

21st Chatham Studio Tour

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on Friday, Dec. 6, 2013, from 7-9pm at the Chatham County Community College, 764 West Street in Pittsboro, NC. Please bring a non-perishable donation (no glass, please) for CORA food pantry!

The Chatham Studio Tour takes place on Saturday, Dec. 7 and Sunday Dec. 8, 2013 from 10am-5pm, and then again on Saturday, Dec. 14 and Sunday Dec. 15, 2013, from 10am-5pm.

A show of works by Tour artists will take place at FRANK Gallery in Chapel Hill, NC, from Dec. 12 - 16, 2013. A reception will be held on Dec. 12, from 6-8:30pm.

During the first two weekends of December, just west of Cary and south of Chapel Hill, discover the diverse artistic talents in Chatham County. Here you will discover

traditional and contemporary artists and crafts persons including painters, potters, sculptors, photographers, jewelers, woodworkers, fiber artists, basket makers and more. Fifty-two artists invite you into their homes and studios for a unique opportunity to see and purchase their work. It is a great opportunity to talk directly with the artists about their inspiration and artistic process. The Chatham County Studio Tour was founded in 1992 which makes it one of the oldest in the State, a prototype for other area studio tours, and a highly respected art venue.

Brochures and maps will be available at local shops and eateries and CCCC or can be downloaded from (www.ChathamArtistsGuild.org).

North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences in Raleigh, NC, Features Works by Science Illustrators

The North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences in Raleigh, NC, will present *Nature Up Close*, featuring works by 20 members of the Carolinas chapter of the Guild of Natural Science Illustrators, on view in the Nature Art Gallery, from Dec. 6 through Jan. 19, 2014. A reception will be held on Dec. 6, from 6:30-9pm.

The exhibition features many examples of natural science illustrations in multiple mediums, including watercolor, pen/ink, colored or graphite pencil, scratch board, and pastels. All exhibited art is for sale.

Nature Up Close is a unique opportunity to see many different applications of mediums and styles in a single exhibit.

The collective resume of the featured artists include publication in field guides, state and national magazines and environmental and conservation periodicals. Individual members have also authored and/or illustrated books for both adults and children. Many Guild of Natural Science Illustrators (GNSI) members have mounted solo exhibits in galleries and museums including the Nature Art Gallery. Viewers will no doubt recognize the work of several artists from past shows, including Patricia Savage and Anne Runyon, as well as illustrative work they have done

for permanent displays in zoos, museums, state parks, botanical gardens and universities.

GNSI Carolinas is a regional chapter of the national GNSI which is based in Washington, DC, at the Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution. The 60 members of GNSI Carolinas are artists from North and South Carolina who are employed as illustrators or who have a genuine interest in scientific illustration. GNSI Carolinas encourages member education by hosting bi-monthly meetings where members share portfolios and participate in mini-workshops and demonstrations. They also hold an annual workshop and a group weekend retreat. GNSI Carolinas helps promote public awareness and understanding of scientific illustration by producing several group exhibitions each year.

Their home base is the North Carolina Botanical Gardens located in Chapel Hill, NC, and several of the members are graduates of or teach in the UNC Botanical Gardens Botanical Illustration Certificate Program.

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings or call the Nature Art Gallery at 919/707-9854.

Toe River Arts Council Offers 20th Year of Studio Tours in Mitchell and Yancey Counties, NC - Dec. 6-8, 2013

They say things get better with age. And after two decades, and almost 40 tours, "they" are right. Join the Toe River Arts Council in their 20th year of Studio Tours in Mitchell and Yancey Counties, NC, Dec. 6-8, 2013. The Toe River Studio Tour is one of the largest and longest running studio tours in the country; you will find craftspeople and artists in nearly every medium, many tops in their field—from clay to glass, fiber to paper, 2 and 3-dimensional work, soap to candles, jewelry, metal, recycled and waiting to be used.



Work by Barking Spider Pottery

The tour is a free, self-guided trip that will lead you to some unique places in our community that is situated between Mt. Mitchell and Roan Mountain. What better



Work by Robert Levin

way to spend a weekend than to meander along the bright yellow lines in the road looking for the red and white studio tour signs, witnessing cerulean blue skies, dusted white peaks, and noticing the slight nip on the tip of your nose as you open the car door, and the smell of fires blazing in the clear, fresh air. Meet the artists, see where they create and where they live.

Our small towns also offer an array of galleries, studios, and other quaint businesses

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you won't want to miss. It's a weekend of visual magic.

The Toe River Studio Tour happens just twice a year - the first weekend in June, the first weekend in December, when the weather's not too hot nor too cold and the rain and snow seem to take time off, at least for part of the weekend. The Tour lasts three days. In case you want a head start and a first look, it begins Friday at noon. Studios are cleaned and open, usually with snacks and a smile. It closes at 4pm when visitors are invited over to the Spruce Pine TRAC Gallery where, from 5 to 7pm, they can meet the participating artists, see a sample or two of their work, enjoy a glass of wine, and some refreshments. The exhibit is set up geographically, so plans can be made and routes outlined for the next two days.

After the reception, visitors are invited upstairs to the TRAC Arts Resource Center (ARC) for a special performance by Michael Reno Harrell, who will kick off the Tour and the holiday season with his award-winning songs and stories.

The tour continues both Saturday and Sunday from 10am to 5pm. On Sunday, you'll leave, senses filled with the smells and sounds of the season and back seat filled with holiday gifts for you, your friends and family. There are over 75 places to stay in the area, from a couple of motels to bed and breakfast inns to cabins in the woods for two to ten.

To take the tour all you need is the comprehensive 44-page guide, which you can pick up at either TRAC Gallery or at stores and businesses around the region. It lists all the participants, their art (with a representative image), directions and



Works by Bernstein Glass

contact information, and five maps that will lead you right to their doors.

Come spend a weekend in the mountains. "Do the Tour!" Experience what makes folks want to come back again and again, what makes those premier artists call this region home, and why aging is a good thing in studio tours.

TRAC is a non-profit organization founded in 1976 to promote the arts in Mitchell and Yancey Counties.

For more information about the Arts Council's programs and to get more information about the Holiday Studio Tour, visit (www.toeriverarts.org), call 828/682-7215 (Burnsville) or 828/765-0520 (Spruce Pine). For tickets to Michael Reno Harrell's performance, stop by or call either gallery. Tickets are \$10 in advance/\$12 at the door. The Arts Resource Center is wheelchair accessible.

TRAC Gallery in Burnsville, NC, Offers Works by Yancey County Potters

The Toe River Arts Council in Burnsville, NC, is presenting works by members of the Yancey County Potters, on view in the TRAC Gallery, through Dec. 29, 2013.

Yancey County Potters with works in the show include: Garold Amsberry, Lynda Gayle Banner, Claudia Dunaway, Becky Gray, Kathryn House, Sarah

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