

# Caldwell Arts Council in Lenoir, NC, Features Group Show

The Caldwell Arts Council in Lenoir, NC, will present *Different Perspectives, Four Forms*, featuring the work of artists Kat Cole, Johnny Stevens, Sharon A. Sharp, and Julia Ralston, on view from Apr. 4 - 25, 2014. A reception will be held on Apr. 4, from 5-7pm.

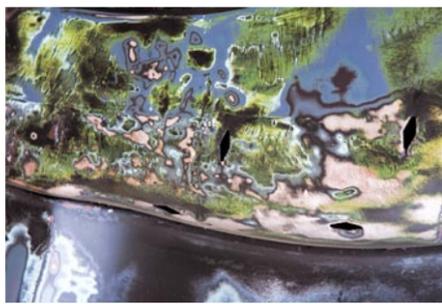
Kat Cole (Dallas, TX) received her MFA at East Carolina University and BFA from Virginia Commonwealth University and is currently a studio artist in Dallas, TX. Cole's work is in private and public collections including The Museum of Arts and Design in New York.

Cole offers the following statement, "I find meaning through the observance and intimate awareness of the places I inhabit. With each geographic change, I have become more attuned to the natural and man-made attributes that make each location unique. An interest in the anti-aesthetic aspects of a place draws me to the abandoned buildings and factories, scrap yards, piles of trash and detritus found in the streets. This is the evidence of human inhabitation - past and present. The play between the intimate scale of jewelry and monumental landscapes and structures that inspire me brings a kind of tension to the work. An attempt to contain some quality of place and experience that is larger than the individual or object.

"Using found materials in my work, collected in the places I live, allows me to create a direct connection between art object and place. The tins, rusty bolts, scraps of plastic and metal are transformed in conjunction with enamel and steel to make jewelry and sculpture distinctly of a place and time," adds Cole.

Julia Ralston (Boone, NC & Kiawah Island, SC) says, "I've been trusting my instincts and experimenting recently with imaginative color and composition. Landscape is still my starting point, but I'm just as interested in the environment created on the 2-D surface as I am concerned with the original motif. After all, I'm making a painting, not stamping an exact likeness of the natural world. It's been an intuitive learning process to narrow my focus and not try to say everything on every canvas."

After many years as a nonfiction book editor and teacher of editing, Sharon A. Sharp (Boone, NC) of Sharp Handmade



Work by Johnny Stevens

Books plunged into intensive book-arts studies at Penland School of Crafts (NC), where she became captivated by non-traditional book forms and their sculptural aspects. Exploring unique, multifaceted ways of meshing form and content, especially regarding nature-centered themes and wordplay, is Sharp's creative passion. Images of Sharp's books appear in *1,000 Artists' Books* and in *500 Handmade Books*, volumes 1 and 2. Her works have appeared in numerous regional and national juried exhibitions

Johnny Stevens (Austin, TX) was raised in Lenoir, NC, where he attended elementary and middle school, followed by high school at Asheville School for Boys, college at Wake Forest University, and Appalachian State for graduate studies in Radio-TV-Film. In 1980 he attended The University of Texas Graduate Film School, where he was awarded a Student Academy Award in 1982. He founded HORIZON Film & Video, Inc. in Austin, and spent 28 years behind motion picture and video cameras producing and directing hundreds of films and videos of all genres, all the while honing his eye for balance and composition that would fuel his passion for photography. He is currently enjoying photography as his sole profession in Austin specializing in architectural, interior design and portrait photography - which feeds his bank account, but it is the abstract / fine art photography that feeds his soul.

Caldwell Arts Council's programs are supported by the North Carolina Arts Council, a division of the Department of Cultural Resources and by individual and corporate donors.

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, call the Council at 828/754-2486 or visit ([www.caldwellarts.com](http://www.caldwellarts.com)).

