

Woolworth Walk in Asheville, NC, Features Works by Julie Merrill, Jody Ochs, and Monty Phillips During July

Woolworth Walk in Asheville, NC, will present an exhibit of jewelry by Julie Merrill, Jody Ochs, and Monty Phillips, on view in the F.W. Front Gallery, from July 1 - 30, 2013. A reception will be held on July 5, from 5-7pm.



Work by Julie Merrill

Upon returning to Asheville after years of travel Julie Merrill began studying medicinal plants and soon after jewelry, which then brought her to an interest in larger steel work, both sculptural and functional.

The Professional Crafts Program at Haywood Community College, as well as Penland School of Craft and John C. Campbell Folk School brought Merrill to a new level of professionalism and skill, and prepared her to step into greater possibilities within metalworking.

Jody Ochs' work is hand formed and fabricated in sterling silver, with 22 karat gold bezels and accents, often using gem stones and pearls as the focal point. Often architectural in nature - she incorporates masculine and feminine forms together, sometimes adding texture presenting a delicate balance of yin and yang.

Ochs' inspiration comes from the nature surrounding her in the beautiful mountains of western North Carolina, and places she has lived and traveled. This translates into sculptural, elegant and fluid, yet organic creations.

Monty Phillips' current work is an exercise in exploring the possibilities of vitreous enamel on sterling silver and copper in regards to form, texture, color and



Work by Jody Ochs

its ability to mimic other materials such as stone, fabric and organic plant life. Most of his pieces are made by micro shell forming and anticlastic raising exploiting the plastic quality of the metals.



Work by Monty Phillips

Using these techniques Phillips can make very unusual forms from a flat metal sheet which are organic in appearance. This is very useful in duplicating nature.

For further information check our NC Commercial Gallery listings, call the gallery at 828/254-9234 or e-mail to (info@woolworthwalk.com).

Southern Highland Craft Guild Opens New Gallery in Asheville, NC

The Southern Highland Craft Guild, with headquarters at the Folk Art Center on the Blue Ridge Parkway in Asheville, NC, has a rich heritage. The Guild was formed in 1930 to promote mountain craftspeople so that they could make a living, and so that the region's rich craft history would continue and thrive. For the last 83 years the Guild has successfully done this through educational outreach, exhibitions, the Craft Fairs of the Southern Highlands, and through craft shops. Continuing this tradition of excellence, the Southern Highland Craft Gallery will be opening this summer in Biltmore Village in Asheville.

The Guild purchased the Biltmore Oteen Bank Building on Lodge Street last year and has been renovating the space over the last several months. The building was completed in 1928. An article in the *Asheville Citizen-Times* dated Mar. 9, 1928, describes the building, "The exterior of the structure is of brick, trimmed with Indiana limestone. It is a monumental design of the Georgian period, the Corinthian order being employed on the façade." The Southern Highland Craft Gallery is proud to occupy this beautiful space, bringing to it modern innovations while staying true to its rich history.

