

# Toe River Arts Council - Spruce Pine

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Oct. 13. The public is invited to share in recognizing the range and quality of work from two-dimensional and clay to basketry and glass.

Toe River Arts is a non-profit organization established in 1976 to connect the arts and the community. It is supported by other organizations, individuals, and businesses that understand the benefit of arts to a thriving region.

For more info check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, call the Council at 828/682-7215 or visit ([www.toeriverarts.org](http://www.toeriverarts.org)).



Work by David McRary

## Western Carolina University in Cullowhee, NC, Offers Contemporary Southeastern Indian Art Exhibit

Western Carolina University in Cullowhee, NC, is presenting *Return from Exile: Contemporary Southeastern Indian Art*, curated by Tony A. Tiger, Bobby C. Martin, and Jace Weaver, featuring contemporary Native American art through two exhibitions and a symposium, on view in the Fine Art Museum at the Bardo Arts Center through Dec. 8, 2017.

The exhibition features more than thirty contemporary Southeastern Native American artists working in a variety of media including painting, drawing, printmaking, basketry, sculpture, and pottery. *Return from Exile* is one of the first major exhibitions to focus on contemporary artists from tribal nations with an historical connection to the Southeastern United States. These include the so-called Five Civilized Tribes, the Choctaw, Chickasaw, Cherokee, and Muscogee (or Creek), and Seminole, all of whom were forcibly removed in the 1830s to present-day Oklahoma as a result of the Indian Removal Act of 1830. The title of the exhibition represents the return of these artists to their ancestral homelands.



Roy Boney, Jr., "Dogenstv Degogigielv. Degogokahsv. Noquu Otslugi." acrylic on wood panel, 48" x 48"

catalogue has been made possible through a number of generous sponsors. This project is supported in part by an award from the National Endowment for the Arts. Special thanks also to Harrah's Cherokee Casino Resort, The Sequoyah Fund, and the WCU Campus Theme Committee.

*Return from Exile* is a signature event for the 2017-2018 WCU Campus Theme, "Cherokee: Connections, Culture Community." Throughout the year, the WCU campus explores the chosen theme through art, culture, scholarly work, community collaboration and more. The WCU Fine Art Museum provides another connection to the WCU Campus Theme through the exhibition *Ancient Forms, Modern Minds: Contemporary Cherokee Ceramics*, on view through Nov. 10. Featuring the work of 11 Cherokee artists, such as Joel Queen and Davy Arch, this exhibition brings together both historic and contemporary pottery techniques.

In addition to exhibitions that connect to the WCU Campus Theme, the Museum is also presenting *WCU Collects: Recent Acquisitions*. This exhibition showcases a selection of artworks recently given to the Museum and includes a number of artists not previously represented in the collection. The WCU Fine Art Museum stewards a collection of more than 1,500 artworks in all media—from painting and printmaking to book arts, sculpture, ceramics, and contemporary craft.

Bardo Arts Center is home to a 1,000-seat theatre performance hall and the WCU Fine Art Museum, which features year-round modern and contemporary art exhibitions. Bardo Arts Center is located on Centennial Drive in Cullowhee.

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, call 828/227-3591 or visit ([www.wcu.edu/bardo-arts-center/fine-art-museum/](http://www.wcu.edu/bardo-arts-center/fine-art-museum/)).



Joseph Erb (Cherokee), "Petition", acrylic on canvas, 24" x 36"

*Return from Exile* curators Bobby Martin and Tony Tiger state, "As the title *Return from Exile* suggests, we wanted to bring this important artwork back to its historic homelands. Western Carolina University, with roots tied deeply to the Eastern Cherokee, is a significant link in that 'Return.'"

The WCU Fine Art Museum received a \$25,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Arts to host this exhibition and organize a one-day symposium focused on contemporary Native American art. Speakers include artists with work in the exhibition as well as local artists. The symposium will be held on Nov. 10 from 9am-4pm, followed by a reception honoring the *Return from Exile* exhibition from 5-7pm. Both events are free and open to the public. The symposium includes a ticketed keynote performance from Canadian First Nation electronic music group A Tribe Called Red at 7:30pm. For details visit ([arts.wcu.edu/tribe](http://arts.wcu.edu/tribe)).

Traveling *Return from Exile* to the Western Carolina University Fine Art Museum at Bardo Arts Center and reprinting the

## Toe River Arts Council in Burnsville, NC, Offers Works by Debra Carpenter

Toe River Arts Council in Burnsville, NC, will present *Forest for the Trees*, featuring works by Debra Carpenter, on view in the Toe River Arts Burnsville Gallery from Oct. 7 through Nov. 11, 2017.

