at 129 East German St, Shepherdstown (the Shepherdstown museum building). Open year-round, Saturdays 11:00 to 5:00 and Sundays 11:00 to 4:00. During July, the gallery will also open Fridays noon to 4:00. Online at [HotButtonGallery.com](http://HotButtonGallery.com) and [AnotherCarolWilliams.com](http://AnotherCarolWilliams.com).*



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