

Toe River Studio Tour

continued from Page 34

artists. Vena Grebenshikov (#94 on the tour) is returning after a hiatus of several years. He is a classically trained painter, originally from Russia and maintains a gallery in the French Quarter of New Orleans. Using his knowledge of the history of art and techniques of the masters, Grebenshikov innovated his own technique imbuing his works with their distinct style and texture.

In and around Bakersville, discover the work of Andy Palmer (#96 on the tour). Palmer was the ceramics program coordinator at Cornell University. He moved to the area as gallery manager at the Crimson Laurel Gallery and now operates his own studio just north of downtown Bakersville on NC261. For Victoria Hicks, showing in John Britt's studio (#11 on the tour) is something of a homecoming: John taught her to throw nearly 20 years ago, long before either of them called Western North Carolina home. Ron Slagle (#97 on the tour) returns to his studio off NC226 just past Loafer's Glory for this year's tour. He includes his drawings, paintings, and his wood-fired sculptural work in the gallery and visitors should find it an interesting stop on the tour.

Tara Underwood opens her doors in Celso this year (#98 on the tour). Most recently from Asheville, NC, Underwood is a studio potter who has been working in clay since the age of six and after study and determination, hasn't outgrown the desire to play in the mud. And one new glass artist - Colin O'Reilly will be showing with Kenny Pieper (#46 on the tour) in Celso, NC. A new TRAC gift shop artist, O'Reilly moved from his studies in New Mexico to Penland, SC, and creates his blown and cast glass elements in creative narrative sculptures.

Whether you are looking for something to look through, serve on or serve to, or



Work by Tara Underwood

just to sit on the porch for viewing on those warm summer evenings, you'll find these new artists worth the extra curve in the road. The tour is free - all you need is the Tour Guide (available at all participating venues, including both TRAC Galleries); then follow the red arrowed tour signs.

An exhibition of participant work is currently on display at the Spruce Pine Gallery through the last day of the tour, June 5. Participating artists and galleries have representative work displayed geographically. Make plans for the weekend. You can purchase that can't-wait-item or just view the work of artists who call this region home.

For more information, please call 828/682-7215 or 828/765-0520 and visit the website at (www.toeriverarts.org) where you can download the guide, maps, and get information about our sponsors.

ART Works Brevard NC in Brevard, NC, Offers Works by Sarah Sneed

ART Works Brevard NC in Brevard, NC, will present *Sunshine*, featuring works by Sarah Sneed, on view from June 1 - 30, 2016. A reception will be held on June 22, from 5-8pm.

Sneed's a fit and energetic 73 year old with a nut brown tan, a cowboy hat, and a faithful dog, Little Moose. She is surrounded by plein air painting gear, and is catching the sunlight on flowers in the field, or radiant rays coming through the branches in the forest.

Cedar Mountain, NC, artist Sneed has maintained a studio in Sherwood Forest, between Hendersonville and Brevard, for 21 years. There she paints portraits, or uses photographs and outdoor sketches for indoor painting from time to time. However, Sneed always prefers the outdoors. She claims that "my paintings are all real places, and don't show much imagination." However, others see the stimulation of sunlight and color as only she experiences them in her forests and fields, expressed in her lively brushstrokes and luminous colors.

Sneed completed a liberal arts degree, and started painting in Florida under the tutelage of Roy Nichols, whom she still considers her favorite painter. She furthered her art education with classes in Phoenix, AZ, where she began her own art teaching - in her apartment. As her artwork gained attention, she has been invited to instruct in locations across the United States.

Sneed next buzzed through a brief stint in the business world, which allowed her to expand her skills through a focus on children's advertising. Children's advertising evolved into an abiding interest in portraiture.

Since then, Sneed reports, "I have painted at universities and on sidewalks, on location and in the studio - any job



Work by Sarah Sneed

for money" to support her chosen path. "My life revolves around painting," she explains. "I'm always looking for the next subject." She works in all media but particularly likes the durability of paintings in oil.

Sneed loves animals and has incorporated pets into her commissioned portraits. Her ongoing Circus series includes elephants this year. In her book, *Treasures of the Forest*, published by Wickwire Fine Art/ Folk Art, she depicts a deer, horses and people at play - in Dupont Forest. A portion of the proceeds from this book went to support Friends of Dupont Forest.

She and her husband, Clifton, have an extended family of 30 birds, 3 rabbits, 2 cats and one dog. In the past, two dogs who accompanied her in the forest "saved my life- literally." While painting, she was approached by a couple of questionable looking men with guns, and her dogs began growling. The men passed on by, but later Sneed heard gunshots. Two women were killed nearby that day. As a result, she says, "Love me, love my dogs."

For further information check our NC Commercial Gallery listings, call the gallery at 828/553-1063, or e-mail to (artworksbrevardnc@gmail.com).

The deadline each month to submit articles, photos and ads is the 24th of the month prior to the next issue. This will be June 24th for the July 2016 issue and July 24 for the August 2016 issue.

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