

Mars Hill University in Mars Hill, NC, Offers Exhibit Focused on Dolls

Mars Hill University in Mars Hill, NC, is presenting *The Art and Soul of the Doll*, on view in the Weizenblatt Gallery, through Sept. 28, 2023. There will be a reception on Friday, September 1, from 5-8pm, in conjunction with the town of Mars Hill's First Friday.

Say the word "doll" and most people will have an image of a child's toy in their minds. For some people, though, dolls are far more than something for a child to play with. They are handmade artworks that are just as expressive and meaningful as paintings or other traditional fine art mediums. They can say very personal things that might never be said any other way. When done with care, craftsmanship, and deep feeling, they are clearly fine art.

The Art and Soul of the Doll is an exhibition of over 40 handmade figurative artworks from 15 artists in the Asheville-based Go Figure Guild. Some of these figures tell specific stories while others are metaphors. Some express ideals, others personal emotions, and some are done as part of a healing process. Some reach across the lines that may divide us and others are political statements. Many of them are so personal to their creators that they are not for sale. All of them are beautiful artworks that are exceptionally well made.

The Weizenblatt Gallery is in the



Work by Katya Hoke

Moore Fine Art Building on Cascade Street in Mars Hill.

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings or contact Skip Rohde by e-mail at (williamskip_rohde@mhu.edu).

Western Carolina University in Cullowhee, NC, Presents Native American Works from Lambert Wilson Collection

Western Carolina University in Cullowhee, NC, is presenting *Spark of the Eagle Dancer: The Collecting Legacy of Lambert Wilson*, on view in the WCU Fine Art Museum, located in the John W. Bardo Fine and Performing Arts Center, through Dec. 8, 2023.

The exhibition includes over 140 works of contemporary Native American art from the collection of one of Western North Carolina's most notable art enthusiasts. Lambert Wilson, who devoted his life to supporting and encouraging Native artists, amassed an extensive collection during his lifetime, focusing primarily on artists of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, Cherokee Nation, and sovereign nations of the Southwest. This exhibition brings together a selection of baskets, pottery, carving, painting, photography, and more that tell the story of the relationships Wilson built and the impact that he made by dedicating himself to this remarkable collection.



Work by Julius Wilnoty

Those who live in Western North Carolina know Lambert Wilson as a respected educator and supporter of the arts. He started his collection of contemporary Native American art in the 1970s, when he was studying middle grade education as an undergraduate student at WCU. As part of an introductory art history course taught by Mrs. Janie Leftwich, Wilson completed an extra credit assignment to visit the John Julius Wilnoty *Eagle Dancer* sculpture at Medicine Man Crafts in Cherokee, NC.

This encounter motivated him to acquire his own collection of Cherokee artwork. From that first moment of inspiration, Wilson saw artwork as a vehicle for culture, learning, and friendship. He spent decades forging relationships with Native artists and being curious about their process of making. With each object acquired, he learned more about the histories and traditions of each artist's culture and



Work by Alvina Yepa

took an interest in their lives. Ultimately his impulse to collect went far beyond the material and was an expression of his love for people and community.

In 2006, Wilson met his partner Jenny Holland, who shared his passion for Native art. Together they expanded the scope of the collection to include work by Native artists of the Southwest. *Spark of the Eagle Dancer* gives visitors a glimpse into this vast collection built over 47 years and features work by 83 artists of various tribal affiliations.

Exhibiting artists from the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians include: Joshua Adams, Boyce Allison, Darrin Bark, Nancy George Bradley, Rowena Bradley, Goingback Chiltosky, Amanda Crowe, Gabe Crowe, W.H. Crowe, Annie Tooni Driver, Bernadine George, Lucy N. George, John Henry Gloyne, Butch Goings, Louise Goings, Shan Goshorn, General Grant, Luzene Hill, Paul Hornbuckle, Virgil Ledford, Madison Hye Long, Lucille Lossiah, Ramona Lossie, Louise Bimeat Maney, Lloyd Carl Owle, Joel Queen, Joely Queen, James Bud Smith, Lottie Queen Stamper, Amanda Sequoyah Swimmer, Emma Squirrel Taylor, Cora Wahnetah, M. Walkingstick, Agnes Welch, Maidena Welch, Maude Welch, Fred Wilnoty, Freddy Wilnoty, John Julius Wilnoty, Eva Wolfe, Jerry Wolfe, and Edmund Youngbird.

Exhibiting artists from the Cherokee Nation include: Martha Berry, Vivian Garner Cottrell, Bill Glass, Troy Jackson, America Meredith, Lloyd Kiva New, Jane Osti, Karin Walkingstick, and Bryan Waytula.

