

THE CRAFT FAIR OF THE SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS

OCT
20-22

U.S. CELLULAR CENTER
FRIDAY - SATURDAY, 10-6
SUNDAY, 10-5

WORK SHOWN:
LARRY
ALLEN

DOWNTOWN ASHEVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA



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THE LAUREL OF ASHEVILLE | OUR STATE MAGAZINE
SMOKY MOUNTAIN LIVING | WNC WOMAN

Zealandia Castle in Asheville

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my work for the river's continuing health and vitality."

The shared purpose of participating artists is bringing engagement with the river through their work. Most complete their work en plein air, remaining at riverside locations while painting and avoiding the use of photographs. Attendees in 2014 and 2015 appreciated not only the spirit of the event but the years' collections of newly created artwork, which boasted a variety of approach and technique. There were sumptuous botanical renderings of local flora and moody renderings of abandoned riverside buildings in walnut ink brewed by the artists.

At this year's event there will be a large map indicating the locations where the artists painted their works of art along the river's 218-mile run that straddles North Carolina and Tennessee.

This year's gala event once again features the music of renowned composer and cellist Ron Clearfield, who has recorded with

Paul McCartney and Steve Martin. Whole Foods is providing food, while Oscar Blues Brewery is donating beer.

Zealandia, the gala's venue, was built by Philip Henry in 1889 and is on the National Register of Historic Places. It boasts a grand staircase and oak woodwork, with ample room for paintings by this year's 23 artists spread over two stories. The current owner, Zealandia Holding Company, has graciously offered the use of the house for the event.

This year's exhibiting artists include: Paul Blankinship, Cecil Bothwell, Caleb Clark, Rachel Clearfield, Tony Corbitt, Jr., Theresa Darling, John Dempsey, Christine Enochs, Matthew Good, Mark Henry, Dana Irwin, Susan Kokora, Bryan Kooztz, Anselme Long, Alisa Lumbreras, John Mac Kah, Cathy Mandeville, Brennen McElhaney, Carol Parks, Jason Rafferty, Deborah Squier, Alison Webb, and Colleen Webster.

Tickets for the event are on sale at (RiverLink.org/).

to be mounted this year, following *Tie Up, Draw Down* and *The Good Making of Good Things: Craft Horizons Magazine 1941-1979*.

"I take pride in the fact that CCCD offers a space to display some of the best, most forward-thinking examples of craft in North America," says CCCD Executive Director Stephanie Moore. The contemporary art world can often feel exclusive, making it difficult for emerging artists and arts administrators to challenge longstanding practices. By offering Benchspace Gallery & Workshop to curators like Matters Unsettled, Gonzalez explains CCCD is "actively making space for artists and curators from all backgrounds in an effort to change the art world's rigid landscape."

Gonzalez is a Dominican American artist and curator who holds a MA from Parsons and a BFA from the University of the Arts. Gardiner is an indigenous artist and curator who holds an MFA from Ryerson University and a Honors BA from NYU's Gallatin School of Individualized Study. Together, Gonzalez and Gardiner seek to create exhibitions that serve as forums for cultural research and experimentation.

"From ceramic sculptures made from clothes left at the US-Mexican border to trading cards that position indigenous women as superheroes, *Crafted Strangers* is a timely exhibition that brings an array of stories that challenge mainstream representations of immigrant and indigenous people," explains the curators, Gonzalez and Gardiner.

The seventeen artists selected offer a diverse array of cultural perspectives and studio practices, though many are reinventing traditional craft practices on their own terms. For example, the exhibition opens with a life-size mobile by the Dominican American artist Joiri Minaya, featuring images drawn from the Google search: "Dominican Women". Visitors will be able to walk among the swirling, cropped, and floating larger-than-life cut-outs and reflect on the creation and destabilization of social stereotypes in this graphic and colorful installation.

In support of *Crafted Strangers*, CCCD



Work by Jaret Vadera

is presenting several programs that help further the conversation around identity, belonging, and shifting borders. On Oct. 13, CCCD will assemble artists and thinkers for a "Trans-Across, Beyond, Through" panel, the 2017 Windgate Research and Collections Curator Lecture, to unpack this loaded, and powerful prefix. Visitors can also build community during the "Craft with a Stranger" experimental collaborations and showcase (Saturday, Oct. 28) or the "Recipe Exchange and Short Film Festival" (Thursday, Nov. 2).

Art serves as an important catalyst for conversation, and the pieces in *Crafted Strangers* will invite visitors to consider current national and international events in a new light.

Participating artists include: Allegra, Indira (Oakland, California); Arcand, Joi T. (Ottawa, Ontario, Canada); Barbata, Laura Anderson (Brooklyn, New York); Bogner Winslow, LeighAnn (Levittown, Pennsylvania); Cruz, David Antonio (Newark, New Jersey); Frei Njootli, Jeneen with Igharas, Tsēma (Smithers BC, Canada); Luardo, Rose (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania); Malbeuf, Amy (St. Lina, Alberta, Canada); Minaya, Joiri (Bronx, New York); Paul, Sage (Hamilton, Ontario, Canada); Red Star, Wendy (Portland, Oregon); Quezada Ureña, Daisy (Santa Fe, New Mexico); Schahbaz, Hiba (Brooklyn, New York); Vadera, Jaret (Brooklyn, New York); Wong, Amy Jenine (Belize City, Belize); and Zazueta, Arjan (Brooklyn, New York).

The CCCD Curatorial Fellowship is a yearlong pilot program created to give emerging curators a platform for exploring

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Center for Craft, Creativity & Design in Asheville, NC, Offers Group Exhibition

The Center for Craft, Creativity & Design in Asheville, NC, is presenting *Crafted Strangers*, curated by Cass Gardiner and Quizayra Gonzalez, on view in the Benchspace Gallery & Workshop, through Jan. 6, 2018.

Questions of immigration, citizenship, belonging, and identity are more pressing and complicated now than ever. Using a variety of mediums, seventeen established and emerging artists from across the United States and Canada are exhibiting work that problematizes identity stereotypes and opens up new notions of the self.

The exhibition is curated by the emerging curatorial collective Matters Unsettled, a partnership between Cass Gardiner and Quizayra Gonzalez. Gardiner and Gonzalez



Work by Joiri Minaya

received a 2017 Curatorial Fellowship from CCCD, which funded the planning and execution of the exhibition while providing the curators a platform and professional development. *Crafted Strangers* is the third and final Curatorial Fellowship exhibition

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