

# STARworks Firefest 2018

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Featured ceramic artist Sunkoo Yuh built his sculpture in the STARworks Clay Studio. It will be fired and revealed during the Saturday finale.

5 – 12, were invited to submit drawings. The STARworks Glass team will pick a drawing to turn into a glass sculpture with the help of guest artist Eddie Bernard, founder of Wet Dog Glass. All submitted drawings will be on exhibit during the event.

Featured ceramic artist Sunkoo Yuh created a large sculpture at STARworks in February 2018 that will be fired during the festival and revealed when it has reached peak temperature and is still aflame during the Saturday night finale. Yuh, originally from South Korea, is a professor of art at the University of Georgia. His work focuses on architectural-scale sculpture and pushing clay to its limits of size.

Featured glass artist Ethan Stern will lead an exciting glassblowing demonstration for the Saturday night finale. Stern resides in Seattle, WA, where he is the interim executive director of Pilchuck Glass School. His work is an exploration of abstraction, color, texture and light.

Featured metal artist Mac Metz will lead the iron pour during the finale, filling molds created by artists and scratch molds created by Firefest attendees. In addition to being a metal artist, Metz is the lead fabricator for Wet Dog Glass at STARworks and has contributed to the fabrication of glass studio equipment worldwide.



The petal kiln built by Andres Allik will fire Sunkoo Yuh's sculpture. At peak temperature, the walls (petals) of the kiln will be lowered while the sculpture is still on fire.

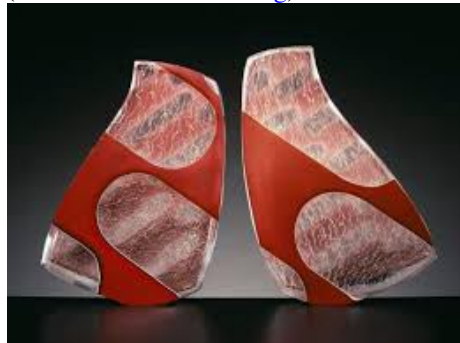
Special guest artists include Elizabeth Brim, Therman Statom and George McCauley. Brim is a metal artist working in western North Carolina who uses traditional and innovative blacksmithing techniques to produce work that mimics the look of soft fabric. Statom is a sculptor, glass artist and painter who is best known as a pioneer of the contemporary glass movement for his life-size glass ladders, chairs, tables and small-scale glass houses. McCauley is known for his pottery, narrative sculpture and "George's House of Clay Wednesday Night Video Series" on Instagram and YouTube.



Featured metal artist Mac Metz will lead the iron pour during the Saturday finale. Firefest attendees will have an opportunity to purchase scratch molds and make their own designs. The molds will be filled during the iron pour and can be taken home that night after they have cooled.

Other Firefest activities include an art sale and exhibition, live music by Cory Luetjen & the Traveling Blues Band and a sculpture bonfire. Finale events, slide shows, demonstrations, live entertainment and observing artists at work are all included in the price of admission.

Daily admission is \$5. Children 12 and younger are admitted free. Open Studios and workshops will be additional costs. More information and a complete schedule of events can be found at ([www.STARworksNC.org](http://www.STARworksNC.org)).



Glass works by Ethan Stern, Director of the Pilchuck Glass School in Seattle, WA.

STARworks is seeking volunteers for Firefest to help with check-in, gallery sales, answering questions, monitoring the entrance and directing attendees. Volunteers who work three hours will receive free admission for the day and a coupon that can be used at Hot Glass Cold Beer. Those interested in volunteering should contact Mary Holmes by e-mailing to ([mary@centralparknc.org](mailto:mary@centralparknc.org)) or calling 910/428-9001.



Firefest offers many opportunities for guests of all ages to tap into their creativity.

Firefest is sponsored in part by the North Carolina Arts Council, the National Endowment for the Arts, the Town of Star, First Bank, Spruce Pine Batch, Wet Dog Glass and STARworks supporters.

STARworks is a project of Central Park NC, a non-profit organization dedicated to improving the economy of the region by focusing on the sustainable use of our natural and cultural resources. STARworks is located at 100 Russell Drive in Star, just off I-73/74 in northern Montgomery County.

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, call 910/428-9001, visit ([www.STARworksNC.org](http://www.STARworksNC.org)), or e-mail to ([contact@starworksnc.org](mailto:contact@starworksnc.org)).

You can contact us by calling 843.693.1306.

