

Theatre Art Galleries in High Point, NC, Features Four New Exhibitions

The Theatre Art Galleries in High Point, NC, will present four new exhibits including: *WARREN DENNIS: The Figure Evolves*, on view in the Main Gallery; *COFFEE OR COCKTAIL: An Occasional Table Exhibition*, on view in Gallery B; *AMERICAN GOTHIC - Portraits in Charcoal* by Rich Furmanski (1931-2015), on view in the Hallway Gallery; and the *ANNUAL TAG Lower School Exhibition*, on view in the Kaleidoscope Youth Gallery. All exhibits will be on view from Nov. 20 through Jan. 8, 2016. A reception will be held on Nov. 20, from 5:30-7:30pm.

Warren Dennis is a Winston-Salem, NC, artist who was born in Clarksdale, MS, in 1927. He received his Bachelor of Art from the University of Southern Mississippi and went on to earn a Master of Fine Arts from the University of Mississippi. While there, he had the opportunity to study with visiting artists Jack Tworokov and David Smith. He continued his education with special study under Yasuo Kuniyoshi at the University of Minnesota and a special study of lithography under Reginald Neal at Rutgers University. Warren has been teaching art since 1955.



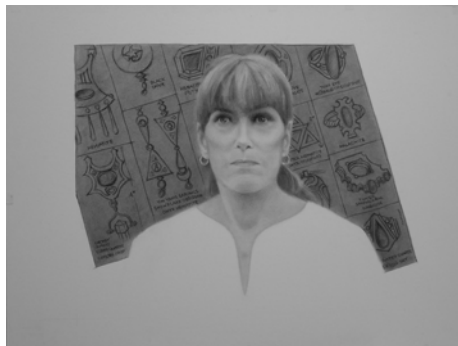
Work by Warren Dennis

His first position was at Judson College in Marion, AL. He then switched to Appalachian State University in Boone, NC, until he retired from teaching in 1993. He was the Chairperson for Appalachian State's Department of Art from 1980 to 1984. Dennis' many exhibitions, solo and group shows, prizes and awards would make a listing of many pages. His work is represented in many corporate and private collections, including the Hickory Museum of Art's permanent collection. His paintings have been featured on Charles Kuralt's *Sunday Morning TV* program, as well as in *Southern Living Magazine*.

Dennis' paintings are rendered with an expression of a moment in time or a suggestion of an unspoken feeling or emotion. After a lifetime of painting "ordinary people doing ordinary things" in his elongated style, Dennis in true artist fashion decided to try something new. His cubist paintings are based on the work of Picasso who over 100 years ago created the technique, but unlike Picasso, the paintings of Dennis are more personable and identifiable.

About his cubist style work, Dennis says, "These came to me in a dream and developed rapidly into drawing studies that evolved into my paintings. My entire body of work is a meditation on the American Spirit which I have seen in its humor, complexity, struggles, and above all, in its unquenchable determination to triumph over adversity. All my work is personal and it all has personality - That's what I try to get across".

Dennis offers the following artist statement: "The human image is obviously the central factor in my work. These figures and faces result from years of effort - a careful honing, by trial and error, to gain a specific effect. By now, these people are all mine. They confront each other, they stand alone in contemplation or amazement, or they are sometimes simply asleep. My concerns are with showing dignity and humor and innocence as they affect us, and with the



Work by Rich Furmanski

robust, absurd gestures we make to reveal ourselves. With our backs to each other or face-to-face, we show and try to hide our feelings. I would like for these paintings to go beyond the image, to involve the viewer in a pure way. Even though the figures are distorted, I hope the public is confronted by these people as if they were real people. This sense of dramatic presence is what I always work toward."

In the exhibit, *COFFEE OR COCKTAIL: An Occasional Table Exhibition*, extraordinary, beautiful, unique, creative; whatever word you use, this ubiquitous form of furniture has become the centerpiece of every modern home's living room or family room. Through the years they've gone from being called "coffee table" to "cocktail table" and back again depending on the popularity of the beverage and its legality. Coffee? or cocktail?; you decide. Come see what decades of design creativity have produced in an exhibit curated by the American Society of Furniture Designers and the Bernice Bienenstock Furniture Library.

