

Norris Public Library in Rutherfordton, NC, Features Works by Nancy Winker

The art of Nancy Winker, MD will be exhibited in the 2nd of three "Art in the Library" art shows scheduled for 2014 at the Norris Public Library, in Rutherfordton, NC. Winker's vibrant landscape paintings, drawings and illustrations are on display from Apr. 7 through June 30, 2014. The show is sponsored by the Rutherford County Visual Artist Guild in cooperation with the Norris Public Library.

Winker says her artistic pursuits began at an early age. "I began my artistic career at the age of four with art lessons from my mom in the basement of our home." She adds that she "sold her first piece of art as a high school student" and "continued formal art training while pursuing a college degree in Biology."

Winker's artistic pursuits have continued not only through college but through medical school, a career in medicine, and the busy life as wife and mother to three children. Her art medium of choice is oils but she also enjoys drawing and illustration and illustrated a book, *Abigail Ann and the Santa Claus Plan*, written by her husband Dr. Guy Winker. She is currently Vice President of the Rutherford County Visual Artists Guild. From 2011- 2013, Winker chaired the annual Celebration of the Arts (COTA), a four-day show of art and fine crafts held annually each September at the Foundation



Work by Nancy Winker

Performing Arts Center

As an artist, Winker's talent extends beyond the visual arts. She has acted in and produced plays for the Rutherford Community Theater. She frequently performs with the Tryon Little Theater and in 2012 had the leading role in TLC's production of "Knock Knock." In February, 2014 she appeared in the Tryon Little Theater's production of "Fiddler on the Roof".

The Norris Public Library is a department of the Town of Rutherfordton and a member of the CMC Library Consortium.

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, call the Library at 828/287-4981, the Rutherford County Visual Arts Center at 828/288-5009 or e-mail to (rcvartg@gmail.com).

Toe River Arts Council in Burnsville, NC, Features Works by New Shop Artists

The Toe River Arts Council in Burnsville, NC, will present an exhibit of works by 12 new artists providing works for TRAC's Burnsville and Spruce Pine gift shops, on view from Apr. 5 through May 10, 2014.

Some of the artists you may know, most of them not. But, all are accomplished in their art. The Toe River Arts Council has accepted 12 new artists into their Burnsville and Spruce Pine gift shops. This process keeps the art fresh and gives talented artists a venue to show and sell their work. Some of the artists are newcomers to the area; others are familiar presences on the vibrant arts scene here; still others have been quietly creating here for years.

TRAC is very proud to add Claudette McCurry to its roster. A local artist, she studied under nationally-known teacher Urban Bird decades ago. Since then, she has developed her own style. "My oil paintings reflect my country heritage."

Watercolorist Christopher Nash says he can't remember a time when he wasn't compelled to be creative. Although he has no formal training, his tree line silhouettes cast back to seemingly years of talent.

Laurel Lovrek's oils have been on display at TRAC in several of the Blue Ridge Fine Arts Guild's exhibitions. Now she will have an opportunity to show off her talent for capturing the outdoors on her own.

Also, in the two-dimensional category, T.J. Kearns joins the Arts Council with his photographs of natural surroundings, which he hopes will "inspire people to slow down and take a look at how beautiful the world we live in is."

Ed Mundy is one of those folks who puts a handprint on the wall and on the floor. His "rusted" wall pieces on handmade paper speak to nature's quiet shadows while the light from his lamps atop barnwood constructs cast egg wash reflections on the wall.

Jewelry was as diverse as the wall art in the jurying. MaryLouise Jordan came to Burnsville by way of Hawaii where she learned the Hula and an appreciation for color everywhere. Working in series, her beaded pieces evoke a story, a color, a flower, a shape in their design and feel.

Delphia Lamberson moved here from Atlanta, GA, and began creating beaded jewelry, which led to silversmithing, which has melded into a passion for making "jewelry that looks and feels handmade."

And Jem Klein's unique handcrafted barrettes and earrings are made from sustain-



Work by Judson Guérard

ably harvested North American wood. Ever since the age of nine when she first used her father's dremel tool, she has surrounded herself in wood and considers it "a calling and great passion."

Spruce Pine's Judy Meek began her basketry career seven years ago as a winter retirement activity. Now, she says she addicted to the form. Her basketry suggests the simplicity of an earlier time, when their only purpose was utilitarian. But Meek's are more. Perhaps one would want to fill one of her baskets with Simona Rosasco cards.