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 2018 issue and May 24 for the June 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)).

## Discover the Seagrove Potteries

Seagrove is a Community of Working Potters & home to the North Carolina Pottery Center

**You're invited....**

To visit the Seagrove potters at their workshops & studios nestled in the countryside.

Experience a diversity of pottery from contemporary, one-of-a-kind art pottery, to traditional utilitarian forms, & folk art

**It's an Adventure....**

Pick up a free colored map at any of the pottery shops

Seagrove is located in the Center of North Carolina 40 miles south of Greensboro on Hwy. 220 (future I-73, I-74)

[www.discoverseagrove.com](http://www.discoverseagrove.com)

## AFAS/Red Dog Gallery in Winston-Salem, NC, Features Works by Barbara Rizza Mellin

AFAS/Red Dog Gallery in Winston-Salem, NC, will present *Branching Out: Asian Brush Paintings*, featuring works by Barbara Rizza Mellin, on view from Apr. 6-30, 2018. A reception will be held on Apr. 6, from 7-10pm.

"I was thrilled to receive the 2017 Art-Pop Award from the Arts Council," says Mellin. "The interest that the billboard has garnered led me to consider creating new Chinese Brush Paintings for an exhibit." This show will feature almost 50 new works.

"What I love about Asian Brush Painting is the simple elegance of the natural subjects, plus the real and apparent spontaneity of the process," claims Mellin. "Less is more. A few strokes can capture the beauty of a blossom or the fragility of a falling leaf." She explains that there is a meditative quality to the process. Mellin creates each image at one sitting, with no preliminary drawing. "The idea is to capture the natural essence of the subject rather than a detailed botanical copy," she says.

Mellin uses traditional Chinese bamboo brushes that allow her to create the thinnest lines and broadest areas of color with just one brush. The blacks are derived from Chinese or Sumi ink sticks that she grinds with water onto an ink stone, producing various viscosities of ink. Other colors come from Chinese watercolor paints that are richer in tone and more



Work by Barbara Rizza Mellin

opaque than "regular" watercolor paints, but not as thick as gouache.

Mellin works on two types of surfaces: natural, hand-made papers and up-cycled acid-free mat board. The thick, 100% cotton, handmade Nujabi paper absorbs color beautifully, giving a soft, delicate, natural look to the artwork. Handmade Lokta paper, made from the bark of the Daphne or Lokta plant (in the Laurel family) comes from Nepal. Mellin loves the rough texture and natural imperfections of these handmade papers. She has also recently started using up-cycled pieces of acid-free mat board in a variety of sizes. The mat board reacts in an almost opposite manner to the natural papers. The firmer surface allows for very little absorption, so the colors mainly rest on the surface, giving them a bit more intensity and vibrancy.

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, call the gallery at 336/723-4444 or visit ([www.theafasgroup.com](http://www.theafasgroup.com)).

## Artworks Gallery in Winston-Salem, NC, Features Works by Lea Lackey-Zachmann and Jessica Tefft

Artworks Gallery in Winston-Salem, NC, will present two solo exhibits including: *Tree Perceptions* by Lea Lackey-Zachmann and *This is Your Circus and These Are Your Monkeys*, featuring works by Jessica Tefft, on view from Apr. 4 - 28, 2018. Receptions will be held on Apr. 6, from 7-10pm and Apr. 8, from 2-4pm.

Lea Lackey-Zachmann's painting and sculpture are about the exploration of trees. Most of us have a story of an experience with a tree that involves some expansion of emotion or comprehension. We often talk about them as if a mystery or special feeling is involved with the experience of trees.

Obviously, throughout history, trees have provided breath, held earth, offered fire and provide homes for mankind, but other perspectives are also possible. Various ways that trees can be perceived is the inspiration for this exhibition. The focus is an attempt to exhibit an appreciation of trees.

The new show by Jessica Tefft is entitled *This is Your Circus and These Are Your Monkeys*. Through the use of



Work by Lea Lackey-Zachmann

humorous paintings, collages and whimsical pieces Tefft examines our current social and political climate. She has been a photographer for more than 20 years. Her work has been featured in The Washington Post, The Washington Times, Los Angeles Times, and the Rocky Mountain News. She has covered the White House, presidential elections, breaking news, and traveled to places such as Cuba and the Alaskan wilderness. Tefft has won numerous awards for her work. She earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from Wake Forest University, and is currently a member of Artwork's Gallery.

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