## Caldwell Memorial Hospital in Lenoir, NC, Offers Works by Beth Oczkowski

The Caldwell Arts Council's Art-in-Healing Gallery will feature quilling art by Hickory, NC, artist Beth Oczkowski beginning Apr. 1 and continuing through June 30, 2014. The Art-in-Healing Gallery is located just inside the Mulberry Street Entrance to Caldwell Memorial Hospital, in Lenoir, NC.

Quilling, as it is called in America, is also known as paper filigree in Europe. It is an ancient art form thought to date back to the 15th century. Probably copied from gold and silver metal filigree work of the wealthy, with the invention of paper it became more popular and was taught at many boarding schools. There is still filigree work from the 18th century in museum collections.

Oczkowski was first introduced to paper quilling in 1986 and it has been her preferred art medium ever since. Although selling at many local craft venues over the years, it wasn't until 2010 that she started exhibiting professionally. She has had both solo and shared exhibitions and has earned several ribbons in both open and juried competitions.

Oczkowski was the owner of Creative Touches Craft Gallery in Southampton, PA, prior to moving to North Carolina. She was also the craft organizer for that town's week-long Fourth of July festival.

Oczkowski continues to seek a higher level of artistic expression through self-experimenting and with techniques learned from other quillers through the North American Quilling Guild of which she is a member. She accepts commissions and specializes in floral-bordered wedding Page 26 - Carolina Arts, April 2014

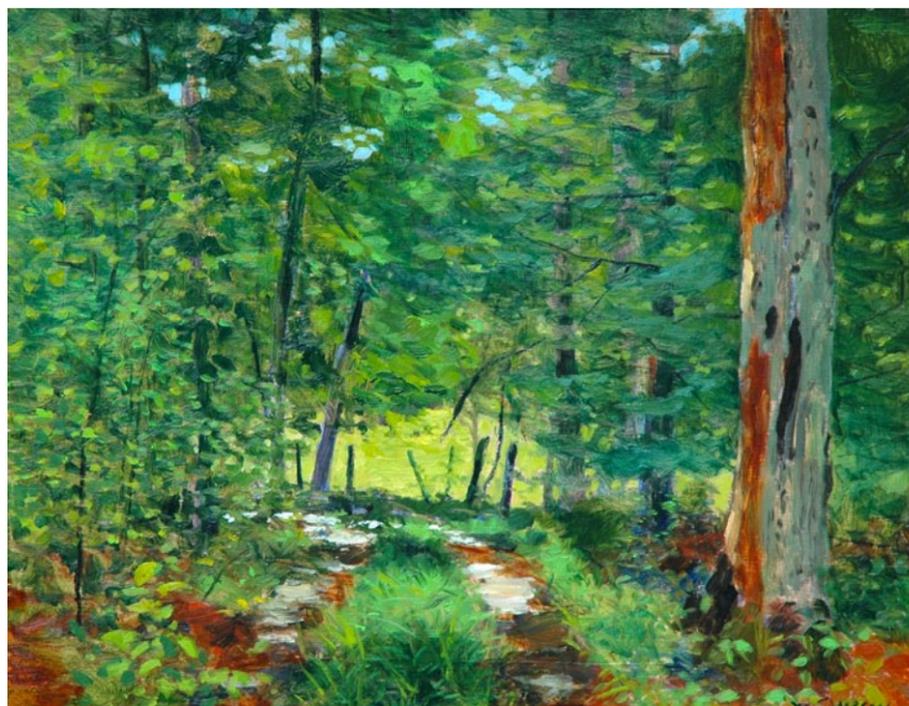


Work by Beth Oczkowski

invitations and baby announcements as well as dog portraits. She teaches classes, gives talks and performs demonstrations on the art form.

Oczkowski says, "I am inspired by what can be created by rolling and shaping strips of paper. Most of my work tends to the realistic and recently has evolved by creating extreme dimension in the pieces I create. I take inspiration from all that surrounds me in daily life. Since that initial introduction I am still captivated by the art and my admiration for it continues to grow. It takes patience to work with this delicate craft and I enjoy the detail and perfection that this art demands."