Artists of other federally recognized tribes include: Abraham Begay (Navajo Nation), Autumn Borts-Medlock (Santa Clara Pueblo), Nick Brokeshoulder (Hopi), Randy Brokeshoulder (Hopi), Joe Cajero (Jemez Pueblo), Randy Chitto

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(Mississippi Choctaw), Clara Darden (Chitimacha Tribe of Louisiana), Jeremy Frey (Passamaquoddy), Tammy Garcia (Santa Clara Pueblo), Starr Hardridge (Muscoogee Creek Nation), Sheldon Harvey (Navajo Nation), Norma Howard (Choctaw), Ira Lujan (Taos/Ohkay Owingeh Pueblo), Maria Martinez (San Ildefonso Pueblo), Rochelle Medlock (Santa Clara Pueblo), Gary Montgomery (Seminole Nation of Oklahoma), Jody Naranjo (Santa Clara Pueblo), Kyle Ortiz (Cochiti Pueblo), Virgil Ortiz (Cochiti Pueblo), Bob Proctor (Choctaw Nation), Cara

Romero (Chemehuevi), Diego Romero (Cochiti Pueblo), Sarah Sense (Choctaw/Chitimacha), Penny Singer (Navajo Nation), Tommy Singer (Navajo Nation), Preston Singletary (Tlingit), Roxanne Swentzell (Santa Clara Pueblo), Kathleen Wall (Jemez Pueblo), Alvina Yepa (Jemez Pueblo), Lawrence Yepa (Jemez Pueblo), and Marcella Yepa (Jemez Pueblo).

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, call the Museum at 828/227-3591 or visit (<https://www.wcu.edu/bardo-arts-center/fine-art-museum/>).

Upstairs Artspace in Tryon, NC, Features Works by Connie Bostic and Steve Mann

Upstairs Artspace in Tryon, NC, is presenting two solo exhibitions featuring the works of Connie Bostic and Steve Mann, on view through Oct. 8, 2023.

Bostic's exhibition, *Walking Naked In The World*, will be a retrospective of her life's work and will include about 80 pieces of art. She is one of the most well known and influential artists of Western North Carolina. Her paintings often address subjects such as equality, justice, and inclusion.

Steve Mann is a fine art photographer, whose work has appeared in magazines such as *Explore!*, *WNC*, *Thread*, *Carolina Home & Garden* and *Verve*. His exhibit, *Indian Relay*, features dynamic black and white photographs of the 2022 Sheridan WYO Rodeo World Championship Indian Relay Race in Wyoming.

"We are especially honored to have the work of Connie Bostic in our gallery," gallery President Patti Trobaugh said. "The depth of meaning and social influence of her work in this region are phenomenal. She is one of the most respected and prolific artists in Western North Carolina. Steve Mann's photographs of an Indian relay event are amazing. People will feel like they are there."

Curator for Mann's exhibit is Margaret Curtis, artist and freelance curator. Curtis is co-curator of the Bostic show along with Linda Noble, chair of the gallery's Exhibitions Committee.



Work by Connie Bostic

Arizona. His work has been exhibited coast to coast, starting in 1983.

Upstairs Artspace is a nonprofit contemporary art gallery in downtown Tryon, NC. It is supported by public and private donations, sales of art, grants, and fundraising events. It is supported in part by the Polk County Community Foundation, the Mary F. Kessler Fund, and public and private donations.

Founded in 1978, Upstairs Artspace is Tryon's oldest fine art gallery and is operated by its Board of Directors, members, and volunteers. It exhibits 10 to 15 shows annually that are generally conceived around themes or genres.

Upstairs Artspace maintains three gallery spaces totaling approximately 3000 square feet and rotates fine art exhibitions every six weeks that are selected by committee and independent curators. These exhibits include most forms of art media including painting, sculpture, mixed media, works on paper, prints, photography, digital media, videography and installations. The artists are selected for their abilities and reputations, and while most are from our region, we also feature work from other parts of the country.

Upstairs Artspace is known throughout the region as a gallery featuring art that is contemporary and avant-garde. Artists are selected by qualified exhibits committee members. While most of the art in an exhibition is available for purchase, Upstairs Artspace is not a retail gallery and does not maintain a permanent collection.

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, call 828 859 2828 or visit (UpstairsArtspace.org).



Work by Steve Mann

Bostic began her art career late in life. She has a bachelor's degree in studio art from the University of North Carolina at Asheville and a master's degree in painting from Western Carolina University in Cullowhee. Her list of exhibitions is long and impressive. She is also well known as a teacher, mentor, and published writer.

Mann is a native of Asheville. He received his bachelor's degree in photography and art history from the University of

The Art Gallery at Congdon Yards in High Point, NC, Offers New Exhibitions

The Art Gallery at Congdon Yards in High Point, NC, is presenting several new exhibits including: *THREE*, featuring works by three female artists and *Artists Who Teach*, featuring 2D and 3D artworks of area art teachers, both on view through Oct. 20, 2023. A reception will be held on Sept. 28, from 5 to 7:30pm.

THREE features the artwork of three female artists from Greensboro - Agnes Preston-Brame, Adele Wayman and Sallie White. The three painters are friends and are delighted to be showing their artwork together. Each woman is well-versed in the tradition and history of painting and



Work by Sallie White

has dedicated years to developing and transforming their art to create significant

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