In this exhibition you will see a mix of whimsy, cutting-edge creativity, classic midcentury design, the best in industrial design, a brief look into our history updated for modern times, Scandinavian and Oriental design influences and clean architecturally sculptured forms; A broad cross-section that has something for everybody.

This exhibition will include images, created by some of the industry's top photographic artists, capturing the tables in unique and unexpected ways, truly exploring the occasional table as an art form. High Point, NC, is the Furniture Capital of the World, the epicenter of decorative arts, and a fitting home for this unique exhibition.

Rich Furmanski (1931-2015) began his fine art and commercial art career with a scholarship to the Kansas City Art Institute (MO). After serving in Korea he attended the American Academy of Art in Chicago where he studied design and illustration and apprenticed at one of the largest illustration studios. He then studied at Los Angeles Art Center and School of Design.

Furmanski came to High Point in 1959 to join an advertising agency in the capacity of Art Director and later Vice President (He planned to stay in North Carolina two years but liked the weather and married his wife Barbara). In 1998 he started his own freelance business until his retirement. He had a long relationship with the North Carolina Shakespeare Festival producing illustrations and promotional brochures for seasonal productions from 1981-2001.

In semi-retirement Furmanski produced a series of pastels including North Carolina waterfalls and landscapes which were exhibited at TAG. From 2005-2011 he produced *American Gothic*, a series of oversized black/white charcoal portraits. The backgrounds feature the interest, hobby or career of each subject. Furmanski's work has been exhibited in several galleries from Raleigh to Elkin and is included in private and business collections.

The Kaleidoscope Youth Gallery will host the *ANNUAL TAG Lower School Exhibition* with works by students from local elementary schools.

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, contact the TAG office at 336/887-2137 or visit (www.tagart.org).



Museum Hours:
Tues-Sat 10am-4pm
Business Hours:
Mon-Fri 8:30am-5pm

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NORTH CAROLINA POTTERY CENTER

North Carolina Pottery Center in Seagrove, NC, Features Works from Gregg Museum of Art & Design & More

The North Carolina Pottery Center in Seagrove, NC, is presenting two new exhibits including: *Object Lessons: Ceramics from the Gregg Museum of Art & Design* in Galleries I & II and *Wild Clay: The Story of NC Clay* in Gallery III, both on view through Feb. 3, 2016.

Honoring tradition while being of the moment is one of the essential aspects of pottery making in North Carolina. Pottery makers use a language that gathers values. Traditional forms and methods join thoughtful innovations and transformations driven by talent, energy, risk-taking, relentless work, psychological and emotional effort and need. *Object Lessons* is an exhibition of ceramics from the Gregg's collection mostly made since 1988 chosen in order to suggest some ways in which these makers marry tradition with innovation. The exhibition is guest curated by Charlotte V. Wainwright. Now retired, Wainwright was the long-time director of the Gregg Museum of Art & Design at North Carolina State University.

A catalog will be available for sale with narrative by Charlotte Wainwright and photographs by Jason Dowdle. In the catalog conclusion, Wainwright states, "This essay barely scratches the surface of the complex content of the fifty plus pieces drawn from the Gregg Museum of Arts & Design's collection that are included in the exhibition *Object Lessons*. When they are unpacked for the exhibition, they will be completely new to me as well as the audience because that is one of the joys and virtues of pottery - every time you see a piece you can see something new and different about it if you



Work by Mayco, Duncan, Amaco Glazes, Slip Bisque, Highwater Clay, Clay Tools

look hard enough."

Wild Clay: The Story of NC Clay is an exhibition focused on one of our state's most important natural resources. We will use raw and fired test samples, photos, maps, and select 19th century pots to explore the material that is the foundation of NC pottery.

Exhibitions are made possible through the generosity of our membership, the Mary and Elliott Wood Foundation, the John W. and Anna H. Hanes Foundation, and the Goodnight Educational Foundation. This project was supported by the NC Arts Council, a division of the Department of Cultural Resources, with funding from the National Endowment for the Arts.

The mission of the North Carolina Pottery Center is to promote public awareness of and appreciation for the history, heritage, and ongoing tradition of pottery making in North Carolina.

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, call the Center at 336/873-8430 or visit (www.ncpotterycenter.org).

The deadline each month to submit articles, photos and ads is the 24th of the month prior to the next issue. This will be Nov. 24th for the December 2015 issue and Dec. 24 for the January 2016 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).

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