*continued above on next column to the right*



Carolina Logging Road

16 x 20 inches

## WILLIAM JAMESON WORKSHOPS 2014

"Spring on the Blue Ridge," Saluda, NC

May 15 - 17, 2014

"Fall in Colorado"

September 1 - 5, 2014

"Fall on the Blue Ridge," Saluda, NC

October 20 - 24, 2014

"Workshop: For Your Painting Group!"

Dates you choose

I can conduct a workshop planned especially for your location! Please contact us for planning and organizing a workshop in your area for your art organization or guild.

Each William Jameson Painting Workshop is designed to be an educational and entertaining experience. Along with exhilarating travel, students from beginner to advanced will receive one-on-one instruction in oil, watercolor or acrylic and pen and ink sketching. Whether the travel is down the mountain or to the Bahamas or Italy, you will be with like-minded folks who share your love of art. There will be six hours of instruction each painting day at sites I have carefully selected for their architectural interest or appealing landscapes. Each day will include demonstrations, critiques and help with photography for use in painting your own work of art. All workshops include a "welcome" party and some workshops include private museum tours or excursions to special venues that we have cultivated over the years.

Non-painter companions are always welcome! Our workshop trips take us to breathtaking places where there is something of interest for everyone. Of course, special pricing is available for these companions. Please see specific workshop information for additional descriptive information.

Detailed info is available at [www.williamjameson.com](http://www.williamjameson.com) or call 828.749.3101.

Oczkowski exhibits her work year round at the Caldwell Arts Council in Lenoir, the Burke Arts Council in Morganton, NC, and Gallery 27 in Lincolnton, NC.

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## Upstairs Artspace in Tryon, NC, Features Artists of Bold Life Magazine and Richard Russell

Two spring shows fill the Upstairs Artspace, in Tryon, NC, through May 3, 2014. *18 Ways to See: Selected Bold Life Artists* and *Fig Milk and Sweet Vermouth: Collages by Richard Russell* urge viewers to examine their lives - the challenges, beauty, humor and dreams.

*18 Ways...* was curated by Rimas Zailskas and Mary DiOrio, publishers and editors of *Bold Life* magazine, a respected monthly that covers Western North Carolina's cultural scene. In business 11 years, *Bold Life* does an in-depth feature on a visual artist in every issue. From this large pool of exceptional talent, Zailskas and DiOrio chose 18 artists noted for being unconventional, often provocative. Says Zailskas of their art, "Definitely not milquetoast."

The artists are Rowan Farrell, Philip DeAngelo, Heidi Hayes, Taiyo La Paix, William Thomas Thompson, Gabriel Shaffer, Werner Haker, Virginia Derryberry, Carol Bomer, painting; Maureen Robinson, Robert Asman, Renato Rotolo, Anthony Bellemare, photography; Bobbi Polizzi, Brigid Burns, Robert Seven, mixed media; James Flames, illustration; and Karin Eberle, puppet making. Most of the artists reside in WNC; each has several pieces in the exhibit.



Work by Virginia Derryberry

Richard Russell is a well-known Atlanta, GA, artist showing at the Upstairs for the first time. The solo exhibit *Fig Milk...* is a representation of Russell's exquisitely wrought collages, which are both sumptuous and minimal. Though suffused with sexual innuendo, the work manages to remain playfully open, blooming with meaning that just as quickly retreats.

A panel discussion about the art in *18 Ways...* will be offered on Tuesday, Apr. 8, beginning at 7pm. Curators Zailskas and DiOrio will be joined by several exhibiting artists for a lively exchange of ideas and opinions. The program is free.

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, call the gallery at 828/859-2828 or visit ([www.upstairsartspace.org](http://www.upstairsartspace.org)).

The deadline each month to submit articles, photos and ads is the 24th of the month prior to the next issue. This will be Apr. 24th for the May 2014 issue and May 24 for the June 2014 issue. After that, it's too late unless your exhibit runs into the next month. But don't wait for the last minute - send your info now. And where do you send that info? E-mail to ([info@carolinaarts.com](mailto:info@carolinaarts.com)).