

Center for Craft, Creativity & Design in Hendersonville, NC, Offers Exhibit Focused on Bentwood

UNC Asheville's Center for Craft, Creativity & Design in Hendersonville, NC, will present, *Torqued & Twisted: Bentwood Today*, a new exhibition which explores the work of nine furniture makers and sculptors from the United States who use the technique of bending wood in innovative, unusual and eloquent ways. The exhibition will be on view from Feb. 10 through June 29, 2012. A reception will be held on Feb. 10, from 5-7pm.



Yuri Kobayashi, *Will*, 2010, ash, 22 x 25 x 132"

Co-curators Tom Loeser, an artist and professor at University of Wisconsin-Madison, and Katie Lee, Center for Craft, Creativity & Design assistant director and curator, look at how this specific technique of bending wood is used by these artists/designers who both borrow from and build upon various historical traditions.

Bentwood came to symbolize the modern movement in furniture design, but it still offers tempting territory for a range of aesthetic and formal explorations. The artists/

designers in this exhibition push the limits of wood bending to create extraordinary functional and sculptural works of art that are conceptually challenging and expand our understanding and expectations of wood as a material.

"As a curator, I am always interested in how to make exhibitions accessible and of interest to the public," states Katie Lee. "I feel that exhibitions such as this, which focus on a particular technique, allow anyone to both learn about a material as well as gain an appreciation for the range of ways that artists use a particular technique like bending wood to create their work. I profess to not being a 'woody' - a person who knows the ins and outs of wood - grain, wood type, processes, - that's why I contacted Tom Loeser. Tom is nationally recognized for his 'functional and dysfunctional' art and has mentored some of the best wood artists working today."



Matthias Pleissnig, *Pinch*, 2012, steam bent white oak, 58 x 31 x 27"

This exhibition provides the context for how the technique of bending wood has been used historically as well as how contemporary sculptors and furniture makers utilize this technique today. A few examples are: Matthias Pleissnig draws from the rib and plank boatbuilding approach; Clifton Monteith offers stellar examples of willow or "twig" bending; and Mike Jarvi "unfolds" his furniture from within the plank, in a brilliant, almost origami-like motion, for which it is hard to find a precedent. Ultimately, each of these artists has refined and developed their own repertoire of techniques, which in turn results in a highly personal visual aesthetic.

Tom Loeser will give a keynote talk, "Not the Straight and Narrow: Diverse Pathways to Bending Wood," at 7pm on Thursday, Mar. 15, 2012, in UNC Asheville's Owen Hall Room 302 in Asheville, NC. His talk is co-sponsored with the UNC Asheville Meet the Maker lecture series. Loeser and Lee will also give a Gallery Talk from 1 to 2pm on Friday, Mar. 16, 2012. The events are free and open to the public.

This exhibition received support from the North Carolina Arts Council, a division of the Department of Cultural Resources; administered by the Arts Council of Henderson County.

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, call the Center at 828/890-2050 or visit (www.craftcreativitydesign.org).

First Citizens Bank in Hendersonville, NC, Features Exhibition for the Arts Council of Henderson County

The Arts Council of Henderson County is announcing the dates for *Mentors & Students*, its trilogy of exhibitions celebrating the importance of art in a child's life including: *The Art of Our Children - Elementary Student Exhibition*; *Art Teachers Create - 3rd Annual Exhibition*; and *Artists of Tomorrow - Secondary Student Exhibition*, all on view at the First Citizens Bank Main Street gallery in Hendersonville, NC, between Feb. 17 and Apr. 13, 2012.

The first *Mentors & Students* exhibition will be *The Art of Our Children - Elementary Student Exhibition*, which will open Feb. 17 and be on display through Mar. 2, 2012. The opening reception, from

5:30-7pm on Feb. 17 will include a performance by the Hendersonville Children's Choir.

"The Hendersonville Children's Choir is excited to be a part of the Arts Council of Henderson County student exhibit. Art and music allow children to channel their expressions and emotions through a positive creative outlet. We are excited to be a part of the synergy of both at this exhibit," said Choir Director Kristen Walter.

Art Teachers Create - 3rd Annual Exhibition follows the elementary show, opening on Mar. 9. The show features the work of the artists and art teachers who provide art instruction to Henderson County stu-

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dents. The exhibit closes on Mar. 23.

The third exhibit will be *Artists of Tomorrow - Secondary Student Exhibition* featuring the art of Henderson County's middle and high school students. This exhibit will be on view Mar. 30 - Apr. 13.

All three exhibitions are open to participation by public, private, parochial, and home schooled students and art teachers in Henderson County. The First Citizens Bank Main Street gallery is handicapped accessible.

Mentors & Students is sponsored in part by First Citizens Bank and the Dr. Minor F. Watts Fund. The Arts Council of

Henderson County is a community organization that promotes, advocates for and nurtures the arts in Henderson County and Western North Carolina. The Arts Council is supported in part by the North Carolina Arts Council, a division of the Department of Cultural Resources; several funds administered by the Community Foundation of Henderson County, Henderson County Government, and Henderson County Travel and Tourism.

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, call the Arts Council at 828/693-8504 or e-mail to (acofhc@bellsouth.net).

North Carolina Arboretum in Asheville, NC, Features Works by Susan Lingg

The North Carolina Arboretum in Asheville, NC, is presenting the exhibit, *In and Around the Ancients*, featuring works by Susan Lingg, of Cullowhee, NC, which depict the unique mountain landscapes of the Southern Appalachians, on view in the Education Center through Apr. 8, 2012.



Work by Susan Lingg

Using watercolors, poured inks, and handmade paper, Lingg portrays the unique

granite exposures of the mountains of the region, as well as native flora. Described as realism through an artist's eye, her work captures and celebrates a passing moment.

A registered artist with Handmade in America, Lingg has been exhibiting her work since 1982. She is a member of the Jackson County Visual Arts Council, the North Carolina Watercolor Society, and Dogwood Crafters. Lingg is also an instructor in watercolor and handmade paper.

The central mission of The North Carolina Arboretum, an affiliate institution of the 17-campus University of North Carolina system, is to cultivate connections between people and plants.

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, call the Arboretum at 828/665-2492 or visit (www.ncarboretum.org).

UNC Asheville in Asheville, NC, Features Works by Vasily Polevoy

UNC Asheville is presenting, *Caprice*, an exhibition of works by Russian artist Vasily Polevoy, on view in the Blowers Gallery at

the Ramsey Library through Feb. 28, 2012. Polevoy's works have been shown

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