

The Art Cellar Gallery

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Long and began a friendship that would take him all over the world painting frescoes. His landscapes and figurative paintings capture the old world feel of the masters.

As summer begins to turn toward autumn, The Art Cellar Gallery maintains an ever changing range of work by gallery artists throughout its three floors of exhibition space. Along with the *Artist Invitational*; *The Next 25 Years* exhibit, the gallery will showcase sculpture in metal, stone and glass; works on canvas and paper; and regional artists' works in clay. The Art

Cellar Gallery will also have its Annual Holiday Open House events on Dec. 16, from 3-5pm.

The Art Cellar Gallery has been an important part of the arts in the region for twenty-five seasons and continues to highlight the painting and sculpture of local artists of regional, national, and international acclaim.

For further information check our NC Commercial Gallery listings, call the gallery at 828/898-5175 or visit (www.artcellaronline.com).

Blowing Rock Frameworks & Gallery in Blowing Rock, NC, Offers Work by William "Wiili" Armstrong

Blowing Rock Frameworks & Gallery in Blowing Rock, NC, is presenting a fall show featuring Outsider artist, William "Wiili" Armstrong. well known in the High Country, and observed in *Folk Art Messenger* after his untimely death, Wiili was untrained and suffered from a number of mental illnesses, placing him categorically outside of the Art world as we know it. The exhibit will be on view through Nov. 30, 2017.

Outsider art focuses mainly on those who do not "belong" in the art world. Wiili did not "belong" anywhere. He spent much of his life homeless, after leaving home at the age of 17. His father was an ornithologist and shared much of his passion for birds with his son. Wiili, who was diagnosed bipolar and schizophrenic, found solitude along the outskirts of society and would trade paintings for money and coffee.

Wiili's work is characterized by bold brushstrokes and bright colors. He would paint on anything he could find, like cardboard or pieces of wood, ironing boards, hubcaps, turtle shells (yes, turtle shells!) and almost anything freely found. After he started selling more work, he had a bit of money to replenish his paints and actually buy canvas. He painted, used pastels, crayons, sculpted, anything he could find to let out the mental turmoil he felt.

Aesthetics aside, Wiili's subject matter remained consistent through most of his pieces. Being a nature lover, and with his



Work by William "Wiili" Armstrong

father's background in ornithology, Wiili's paintings usually feature at least one bird. He had quite the obsession with flying creatures. Angels mainly, also due to his love for women and the female form, butterflies, flying horses, etc. After studying so many of his paintings, these flight metaphors seem to be a cry for escape; almost as though he wanted to fly away from the mental distress of this existence.

For further information check our NC Commercial Gallery listings or visit (www.blowingrockgalleries.com).

Caldwell Arts Council in Lenoir, NC, Features Works by Brush & Palette Club of Lenoir, Charles Scheil & Jim Lee

The Caldwell Arts Council in Lenoir, NC, will present two new exhibits including: *Wood You Be Still?!* featuring artwork by Caldwell County's own Brush & Palette Club, wood turnings by retired Dr. Charles Scheil of Lenoir, and still life photography by Jim Lee of Durham, NC. A meet-the-artists reception will be held Oct. 6, from 5-7pm.

The Brush & Palette Club of Lenoir, NC currently has about twenty-five exhibiting artists, including painters, sculptors and potters. Their artwork will be displayed on the main floor along with wood-turnings by retired Dr. Charles Scheil, also of Lenoir.

Jim Lee of Durham, NC, will display his still life photography in the upstairs gallery.

Lee's education history includes University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, the North Carolina State University, and Penland School of Crafts.

The Caldwell Arts Council's mission is to establish and maintain an awareness and appreciation of cultural arts in Caldwell County, to encourage participation in art events, and to offer various educational opportunities and administrative services in support of artists, arts agencies, and audiences.

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, call the Council at 828/754-2486 or visit (www.caldwellarts.com).

Trackside Studios in Asheville, NC, Offers Work by Virginia Pendergrass

Trackside Studios in Asheville, NC's River Arts District, will present *Moody Skies*, featuring paintings by Virginia Pendergrass, on view from Oct. 1 - 31, 2017. A reception will be held on Oct. 8, from 4:30-6:30pm.

Early in her painting career in Florida, color captured Pendergrass' attention first. She was influenced by a Betty Edwards book, "Color", emphasizing bright, strong colors in painting, and by a workshop with

Scott Christiansen, whose paintings feature warm, western landscapes. These colorful paintings were particularly suited to sunny Florida; some patrons described her early work as "happy paintings."

