

Caldwell Arts Council in Lenoir, NC

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and planted in flower pots, cicada shells, crawdads, frogs, toads, lizards, turtles and (to my mother's dislike) even an opossum one time. He enjoyed Warner Brothers cartoons, *The Muppet Show* and just about anything that came on PBS, and became fascinated on how to draw plants, animals, cartoons and the emerging visions from anime and video games.



Work by Hank Burris

Burris says, "I fell in love with ceramics because of the smell of clay reminds me of nature and plants, the versatility of the medium, the science of glaze mixing and the history ceramics invokes in North Carolina. It became my voice for the stories and characters in my head."

Mark Gordon has worked in clay for nearly 40 years, beginning with wheel throwing and expanding into modular assembled clay sculptures and mixed-media site-specific installations. He says, "The

physicality of clay, along with its remarkable ability to freeze action and respond to physical impact, to retain any fleeting impression, immediately and permanently captured my interest decades ago. Clay is a universal medium: potters' vessels have formed an essential part of material culture. My work explores inherent properties of clay transformed through the kiln's incandescent energy. I approach clay work as an act of pulling shape out of inchoate matter, an ongoing experiment in seeking variation and harmony in shapes."

Ashley York says, "The selected body of work is intended as an amusing and fictitious reflection of humanity's relationship to the ubiquitous machines that support our daily lives. The pieces are built without a specific purpose in mind and the intention is for the viewer to use their imagination to assign a function, completing the piece. My work deals with our unbalanced dependence on technology, which leads to an emotional attachment to our gadgets. Our pursuit of the newest, flashiest, and most desired devices teaches us to value other things in our lives in those terms."

This project was supported by the N.C. Arts Council, a division of the Department of Cultural Resources.

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

Morganton, NC, Hosts Exhibitions of Western North Carolina Studio Glass

The studio glass movement in America celebrates its 50th anniversary in 2012. To recognize the exceptional work crafted by the studio glass artists of western North Carolina, an exhibition of work by 15 pre-eminent artists is scheduled in a collaborative show taking place in three downtown Morganton, NC, galleries; the Burke Arts Council, Kalā Gallery and MESH Gallery. The exhibition is scheduled to start June 11 and run through June 29, 2011. An opening reception is scheduled for Saturday, June 16, 2012, from 5 - 8pm at each participating gallery.

The exhibitions will focus on blown glass and architectural or sculptural work that incorporates glass in its design. This includes many unique vessels in varied hues and colors, anatomical forms in cast glass, stacked and etched monolithic shapes, painted two-dimensional work and lighted pieces, among others. The three galleries will serve as singular venues for the exhibition and each will offer participants a distinct experience in viewing the entire body of work.

The Burke Arts Council's Jailhouse Gallery will host the work of Robert Levin, Carl Powell, John Geci and Scott Summerfield. Kalā Gallery will feature John Littleton and Kate Vogel, Victor Chiarizia, Rick Melby, Katherine and William Bernstein and Morganton native David Van Noppen. MESH Gallery will host work by Dale McEntire, David Goldhagen, and Michael Hatch. The galleries are in close proximity, allowing visitors to walk to each venue in Morganton's historic downtown district. Work on exhibi-



Work by John Littleton and Kate Vogel

tion will be available for purchase.

During Saturday June 16, the day of the opening reception, several showings of the documentary film, "Pioneers of Studio Glass" are scheduled at Morganton's historic courthouse. The film traces the development of studio glass in America and the instrumental role artist Harvey Littleton played in the studio glass movement. Also, that day, local photographer John Payne's private collection of glass will be on display at his downtown studio.

For further information check our NC Institutional and Commercial Gallery listings, call 828/433-7282 or visit (www.downtownmorganton.com).

The Bascom in Highlands, NC, Offers Three New Exhibitions

The Bascom in Highlands, NC, is presenting three new exhibits including: *Alex Matisse: Ometto, Green Art and From Mud to Art, Highlands High School Ceramics*.

"In Italy, the word *Ometto*, meaning 'little man', is used to describe rock cairns that lead the way on hiking trails above the tree line," shares Alex Matisse whose works will be at The Bascom through Oct. 21, 2012.

The pots in the exhibition originate from the tradition of salt-glazed stoneware grave markers that were made in abundance in the

counties of the eastern Piedmont of North Carolina. "The Ometti will convene on the front lawn of The Bascom, holding vigil for a few months, before being marshaled into the world to take up their posts," he adds.

Support for this exhibition is provided by the Ginger Kennedy and Kevin Naylor and Delta Air Lines, the official airline of The Bascom.