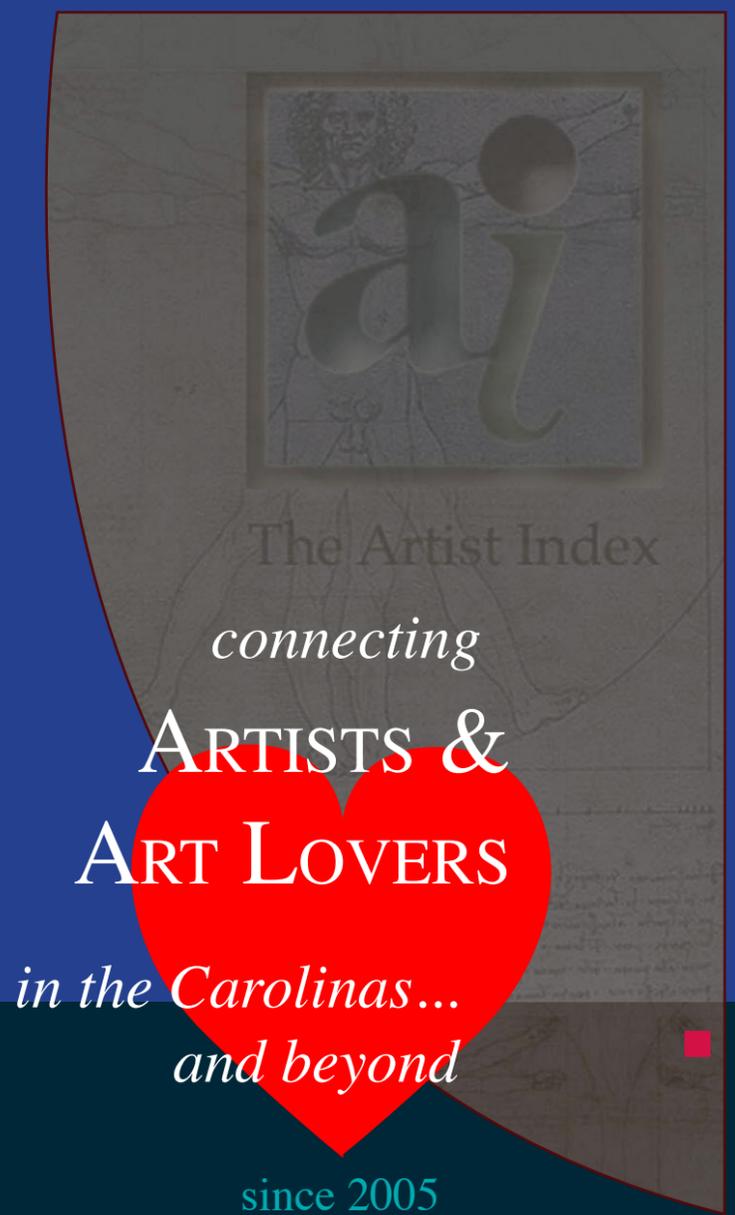
Carpenter moved to Spruce Pine, NC, from St. Augustine, FL, in 2016. For years, she would work in her little house on the

beach exploring color and discovering a new way to interpret the landscape.

"My eyes were losing far sight. I noticed the way light 'mosaics' between the branches of trees. I painted that using the letters and light play..." When she decided it was time to make a move, she recalled the

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many trips to Penland with her mother and the wonderful area. A listing on Zillow drew her to Spruce Pine; she has "never been happier."

"For many decades I experimented with interpretations of trees, from the focus on the way light through their limbs seemed to break into prisms, to color patterns thrown on fields like confetti. I played with background color and contrast; it seemed as if the limbs were afire...Painting is a communication, a reaching out, from the canvas to the artist to the viewer...a constant journey with an ever illusive destination. It is my hope, you, in viewing these selections, will also enjoy the ride."

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Work by Debra Carpenter

businesses who believe in the benefit of an arts filled life to a thriving community.

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## The Art Cellar Gallery in Banner Elk, NC, Features An Invitational

Continuing to celebrate the The Art Cellar Gallery's 25th season the gallery is hosting *Artist Invitational; The Next 25 Years*, an exhibition on view through Oct. 21, 2017. This is a very special show featuring artists new to the gallery as well as some of the gallery's established perennial artists.

Introducing works from two wonderful new artists to the gallery, Anthony Coffey and Sir Tom Foolery, each with bold and bright imagery. Boone, NC, native, Anthony Coffey's work blends color and familiar subjects in a fun and funky style. Sir Tom Foolery's paintings are culturally grounded and speak to the viewer of historical and current events with broad brushstrokes and vividly rich colors. Jacob Daniels, another new artist to The Art Cellar Gallery is also a Boone local. His artistic depictions speak to the very heart of Appalachia with imagery that sometimes feels like looking at an old photograph. With dark colors and dramatic light work Daniels' paintings give an anachronistic experience. The Art Cellar Gallery will also introduce sculptor Bill Hickman of Raleigh, NC, who transforms sheet metal and found materials into vibrant, whimsical animals and wall hangings.



Work by Anthony Coffey

The intricate landscapes of painter Ward Nichols will hang in the *Artist Invitational* exhibition. Ward Nichols is a prominent painter with over 50 years of painting to his name. His meticulously detailed still life and landscapes have a photographic quality and his work is in collections around the world.

Accomplished landscape, figure, and fresco painter Roger Nelson will also be featured in the invitational. He began his career creating large and public art installations, where he met fellow painter Ben

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