"When I moved to Brevard, NC, 15 years ago, I continued to use the same bright color palette and was guided by spots of bright color in choosing a composition," recalls Pendergrass. "One rainy day, however, I

Pottery Classes and Other Events Transylvania County Arts Council



Pottery Open Studio Evenings

October 3 - 26: Tuesday's & Thursday's from 6 pm - 9 pm

Pottery Open Studio Daytime

October 4 - 30: Monday's & Wednesday's from 9:30 am - 12:30 pm

Introduction to Wheel Throwing

October 17 - 26: Tuesday's & Thursday's from 9:30 am - 12:30 pm

To register for any of the classes above call TC Arts Council 828.884.2787.

October 27 - November 17: PARI Exhibit at TC Arts

Pisgah Astronomical Research Institute will partner with TC Arts Council to present an art exhibit from October 27 - November 17. The Opening Reception will be held on

October 27 as part of the Brevard 4th Friday Gallery Walks from 5-8pm.

Gallery hours are Monday thru Friday from 9:30am - 4:30pm.

October 27

The local Transylvania County NAACP will host an art exhibit in the yard of the TC Arts Council on October 27 called "Put Yourself on Line - a Clothesline Project". This will be a part of the Brevard 4th Friday Gallery Walk from 5-8pm on Friday, October 27.

October 27: Brevard's 4th Friday Gallery Walk ... Kicks-off Halloweenfest

Enjoy an evening stroll in downtown Brevard, NC as you explore art, music and wine from 5-8pm. Make an evening of it and stop by and have dinner in one of our downtown restaurants. A brochure for the gallery walks can be found at any of the participating galleries or at the Brevard/Transylvania Chamber of Commerce. For more information call the TC Arts Council at 828-884-2787 or go to www.artsofbrevard.org and click on Art Tours.

TC Arts Council

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huddled in a recessed doorway and painted one of my favorite works - a pasture and mountains partly obscured by a stormy sky. This moody, atmospheric painting suddenly opened my eyes to the unique beauty of North Carolina - quite different from Florida or the West - of fog rolling in and out, luminous sunsets, storms approaching, misty distant mountains, and huge banks of fat white clouds."

The transition to moody, atmospheric landscapes was not easy. "Atmospheric paintings require close values of dark and light and colorful grays; 'happy paintings' use strong contrasts of dark and light and bright color to capture the feel of sunny days," explained Pendergrass.

"I first tried various changes in paints by including one or more muted or unsaturated colors to mix the colorful grays of the atmospheric landscape. I then began to appreciate the need for careful control of values."

To control values, Pendergrass undertook monochrome underpaintings in burnt sienna as a base for the color painting. "I had instruction in how to do this early on, but did not understand why anyone would. It seemed a lot of preparation to get to the 'real' painting. I finally realized that it is easier to get values right without color, which saves time in correcting later on," says Pendergrass.

In addition to an opportunity to check composition before painting in color, she found that the underpainting cues proper color mixes - she holds a loaded brush of the color mix next to a value in the underpainting to match it.

"At this point, it is a pleasure to do the underpaintings, and I find them beautiful in themselves," Pendergrass enthuses. "The underpaintings alone have an atmospheric look - I sometimes hesitate to go on with color."



Work by Virginia Pendergrass

Pendergrass has had a lifelong love of color and design but took up painting as a second career. As a child, her art education consisted of many hours perusing her parents' book, *World-Famous Paintings* edited by Rockwell Kent. When she later committed to a career in art, she studied with nationally known painters Scott Christensen, CW Mundy, Greg Kreutz and Kenn Backhaus. Formal art education included courses at Old Lyme Art Academy in CT, as well as Crealde Art School and Seminole Community College, both in Orlando, FL.

Pendergrass' paintings have been selected for many regional and national art competitions, where she has received a number of awards for excellence.

For further information check our NC Commercial Gallery listings, call the gallery at 828/545-2904 or visit (www.tracksidestudios375.com).

The deadline each month to submit articles, photos and ads is the 24th of the month prior to the next issue. This will be Oct. 24th for the November 2017 issue and Nov. 24 for the December 2017 issue.

After that, it's too late unless your exhibit runs into the next month. But don't wait for the last minute - send your info now.

And where do you send that info?

E-mail to (info@carolinaarts.com).