

# Upstairs Artspace in Tryon, NC

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aesthetic development of its members, all of whom are professionals working in Western North Carolina and the surrounding region.

*The Nature of Abstraction* is an exhibit of Carol Beth Icard's paintings and oil sketches. This work arose from hiking weekly with friends on the trails in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains.

Experiencing lichen, exposed roots and the inevitable cycle of nature, Icard has documented forms, colors, textures, and lines

in photographs and a group of oil sketches. Informed first by the experience, and then by the oil sketches, her paintings surface as natural gestures and intuitive choices of materials. A portion of each sale will go to Pacolet Area Conservancy.

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)).

## Penland School of Crafts in Penland, NC, Features Works by Jessica Calderwood

The Penland School of Crafts in Penland, NC, is presenting an exhibition of new work by artist Jessica Calderwood, on view through June 16, 2013.

This show includes jewelry, collage, wall pieces, and sculpture. Calderwood is an image maker, jeweler, and sculptor who works in enamel on metal and mixed-media collage. The work at the Penland gallery combines floral and botanical forms with human forms to create ambiguous narrative pieces.

Calderwood says she uses floral imagery because of the long history of flowers being used as symbols of femininity and as carriers of complex emotion. Her pieces are intentionally humorous and ironic. The mixed-media collage *Loss*, for instance, shows a floral arrangement with legs (wearing high heels). The flowers have shed some petals so they are perhaps past their prime, but the colors are still vibrant and alive.

Calderwood's work has been exhibited throughout the US and internationally. It has also been published in *Metalsmith*, *American Craft*, *NICHE*, *Ornament*, and in *The Art of Enameling* by Linda Darty. She taught at Penland School in 2011.

Penland School of Crafts is a national center for craft education dedicated to helping people live creative lives. Located in Western North Carolina, Penland offers workshops in books and paper, clay, drawing and painting, glass, iron, metals, printmaking and letterpress, photogra-



Work by Jessica Calderwood

phy, textiles, and wood. The school also sponsors artists' residencies, an outreach program, and a gallery and visitors center. Penland is a nonprofit, tax-exempt institution which receives support from the North Carolina Arts Council, an agency funded by the State of North Carolina and the National Endowment for the Arts, which believes that a great nation deserves great art.

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, call the School at 828/765-6211 or visit ([www.penland.org](http://www.penland.org)).

## Haywood County Arts Council in Waynesville, NC, Offers Exhibition Focused on Appalachian Region

The Haywood County Arts Council in Waynesville, NC, is presenting *Appalachia*, which celebrates the many forms and techniques of art in the Appalachian region of North Carolina, on view in Gallery 86 through June 29, 2013. A reception will be held on June 7, from 6-9pm.

The North Carolina Mountains have become a melting pot of Appalachian arts and crafts of the Appalachian region. The arts and crafts of the Appalachian region of North Carolina included many forms such as pottery, basketry, woodturning, and music. This culture is how the people of this region thrived. Haywood County Arts Council's exhibit, *Appalachia*, commemorates the many these forms and techniques.

The featured artists of this exhibition includes: Doc Welty, Patti Best, Sandra Brugh Moore, James Smythe, Crystal Allen, Mike McKinney, Matt Tommey, Caryl Brt, Susan Balentine and Kaaren Stoner.

Doc Welty is currently a potter and proprietor of Leicester Valley Clay. He has been in the pottery field in various capacities for over 30 years. After a chance introduction to ceramics, while pursuing a career in graphic arts at John Herron Art Institute in Indianapolis, the spark that became his desire to work in clay grew over the years becoming his passion to express his creativity as a studio potter.

In 1978, he opened Woodsman Pottery in Whitestown, IN, and began to work in functional pottery, creating stoneware fired in an oil kiln. In 2003, Welty moved



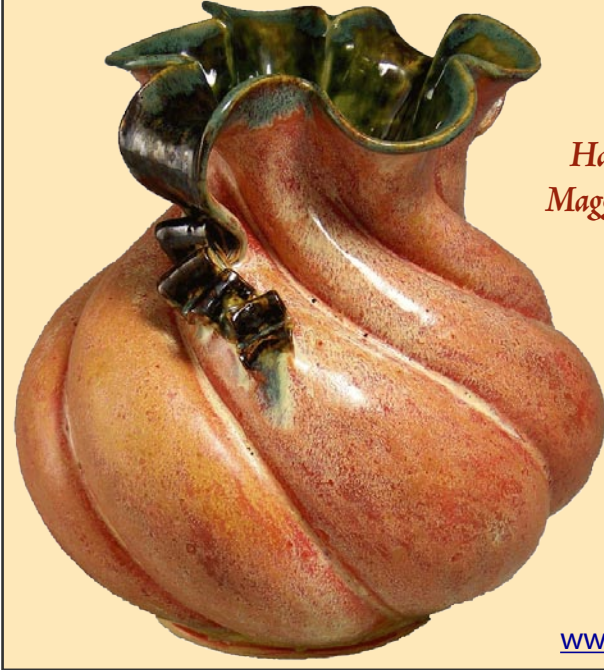
Work by Doc Welty

to "the pottery state" of North Carolina, where he set up his rural studio in Leicester, NC, in the Blue Ridge Mountains. Today, Welty creates stoneware kitchen and dinnerware along with garden pottery and tilework from his tile-clad studio.