The concept of tradition and innovation will also be seen in the artists' work



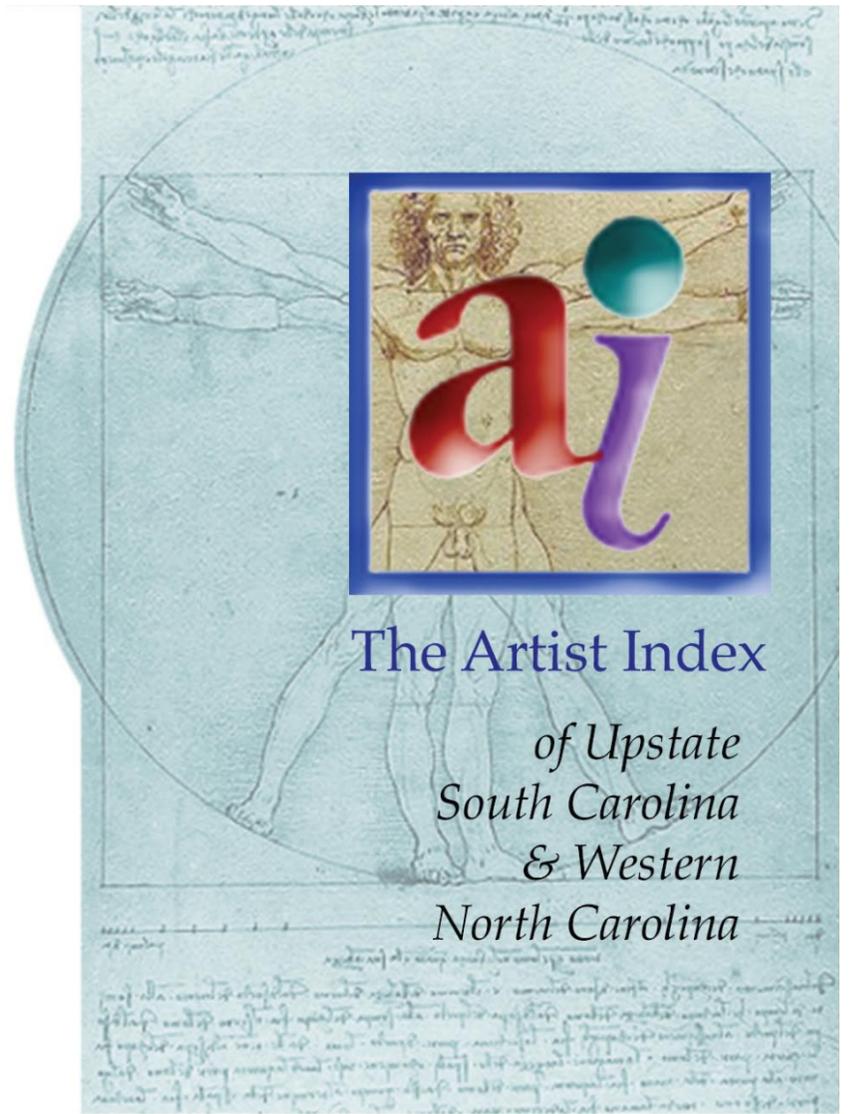
Photo by Diana Gates

represented at the gallery. To be a member of the Southern Highland Craft Guild artists must prove that they are masters of their craft through a rigorous jury process. The membership represents traditional and contemporary artists living in the mountain counties of nine states from Maryland to Alabama. Visitors to the gallery will not only be able to learn about the rich craft heritage of the region, they will also learn about artists who are stretching the boundaries of their craft with modern, innovative techniques. A wide range of work will be sold in the gallery including pottery, glass, wood, jewelry, fiber, metal, paper, mixed media and natural materials.

The Southern Highland Craft Guild is a non-profit, educational organization established in 1930 to bring together the crafts

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and craftspeople of the Southern Highlands for the benefit of shared resources, education, marketing, and conservations.

For further info check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, call the gallery at 828/277-6222 or visit (www.craftguild.org)

Crimson Laurel Gallery in Bakersville, NC, Features Works by Deborah G. Rogers, Deb Karash, and Alex Matisse

The Crimson Laurel Gallery in Bakersville, NC, will present *Strange Offerings: Beyond the Garden Gate*, featuring works by Deborah G. Rogers and Deb Karash, and *Alex Matisse: Work from the Tenth Firing at East Fork Pottery*, both on view from July 1 through Aug. 31, 2013.

What lies within, what grows above beyond the garden gate? Two women joined by a common material and a common name take you on a journey through their individual insight into strange findings and unusual discoveries as you explore this unique hidden garden of life...Each of these artists employ colored pencil drawing to bring their works to life; Deborah G. Rogers, drawing on clay, and Deb Karash, drawing on metal. This exhibition will contain unique jewelry and ceramic sculpture and collaborative pieces by the artists.

The work of Alex Matisse is made in a fusion of preindustrial country traditions in both process and material. "It is fired in a large wood burning kiln and made of as many local materials as the chemistry will allow, while still affording me the physical attributes necessary for my aesthetic decisions".

According to Matisse, "I believe in the beautiful object; that there are inescapable aesthetic truths, physical attributes, that remove time and place from the defining



Work by Alex Matisse

characteristics of the made object. These objects can be viewed today or many years from now and be understood as beautiful. Though their quotidian value may become antiquated, their aesthetics will save them."

This exhibition features an outstanding collection of new pieces from the latest firing from Matisse.

For further information check our NC Commercial Gallery listings, call the gallery at 828/688-3599 or visit (www.crimsonlaurelgallery.com).

Don't see anything here about your exhibit or art space? Did you send it to us? The deadline each month to submit articles, photos and ads is the 24th of the month prior to the next issue. This will be July 24th for the August 2013 issue and Aug. 24 for the September 2013 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. E-mail to (info@carolinaarts.com).