

Inside The Artist's Studio

We're starting something new at *Carolina Arts*. Our focus has always been on exhibitions and that will stay the same, but every once in a while depending on how readers react to this new feature, we'll be taking you inside an artist's studio. After all, exhibitions just don't appear out of thin air. We'll give you a look into the environment where these artists work.

My first thought was to just show images inside a studio space and then I thought, should there be a photo of the artist, should we offer info about the artist? And before you know it, we're doing a profile on the artist, which is something I never wanted to do. I don't want to be like other publications that show "beautiful" artists in "beautiful" homes, like *People Magazine*. Not that all artists who have their exhibits featured in our publication are not "beautiful" people, who create "beautiful" art - they are.

For our first Inside The Artist's Studio we chose Alice Ballard of Clover, SC. Ballard will present some of these works in the exhibition, *My Mother Took the Ming Rose out of the Cradle*, on view in the Overcash Gallery, from Mar. 29 through May 27, 2021, at Central Piedmont Community College in Charlotte, NC. Ballard's new exhibition merges the past with the present while looking toward the future as she combines new and old works into a unique gallery show.

My Mother Took the Ming Rose out of the Cradle is a poetic line of words deeply connected to Ballard.

From Wikipedia: Alice R. Ballard received her BS degree in design and Masters in Painting from the University of Michigan in 1968. It is evident that her background in painting comes heavily into play during surface decoration with her ceramics. From 1974-2001 she attended numerous workshops from the Penland School of Crafts in Penland, NC. In 2004 she took a 40-day trip to China sponsored by The Center for International Research in Ceramic Art, West Virginia University. She has been a ceramic instructor on and off since 1967 and has her work in several galleries, including the Blue Spiral 1 gallery in Asheville, NC, and the Smithsonian American Art Museum's Renwick Gallery in Washington, DC, where a white earthenware terra sigillata piece entitled *White Onion VII*, has been added to the permanent collection.

Ballard is a Fulbright recipient to study in India. She received an honorary Doctorate Degree in the Fine Arts from Wofford College last year and has received 2 SC Arts Commission Individual Fellowships during her career. She is represented by Hampton III Gallery in Taylors, SC.

Most of the images were taken by Amelia Zytka, Art Gallery Coordinator, *continued above on next column to the right*

Performance Facilities, at Central Piedmont Community College in Charlotte, NC, all others were provided by Alice Ballard. See more of Ballard's finished work on her website at (aliceballard.com)

or on Instagram at ([aliceballard64](https://www.instagram.com/aliceballard64)).

We hope you enjoy this new feature. It gives you a little peek inside the creative process and the environment where all the magic happens.



Alice Ballard in her studio in Clover, SC, holding the Ming Rose.



This is the *Ming Rose*, the central focus of Alice Ballard's exhibit, *My Mother Took the Ming Rose out of the Cradle*, on view at Central Piedmont Community College in Charlotte, NC. Photo by Amelia Zytka



"This one is a commission going to Hawaii at the end of the show for a garden. It's title is *Totem X*. It will be about 5 feet tall with its steel base plus a transition base below the Totem. It is made of stoneware and porcelain with copper and some terra sigillata. It will be in the show courtesy of Fia and Phillip Richmond." - Alice Ballard

