

Toe River Arts in Spruce Pine, NC

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from around the country to Spruce Pine to share their talent and skills. Last year brought John Rais from Philadelphia, PA; years before brought Maegan E. Crowley from Colorado and artists from Wisconsin, Virginia and Arizona.

This year's Master Blacksmith is Elizabeth Brim, a local blacksmith, with ties to Penland School of Craft, who has a permanent public installation in downtown Spruce Pine. She was born and raised in Columbus, GA.

Brim graduated with an MFA in printmaking from the University of Georgia before she moved to this area. Once here, she expanded her skills at Penland School of Craft, taking classes as a core fellow before eventually teaching classes herself. She later served as the Iron Studio Coordinator. Since then, she has continued to tackle gender stereotypes with the imagery in her work, breaking into a male-dominated craft, hammer in hand, with pearls around her neck.

After the reception on Apr. 24, Master Blacksmith is Elizabeth Brim will offer a lecture upstairs in the Artist Resource Center on the second floor of Toe River Arts at 7pm. She will present a slideshow of early work and how it has evolved into



Apron by Elizabeth Brim. Photo by Brady Connelly.

her current practice.

Toe River Arts will present \$2,500 in cash awards to exhibitors at the reception. Best In Show will receive \$1,000, Outstanding Functional and Outstanding Nonfunctional will receive \$600 each, and Emerging Artist will receive \$300. A People's Choice Award, a handmade tool by Seth Gould, will be announced downtown during the festival.

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, call 828/765-0520 or visit (toeriverarts.org). For more information about the Fire on the Mountain Festival, visit (downtownsprucepine.com).

GreenHill in Greensboro, NC, Offers Five NC Women Abstract Artists

The GreenHill Center for North Carolina Art in Greensboro, NC, is presenting *NC Women Abstract Painters*, featuring works by five women who are abstract artists living in NC, on view through Apr. 11, 2020. It is the first exhibition in 30 years to focus uniquely on women artists.

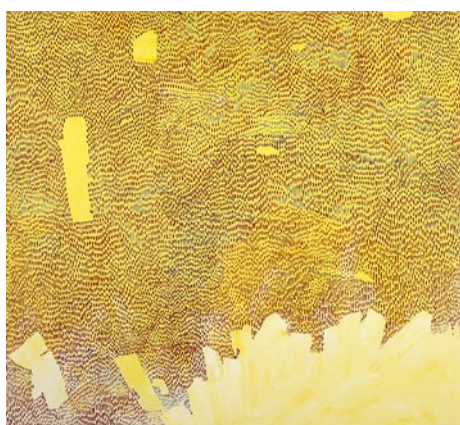
The exhibition features 80 works, from large-scale paintings to small studies, created by Eleanor Annand (Penland); Barbara Ellis (Concord); Celia Johnson (Chapel Hill); Katy Mixon (Chapel Hill and Davidson); and Felicia Van Bork (Davidson).

The exhibition was organized during Women's History Month with a focus on gender equity in the arts.

"*NC Women Abstract Painters* offers fresh opportunities to elevate the vital contributions of women artists in our state," Barbara Richter, Green Hill's executive director, said. "We're seeking larger conversations around gender equity in the arts through the works of these outstanding women painters and programming."

GreenHill will feature a Friday walk-through tour with artist Katy Mixon on Apr. 3. Valerie Hillings, the executive director of the North Carolina Museum of Art, will also present a lecture on Apr. 8 at 5:30pm.

Eleanor Annand presents wall reliefs covered with milk paint as well as paintings on metal. Celia Johnson presents dynamic paintings on panels using wax-based encaustic, as well as new prints. Barbara Ellis presents new oil paintings exploring her emotional connection she experiences



Work by Katy Mixon

between gesture and the canvas. Felicia Van Bork displays her paintings and collages based on monotype prints, in which a single paper impression is pulled from a painting on glass. Van Bork's newest series of large oil paintings and color studies will also be on view. Katy Mixon includes works created from used muslin hand rags stained with paint, as well as works on panels.

Eddie Carpenter, of GreenHill, curated the exhibition.

GreenHill Center for North Carolina Art is supported by the North Carolina's Arts Council's State Arts Resources program for the high quality of its arts programming.

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listing or visit (<http://www.greenhillnc.org/nc-women-abstract-painters>).

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