

# Carolina Renaissance Festival

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Mix skillful pleasure and comic adventure by throwing tomatoes at the insulting fools locked in the stocks at Vegetable Justice. Test your skill at games like the Dragon Climbing Tower, the Archery Range, and the Maze. Fly high into the sky on the Pirate's Assault Catapult. Take a ride on Christopher Columbus' Voyage to the New World, the Piccolo Pony (a rocking horse bigger than an elephant), and Leonardo's Flying Machine; a people powered amusement ride based on Di Vinci's designs for human flight. A family favorite is Mother (and Father) Goose brought to life with their costumed ducks and geese, the Petting Farm, and Camel and Elephant Rides.

Already the Carolinas' largest costume party, put the Carolina Renaissance Festival on your Halloween list of things to do with free event admission for all children 12 and under, with free tricks & treats to be found all around the Festival village, and a Halloween Treasure Hunt with prizes! Children are encouraged to show off their Halloween costumes and enter the Halloween Costume Contest!



In addition, the Renaissance Festival is a great place to buy your Halloween costume or accessories. Early holiday shoppers can peruse over 100 craft shops in an open-air village market which provides a diverse selection of handmade items such as pottery, jewelry, perfume, glass blown ornaments, ceramics, bath & body products, medieval costumes, hand carved candles, unique musical instruments, children's toys, a full

spectrum of clothing, and much more. You can even create your own special gift at the raku pottery booth. Housed in rows of storybook shops and medieval style tents, you can watch artisans make a masterpiece right before your eyes. Enjoy demonstrations of fine skills such as weaving, woodcarving, blacksmithing, glassblowing, pottery, and jewelry making – all through the use of ancient skills and low technology.

Did you work up an appetite perusing all the shops and enjoying all the entertainment? Well you will be pleased to know that the food is as spectacular as all the attractions. In addition to the shows, music, crafts, and the wonder of getting lost in another time, people visit the Carolina Renaissance Festival for the food as well. Village kitchens cook up an endless feast of bread bowl stews, steak-on-a-stake, gourmet sausages, and the festival's famous giant roasted turkey legs. For dessert, try the fresh crepes, the cakes and cookies from the Monks Bakery, candy delights from the Chocolate Shoppe, Italian ice, gelato, and a favorite of all renaissance wanderers: a bag of cinnamon-roasted almonds. Festival pubs offer soft drinks, a wide variety of craft beer, wine, champagne, ale, honey mead, lemonade and Medieval Margaritas to compliment the day-long feast of hearty foods fit for royalty.

Each year the Carolina Renaissance Festival adds new entertainment and new facilities making it the fall destination for quality entertainment in the Carolinas. And for visitor convenience, the Festival has embraced modern times. In addition to purchasing advanced discount tickets at Harris Teeter grocery stores region-wide, visitors can now print their own tickets in advance on the Festival's website at ([www.RenFestInfo.com](http://www.RenFestInfo.com)). So bust out your sense of good cheer, leave your cares behind, and take a day trip out to the wildly popular and entertaining time machine known as the Carolina Renaissance Festival and Artisan Market Place.

Advance Discount Tickets: \$19 for adults, \$9 for kids ages 5-12. Children under 5 are always free. Tickets purchased at the gate are \$1 more. Senior (60 and over) and adult Military discount tickets are \$18 at the gate. Parking is free courtesy of Harris Teeter.

For further information call, toll free at 877/896-5544, or visit ([www.RenFestInfo.com](http://www.RenFestInfo.com)).

## Arts on Main Art Center in Gastonia, NC, Offers Works by Jacqueline Dunford

The Arts on Main Art Center in downtown Gastonia, NC, will feature in the Gallery Vault, works by Gaston County Art Guild president Jacqueline Dunford entitled, *Encaustic and Clay*, on view from Oct. 2 through Nov. 3, 2012. A reception will be held on Oct. 5, from 6:30-8:30pm.

Dunford moved to Belmont, NC, in 2001 from West Virginia in pursuit of a more favorable winter climate. She has had a life-long love of crafting, is a prolific jewelry designer and sells her designs in the Arts on Main gift shop.

Dunford was introduced to the encaustic process through a painting course and at the same time, fell in love with ceramics and began working with both exclusively in 2009. The encaustic process and ceramics have the relation that both are 100% recyclable in their natural forms of beeswax and unfired clay which is very important to this artist. She uses some of the same tools for both mediums and makes ceramic stamps to use for encaustic processes.

*Encaustic and Clay* will feature encaustic works from the inspirations of nature and technique, some developed by herself. Included will be *Lake Wylie Summer* using a photo taken from her back yard and *Reds*, a very nice contrast of colors. This exhibit will also include 5 of her favorite shoe sculptures and her muse: a black velvet 80's style disco era, Elton John platform shoe. This shoe sparked the initial visual



Work by Jacqueline Dunford treat with the 18" *Fierce Red Unishoe* made entirely of matchsticks. She was inspired by the suspense thriller movie *Black Swan* to create the conceptual shoe, *Then She Morphed into the Black Swan*, complete with swan foot-hand morphing heel and black feathers using a ballet slipper shape.

Another conceptual collaboration of encaustic, clay and origami is a floor to ceiling installation with a psychological inspiration

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is *The Stages of the Inner Man from a Platform of Origami Cranes*. This installation is based on the discoveries of Dr. Erik Erikson who developed the eight stages of successful psychosocial human development. Four large ceramic origami cranes sit on the floor with 500 origami cranes attached to 12 strands. The cranes increase in size, color and pattern as they ascend to the ceiling, representing human growth and development. This installation is part of the current exhibit, *Melancholy*, currently on view in the Arts on Main gallery.

In 2010, Dunford received her AFA and became president of the Gaston County Art Guild the same year. She won first place in the *I Am Woman* show in 2008 and second place in 2009 and has won numerous ribbons and purchase awards in North and South Carolina art competitions. Dunford devotes much of her time to the guild committees of grant writing, community outreach projects, and social networking. She enjoys giving demonstrations of the encaustic process to schools, guilds and hosting workshops across the country and at the Arts on Main Art Center.

Dunford is an initial organizer/consultant/designer of the development of the Arts on Main Art Center. Located at 212 W Main Ave in downtown Gastonia, the formerly abandoned, historic Citizens National Bank now houses Arts on Main with 18 individual artist studios, a fine arts gallery, gift shop, classrooms and is operated by guild members on a voluntary basis. The gallery has a



Work by Jacqueline Dunford

vault (one of many in the building) that is used for community outreach exhibits and featured artists on an alternating basis in collaboration with each 2 month long gallery exhibit.

Dunford devotes her studio at Arts on Main to encaustic painting and sells her art and jewelry in the gift shop, in the 6 annual exhibits hosted in the AoM gallery, the guild sponsored exhibits: *A Visual Harvest* in the Rauch gallery on the campus of Gaston College and *A Natural View* at the Schiele Museum, both in Gaston County.

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, call the Guild at 704/865-4224 or visit ([www.gastoncountyartguild.com](http://www.gastoncountyartguild.com)).

The deadline each month to submit articles, photos and ads is the 24th of the month prior to the next issue. This will be Oct. 24th for the November 2012 issue and Nov. 24 for the December 2012 issue. After that, it's too late unless your exhibit runs into the next month. Don't be late - send your info well before the deadline.