

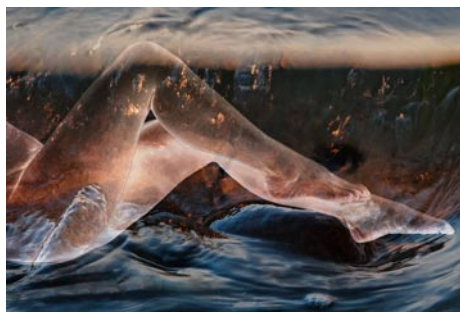
Toe River Arts Council

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posed with a scene from nature. Each work expresses how the model most identifies and connects with the natural world. Cooper did not use professional models. She selected her subjects by invitation, seeking to capture the vulnerability and acceptance of those unaccustomed to being photographed. Each work is a collaborative with nature - inspired by the models and offering a text of introspection.

Cooper, an Asheville, NC, resident, draws on her 30-year experience as a practicing psychotherapist and 15 as a professional photographer to capture not only the images but the underlying meanings that emerge through the juxtapositioning of woman and the environment.

"Most of my models have never posed nude before. It is this leap of faith, this vulnerability, which I sought to capture. The accompanying text reveals the model's personal experience of her participation in the project, how she felt about her body, and



Work by Bonnie Cooper

her reflections on the final image."

The Toe River Arts Council is a non-profit arts organization, serving Mitchell and Yancey counties since 1976. They are supported by individuals and other groups who understand the benefit of arts to a thriving community.

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

Art Cellar Gallery in Banner Elk, NC, Celebrates 25th Season with Event Lineup

The Art Cellar Gallery & Framemakers in Banner Elk, NC, will celebrate its 25th season during 2017 with a schedule of exhibitions, artist talks, book signings and other special events from June 1 through Oct. All events are free and open to the public.

High Country art luminaries from The Art Cellar's past will fill the lineup, including Norma Murphy, Gregory Smith, Noyes Capehart and Herb Jackson. In addition, the gallery will feature emerging artists from the area whose work may grace collections of the future.

A *Throwback Exhibition* will take place from June 1 - 24, 2017, featuring the work of longtime gallery artists Gregory Smith, Norma Murphy and Tom VanNorwick, plus folk art that ties the lyrical past to the lively present. A reception will be held on June 3, from 4-6pm.

Up next will be *Paintings & Drawings of Herb Jackson*, on view from June 29 through July 29, 2017, spotlighting the work of abstract artist and North Carolina award winner Herb Jackson. An Artist Talk and Book Signing will be held on July 2, from 2-4pm.

The rest of the schedule includes: July 13 - Aug. 12 - *20 Years in Review, Tony Griffin Retrospective*. A look back at the figures and landscapes of classically trained artist Tony Griffin. A reception will be held on July 15, from 4-6pm; Aug. 2 - 26 - *Life on Canvas, Noyes Capehart Retrospective*. A retrospective exhibition of Noyes Capehart's complex and layered artworks. His shadowy, cryptic messages are often embedded in the evocative landscapes. Artist Talk and Book Signing will be held on Aug. 6, from 2-4pm; Aug. 13, from 2-4pm - *Conversations with William Dunlap and Artist Talk and Book Signing*; Aug. 28 - Oct. 21 - *Artist Invitational, The Next 25 Years*. An exciting opportunity to see the work of promising regional artists whose work merits wider recognition. Gathering of the Artists, on Sept. 2, from 4-6pm; and Dec. 16, from 3-5pm - *Holiday Open House*. Share the joyous season in beautiful High Country surroundings.

Banner Elk native Pam McKay started The Art Cellar Gallery in 1993 and her husband, Michael McKay, joined the gallery operations the next year. The gallery building has grown from 1,200 square feet in an actual cellar to more than 4,000 square feet of exhibition space and framing workshop over three levels.

"When we graduated from Appalachian State in the late 80s, everyone left to start a career," said Pam McKay. "We were able to



Work by Gregory Smith

stay and make a living, and make a difference. Art has always been my passion, and the gallery allows me to share that."

Since then both owners have been involved with art education and events in the local grade and high schools, as well as exhibitions at Cannon Memorial Hospital, Lees-McRae College and Appalachian State University. "We like to give back to our community and our alma mater," Pam said.

"We continue to push the envelope and present the most amazing artwork and talent available, while preserving and presenting the rich artistic heritage of our region," McKay said.

The Art Cellar has its own curator, gallery director Sarah Myers, another passionate art expert. She coordinates documentation of every artwork and manages gallery operations. "I like to introduce people to new artists," she said, "knowing everything about the artists' history and techniques. It's important to know why they create what they do."

The Framemakers department is run by the McKays' nephew, Rob Hancock. Rob is a Certified Picture Framer, and an expert in the preservation and conservation techniques necessary to protect original art or historical documents.

Located near central Banner Elk, The Art Cellar Gallery & Framemakers offers museum-quality framing services, in-house professional art consultation and creative design solutions for homeowners and businesses.

The gallery specializes in fine art, sculpture and other three-dimensional works in glass, clay, wood and stone. The in-house frame shop has framed over 20,000 works.

For further information check our NC Commercial Gallery listings, call the gallery at 828/898-5175 or visit (www.artcellaronline.com).

Blowing Rock Art & History Museum in Blowing Rock, NC, Offers Four New Exhibitions

The Blowing Rock Art & History Museum (BRAHM) in Blowing Rock, NC, is featuring four new exhibitions including: *Fire & Form: North Carolina Glass*, *History of Tweetsie Railroad®*, *Inside Looking Out / Outside Looking In: Paintings by Ronna S. Harris*, and *In the Evening West: Boone's Revolutionary Drama*, all on view through July 23, 2017.