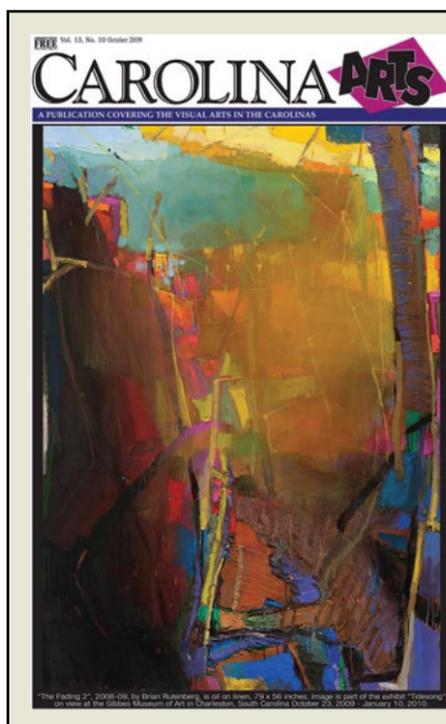
Rosasco, already a member of the gift shop registry in fused glass has added photography to her repertoire of talents, putting images not only of her glass and of almost everything else on blank cards.

Rounding out the new gift shop artists are two well-known artists who have previously exhibited in the galleries, been on the studio tour several times and now have been juried into the TRAC gift shops. First is Judson Guérard. Known for his larger pieces, he will be offering his hand-blown glass ornaments ("a comfortable first step") and paperweights, which he considers as doodles, that could have evolved into larger works, but stayed small.

And finally David Ross, whose Bakersville studio has been around for almost 40 years. He is a "people's potter" whose work speaks to the natural world, with its earth and sky tones and the creatures that call the land and the water home.

Ed Mundy has said, "I find the traffic on the beaten path unbearable, so why not walk where there is no path, and leave a trace." These talented new TRAC gift shop artists will leave a lasting imprint.

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, call TRAC at 828/682-7215 or visit (www.toeriverarts.org).



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Toe River Arts Council in Spruce Pine, NC, Features Works by Blacksmiths

The Toe River Arts Council in Spruce Pine, NC, is presenting works by blacksmiths participating in downtown Spruce Pine's Fire on the Mountain Festival, on view in the Spruce Pine TRAC Gallery, through Apr. 26, 2014. A reception recognizing the talents of these blacksmiths and open to the public will be held at the gallery on the eve of the Festival on Friday, Apr. 25, from 5-7pm.

Held in conjunction with "Fire", the exhibition will give visitors an opportunity to view iron arts and crafts in a gallery setting and to learn more about the nationally acclaimed smiths and their work processes. The floor will be weighted down with large forged work while smaller, intricate hand-wrought pieces will adorn pedestals, with even more on the walls.

TRAC's history of displaying the acme of historical craftsmanship in iron remains at the top for the 2014 exhibition. This year's recognized Master Blacksmith is Scott Lankton from Ann Arbor, MI. Lankton, who has been a studio artist for 31 years, began falling in love with metal while working at a jewelry store in his teens. He went on to earn a BFA in jewelry and metal-smithing from Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo, MI. Later, he traveled to Germany to hone his metal working skills. Now, he focuses more on "house jewelry." He says, "I'm making big jewelry. A railing is like a big necklace for a house." And this year, his house will be the TRAC Gallery with his piece inside.

Blacksmiths in the exhibition include Jeff McDowell from Green Mountain, NC, and Jim Moore from Morganton, NC. Also on the floor will be Avery County's Bill Brown, a "sculptor" of metal since 1978 and bladesmith Shelby Mihalevich whose Damascus steel keyhole kiridashi (knife) will slice through the exhibit. Zack Smith-Johnson from Boone, NC, offers a bit of whimsy with his metal sculptures - pieces that evoke contemplation and a smile. And



Work by Zack Smith Johnson

Laurel Eris makes the wind sing through her beated copper chimes. Throughout the month, more artists will contribute pieces, so the gallery display is always a "work in progress."

Special this year is the Final Design Contest. Starli McDowell of Spruce Pine Main Street selected twenty blacksmiths to submit a finial that will be displayed at the TRAC Spruce Pine Gallery during the blacksmith exhibition. Ten will be chosen to top the new Spruce Pine wayfinding signs honoring North Carolina Living Treasures; the other ten will be on display in other downtown venues.

The Toe River Arts Council is a not for profit organization promoting the arts in Mitchell and Yancey Counties and supported by donations, memberships, local government, grants (including the North Carolina Arts Council, a state agency), and supporters who understand the benefit of art in our community.

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