Patti Best has stated: "I'm a late bloomer! I have enjoyed painting and sketching from the time I was a small child, but I didn't consider the idea of a career in the arts until just a few years ago. The gift of painting the mountains, waterfalls, streams, woodlands, and wildflowers of Western North Carolina is a blessing I am daily thankful for! I'm self-taught. My style is somewhat traditional, but I seek to keep the painting soft while staying true to the scene I'm painting. I call my style soft realism. I paint from photos, so the fun of 'locating' my subject is a joy in and of itself! A day of hiking

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## Turtle Island Pottery



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Work by Patti Best

in our beautiful mountains provides not only the photographs I work from, but the hike refreshes my spirit as well! I wish everyone could experience the indescribable beauty of this area. When I create a painting, it is with the realization that I'm sharing a moment in time that I have personally experienced. If my artwork brings serenity to the soul of the viewer, I am blessed! I believe a life is well lived if it adds richness to the lives of others along the way..."

The remarkable variety of light provides this landscape artist with a lifetime of subject matter. Moving to North Carolina, Sandra Brugh Moore came with the goal of learning to capture the moods of the mountains. Western North Carolina provides her with a never ending source of painting materials as the seasons come and go. Many of her subjects are found in her own backyard. The sun filtering through the woods, the early morning fog creeping into the cove, sunsets, sunrises, each day brings opportunity for a painting...if you are looking. Attempting to capture the constantly changing light in the landscape is a challenge. Moore meets this challenge by exploring new painting techniques in her attempt to capture the peace and spirit of the landscape.

James Smythe is a retired art professor who now enjoys painting full-time. This also means he has significant training in art at the university level, as well as several workshops taught by nationally recognized artists. Smythe has lived in the Smoky Mountains of North Carolina for almost half of a century. He maintains a studio in Sylva, NC.

Crystal Allen, a native of Western North Carolina, received an Associate of Applied Science Degree in Commercial Art and Advertising Design. She has worked as an assistant and Senior Art Directors at advertising agencies and various printing houses in Western North Carolina. Since then, Allen has enjoyed teaching classes in calligraphy, painting in watercolors, and learning to felt and spin natural fibers. Clay, however, is her current medium of choice and her "final love". Allen works in mid-range stoneware clay, which she says does equally

well for wheel thrown or hand built work, and oxidation fires at 2190 degrees F. The main body of her works is produced in her private studio, adjacent to her home in Canton, NC. Allen's pieces are primarily functional, with altered or hand built additions.

Mike McKinney is a third generation woodworker following in the steps of his hero, his granddaddy, a carpenter, furniture maker, and his father a carpenter, furniture maker, and wood turner. Both men loved fine woodworking and wood art, and loved for McKinney to be in the shop with them. He was absent from the shop for many years, starting a career as a banker, however in the early 90s, his father invited him along to an open house at Lissi Olands' studio, wife of famous Knud Oland, in Brasstown, NC. This visit sparked a renewed interest in woodworking, and more specifically woodturning. McKinney believes that every block of wood has a form within, and that his task is to bring out the best in. "One should let the wood guide your efforts and strive to uncover the best visual appearance possible." After taking a few years off from actively turning due to relocating to Waynesville, NC., McKinney has now completed his new workshop where he has begun to enjoy the satisfaction of making shavings once again.



Work by Matt Tommey

Matt Tommey's interest in fine craft and handmade baskets began as a teenager, growing up in southern Georgia. His passion for using natural materials began to center around creeping southern vine, kudzu while in school in the North Georgia Mountains at Young Harris College and the University of Georgia. Now an Asheville, NC, resident, Tommey's handcrafted baskets are a whimsical collaboration of traditional Appalachian forms and wild, rustic, natural materials including natural vines (kudzu, honeysuckle, bitersweet, wisteria, and grapevine) and bark (poplar, hickory, mimosa and others). His interpretation of rib baskets and other traditional shapes offer a heartfelt nod to his roots in Appalachian basketry while offering a contemporary expression that is all his own. Tommey's most recent work focuses on sculptural basket art vessels using a combination of bark and vines.

With a resumé that includes car

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