"Four exciting new exhibitions debut this spring, including glass to student art, and honoring both the art and history components of our mission," said BRAHM Executive Director, Lee Carol Giduz. "We are very pleased with this season's exhibitions and hope you will take time to come visit the Museum."

Inside Looking Out / Outside Looking In: Paintings by Ronna S. Harris, on view through July 23, 2017.

Ronna S. Harris was trained in the philosophy of impressionism and its warm and cool palette, yet her current practice involves a back-and-forth and intertwined relationship between American realism and abstract expression. Formally, her paintings depict still lifes, portraiture, and landscape details. Conceptually, Harris discloses connections between all three. *Inside Looking Out / Outside Looking In* celebrates this and many other diverging and converging relationships in her work through an exhibition of 20 oil paintings.

Through a proficient understanding of light and skillful mark-making, Harris' paintings serve as windows into the intimate, connective details of nature, objects, and humanity. A window rendered within the painting may serve as a backdrop for other subjects, or the physical frame of the painting itself may serve as a window into nature. One painting may place the viewer inside, allowing for one to look outward, while another places the viewer outside, allowing for one to reflect inward.

Harris paints these windows both literally and figuratively. Some imagery has purpose and clear meaning, but sometimes objects, figures, and scenes tell a deeper story. Her creative process is ever-shifting between the desires to paint skillfully, tell a story inspired by true events, show the relationships between sexuality and nature, interpret the symbolism of everyday objects, capture what she sees right in front of her, or reveal the meanings of what lies beyond what we initially see.



Ronna Harris, "Bunch of Crock", Oil on canvas. Courtesy of the artist.

Harris is a contemporary artist who lives and travels between Blowing Rock, New Orleans, and California. She earned her master's of fine art in painting from the University of California, Santa Barbara. She is an associate professor in the Newcomb Art Department at Tulane University in New Orleans. Harris has exhibited her work in galleries and museums across the country - from California to New York and across the southeast region. Her last exhibition in the High Country was in 2006 at the Turchin Center for the Visual Arts in Boone.

The exhibition *Fire & Form: North Carolina Glass* will be on view through July 23, 2017.

While the production of glass objects in Appalachia dates as far back as the 1700s, it was only within the past few decades that artists began exploring and defining the creative potential of glass as a sculptural medium. American ceramicist and educator Harvey K. Littleton was teaching at the University of Wisconsin when he began experimenting with glass in the 1950s. Many artists at the time were looking for ways to



Mike Krupiarz, "Measured In Time", Ebonized red oak, pulled glass threads. Courtesy of the artist.

explore and create glass outside of factories and industry. After collaborating with glass research scientist Dominick Labino, a small furnace was created that allowed artists to work with glass independently in their studios.

Littleton eventually began teaching glass to some of today's most well-known artists, including Dale Chihuly and Marvin Lipofsky, who pushed the recognition of glass as an art form in the United States through the experimentation of sculptural forms. Artists sought guidance and expertise outside of the United States, allowing studio glass to grow into an international movement where artists and designers could share ideas and create glass works in small, independent studios.

Glass working arrived in western North Carolina in 1965 at Penland School of Crafts with a studio built by Bill H. Boysen, one of Littleton's students. Many glass artists practicing at Penland in the 60s and 70s - including Mark Peiser, Penland's first residential glass artist - have grown to become some of the most influential artists of the American Studio Glass Movement. When Littleton retired and moved to Spruce Pine in 1977, many young glass artists followed. Since then, western North Carolina has become a hub for the Studio Glass Movement where contemporary glass artists continue to learn and share glass working techniques - including glassblowing, hot sculpting, and cold working - to create beautifully crafted works of art.

There are well over 60 studio glass artists working around the region, many of whom are recognized as some of the most influential contemporary glass artists of our time.

Fire & Form features over 30 glass artists currently living and working here in North Carolina, exploring a wide variety of techniques and approaches to studio glass today.

Exhibiting artists include: Kathryn Adams, Dean Allison, Valerie & Rick Beck, Gary Beecham, Eddie Bernard, Alex Bernstein, Katherine & William Bernstein, Jennifer & Thor Bueno, Ken Carder, Cristina Cordova & Pablo Soto, Tina Cuncell, Courtney Dodd, Ben Elliott, Shane Fero, Greg Fidler, Nick Fruin, John Geci, Joe Grant, Michael Hayes, Mike Krupiarz, Jon Kuhn, Rob Levin, Amber Marshall, John Nygren, Mark Peiser, Corey Pemberton, Kenny Pieper, IlaSahai Prouty, Richard Ritter, Kate Vogel & John Littleton, Hayden Wilson, and Thornyn Ziemba.

This exhibition is made possible with support from these individuals and organizations: Larry Brady, Mary Bickers & Mark Murphy, Carol Biggers Dabbs, Lou Gottlieb, Barbara Laughlin, Monkee's of Blowing Rock, Lee Rocamora & John Thompson Jr., Lynne & Charles Weiss, and Joan Zimmerman.

The *History of Tweetsie Railroad®* will continue through July 23, 2017.

Explore the history of the East Tennessee and Western North Carolina Railroad (ET&WNC) and its place in the history of the High Country. The ET&WNC began operating in 1881, stretching from Tennessee to North Carolina. The line was extended to Boone in 1919. The ET&WNC discontinued narrow gauge rail service in 1950.

Each year, thousands of visitors take a trip back in time when they visit the

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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 2017 issue and July 24 for the August 2017 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).