On view through July 8, 2012, in the Atrium Gallery, Green Art will deliver a celebration of the 50th anniversary of the

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Work by Alex Matisse

American Studio Glass Movement; Harvey

Lansing Rocks LLC and The New River Winery in Lansing, NC, Offers Photo Project

Lansing Rocks LLC and The New River Winery in Lansing, NC, will present *The Lansing Project*, a photographic exhibition featuring the people of Lansing, on view from June 2 through Aug. 4, 2012, at the Fort Awesome Gallery at the Old Lansing School. A reception will be held on June 2, from 6-9pm.



Work by Nicole Robinson

Featuring the work of six Ashe County photographers, *The Lansing Project* presents a diverse and intimate portrait of Lansing today. With local luminaries 'Dawg' from the Phipps Store, farmer Ann Rose, along with four other families, *The Lansing Project* tells a story of family and freedom in Northern Ashe.

Six local photographers were given the charge to find interesting subjects in the town of Lansing and photograph them as they went about their daily lives. Martin Seelig, Nicole Robinson, Kelly Clampitt,

Littleton, its founder; and environmentally friendly art. Tracy Kirchman, a glass artist who aided in the establishment of the Jackson County Green Energy Park in Dillsboro, NC, and her students from the Little Black Pearl Glass Lab in Chicago, have created works of art from recycled glass wine bottles for this exhibition. Support for this exhibition is provided by the Art Alliance for Contemporary Glass.

From Mud to Art, Highlands High School Ceramics is on view in the Landing Gallery through July 8, 2012. Explore with the Highlands High School students as they demonstrate their proficiency in pottery making and understanding of the science that makes it happen. Student work and an explanation of clay bodies, firing and glazing will be on view. Now in its third year, the High School Ceramics Class is an ongoing partnership between Highlands School and The Bascom.

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, call the center at 828/526-4949 or visit (www.TheBascom.org).

Cathy Allinder, Jim McGuire, and Scot Pope spent the month of April getting to know their subjects and catching them as they worked and played at home.

Curator Dorne Pentes of Fort Awesome/The Old Lansing School says, "Lansing is a truly special town and its residents are smart, tough, and entrepreneurial. But Lansing is changing quickly. I wanted to capture moments in the lives of these folks and, frankly, show them off- because they deserve to be seen and appreciated."

Pentes asked The New River Winery to sponsor the exhibit as it seemed a natural fit. New River Winery spokesman Nic Slaton says, "The ethic of our winery is the same as the ethic of many folks around here: work hard, create bounty from the earth, and enjoy the freedom of the mountains. We are proud to sponsor this exhibit as the folks who made it are our friends and neighbors."

A total of 36 black and white prints will be on display in the gallery. Prints will be for sale, with a portion of the profits given to the Greater Lansing Area Development Corporation.

For further information check our NC Commercial Gallery listings, call Dorne Pentes at 704/492-8514, or The New River Winery at 336/384-1213.

Black Mountain Center for the Arts in Black Mountain, NC, Celebrates 6th Art in Bloom & More

When the Black Mountain (NC) Center for the Arts opens its doors for the Gala Preview Party of the 6th Annual *Art in Bloom* showcase of art and flowers on June 14, 2012, it will again be a veritable feast for the eyes for lovers of both art and nature. This event, based on the concept started in Boston more than twenty years ago when floral designers wanted a way to showcase their artistic talents alongside other art forms, has its own twist at the BMCA, located in the original City Hall in Black Mountain, NC.

Major museums throughout the US host Art in Bloom (or Bouquets to Art) as fundraisers where floral designers are invited to use flowers and natural materials to interpret works of art in their collections. At the Black Mountain venue, there is no large permanent art collection. Instead, a gallery exhibit of fine art and craft on loan from regional galleries is put together in a concentrated area on one floor, making each annual exhibit a truly one-of-a-kind experience. The 2012 exhibit is in place for the public to view sans flowers through June 13, 2012.

The primary focus of *Art in Bloom*, however, is the floral interpretations of the fine art in the gallery, which are always dazzling. Just as western NC has a large number of artists, it also has a large number of talented floral artists. For 2012 the following designers are showing their work: Akira Satake, Ann Baxter, Betsey Baker, Diane Harker, Darcy Orr, Elaine Young, Emiko Suzuki, Emili Fonteneau, Greet Costant, Jeff Seitz, Judith Melton, Judy Self, June Bergeron, Kay Clegg, Lynn Powell Forbes, Mary Noble Braden, Mickie Cowan, Nancy Gettys, Norma Bradley, Patti Quinn Hill, Ralph Coffey, Sally Robinson assisted by Miriam Brown, Sally Wheeler and Terri Todd.

We work with Asheville Ikebana International as well as many traditional floral arrangers to show a wide diversity of designs. The interpretation of the art through flowers is not a literal replication of the art, but a design that is inspired by and attempts to complement the art - either with color, texture, shape, line, or style - to give the essence of what the floral artist sees from the artist's rendition.

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