

# Blue Spiral 1 Gallery in Asheville, NC, Offers New Exhibits

Blue Spiral 1 Gallery in Asheville, NC, will present new exhibitions, on view from May 6 through June 22, 2022.

In the Main Gallery will be the exhibit, *TOPO*, which considers topography as explored by artists working in different contexts, media and locations. It illustrates the various respects in which the representation of space shapes a range of differing sensibilities related to topography or landscape: travel and exploration, the natural world, and narrative. Artists range from working in clay, wood, print, paint and mixed media.

Participating artists include: Peter Aberice, Bobbi Allen, Ed Nash, Michael Poness, Amy Putansu, Jeremy Russell, Brad Sells, and Gregor Turk.

In the Showcase Gallery will be the exhibition *Suzanne Stryk: The Middle of Somewhere*. The mixed media works in this exhibition, which informed Suzanne Stryk's recently published book by the same title, are visual interpretations of the vast ecology found in Appalachia and her home-state of Virginia. As she traveled and found inspiration for this series her mantra became.

"There's no such thing as the middle of nowhere. Everywhere is the middle of somewhere for some living being," says Stryk. She is an artist who finds equal fascination in the natural world and the visual arts. Her conceptual paintings and assemblages have appeared in solo exhibitions throughout the United States, and her portfolios and related writings have been featured in "Terrain.org", "Orion, Ecotone", and the "Kenyon Review".

Stryk is the recipient of a George Sugarman Foundation grant and a Virginia Commission for the Arts fellowship for the project "Notes on the State of Virginia," the precursor to "The Middle of Somewhere".

In the Small Format Gallery will be the exhibition, *Douglas Miller: The Night Watch*. The animal subjects in Miller's drawings are discreet, thoughtful, and posed stoically as if on display in a museum of natural history. He uses a combination of media including ink, pencil, coffee, make-up, paint and just about anything he can find in his studio, to arrive at indeterminate resolutions about the animals and insects he hears at night.

Miller is a professional artist whose drawings are exhibited regionally and in galleries across the United States. Among other awards, he has received the AI Smith Individual Artist Fellowship from the KY Arts Council and the National Endowment for the Arts. He lives and works in Louisville, KY.

In the Lower Level Gallery will be the exhibition, *Glassville*. The studio glass movement took root in the South in the mountains of Western North Carolina. This area is now home to over a hundred glass artists who make both functional and sculptural works. *Glassville* celebrates a group of talented emerging artists contributing to the aesthetic and technological advancement of the field.

Participating artists include: Kathryn Adams, Robert Burch, Courtney Dodd, Ben Elliot, Nickolaus Fruin, Michael Hayes, Asher Holman, Cole Johnson, Christopher Kerr-Ayer, Amber Marshall, and Hayden Wilson.

In the Upper Level Galleries will be the exhibition, *Woodfire Takeover*. In conjunc-



Work by Douglas Miller

tion with the 2022 International Woodfire Conference, *Woodfire NC: Envision*, the upper galleries will be filled with woodfired pots and sculptures by regional ceramic artists. The conference kicks-off the week of May 19th with a Mountain PreHEAT, a celebration of woodfired ceramics centered around the Asheville area of Western North Carolina. The organizers of the PreHEAT, including artists on display at Blue Spiral 1, have assembled the region's top woodfired artists and a host of national and international guests for seven days of complete immersion into the exciting world of woodfiring.

Participating artists include: Will Baker, Josh Copus, Will Dickert, Judith Duff, Candice Hensley, Matt Jones, Eric Knoche, and David Stuempfle.

Founder, John Cram (1948 - 2020), opened Blue Spiral 1 on New Year's Eve of 1990 with a vision of creating a home for the many artists who had settled in the region in the mid-to-late 20th century. Additionally, he needed a suitable space to exhibit the recently acquired estate of Southern Modernist, Will Henry Stevens (1881 - 1949).

At the time Cram opened Blue Spiral 1, Asheville was a shell of itself. Having suffered through the post-industry recession, downtown buildings were boarded up and artists were moving to the area because the rent was cheap and the scenery inspiring. Cram recognized a need, took a chance, and made an investment that altered the trajectory of visual culture in Asheville. What was once a defunk radio supply shop flanked by an adult theatre and plumbing supply store, is now one of the largest and busiest galleries in the South. Three decades later, Blue Spiral 1 is the heart of a booming art scene in downtown Asheville.

For 30 years, Blue Spiral 1 has exhibited work by artists and makers in a three-story, multi-gallery setting. Maintaining a diverse and extensive exhibition schedule, the gallery presents over 25 shows annually. Thematic group exhibitions and individual artist showcases rotate in the Main and Lower Level galleries every other month, while the gallery's Upper Level features a wide array of works by over 100 represented artists.

For further information check our NC Commercial Gallery listings, call the gallery at 828/251-0202 or visit ([www.bluespiral1.com](http://www.bluespiral1.com)).

# Philip DeAngelo Studio in Asheville, NC, Offers Exhibit Inspired by Artists' Trip to Italy

The Philip DeAngelo Studio, located in the Wedge Building in the River Arts District in Asheville, NC, will present *I Sensi dell'Italia* (*The Senses of Italy*), on view from May 14 - 21, 2022. A reception/open house will be held on May 14, from 10am-5pm, during the RAD's Second Saturday events.

Join three Asheville artists as they strive to recreate a recent trip to Italy through their various art forms. The show features works by painters Mark Bettis, Philip DeAngelo

and ceramicist Michael Hofman and will be held at the Philip DeAngelo Studio in the Wedge Building. These three River Arts District artists visited Rome, Florence and Venice, the iconic cities of famed Italian culture. Bettis recalls, "I was mesmerized by the colors and textures of Italy. I want to bring that through in my paintings for the show."

The entire visit overall was amazing and each artist had their favorite places

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