



# SIGNS OF LIFE

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JUNE 2-JULY 9

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**PINK DOG CREATIVE**

348 Depot St  
Asheville, NC 28801



DETAIL- "Shelter From The Storm" 27" (h) x 57" (w) Mixed Media

## Southern Highland Craft Guild in Asheville, NC, Features Works by Haywood Community College Students

The Southern Highland Craft Guild in Asheville, NC, is presenting *Haywood Graduate Show: Class of 2017*, featuring works by 19 students from Haywood Community College's Professional Crafts Program graduate class of 2017, on view at The Folk Art Center, through Sept. 24, 2017.

With a 36-piece exhibit, featuring 19 students, the show continues the historical relationship between the Southern Highland Craft Guild and Haywood, an educational center member of the Guild.

This year's class is representing works from clay, fiber, jewelry and wood mediums. The main gallery of the Folk Art Center is adorned with hanging tapestries, lost-wax cast bees, decorative dinnerware, and wooden hutches, soon to be heirlooms for one's home. Students of the Haywood program come from all over, with or without prior experience of craft, and sometimes pursuing it as a second or third career. The course of study is challenging, combining craft concentrations with supplemental classes in design, drawing, craft history, business, marketing and photography.

Haywood Community College and the Southern Highland Craft Guild share a history that documents the role of craft education in preserving traditional culture, creating economic opportunity and fostering professional practice. All of the artists represent the vitality and creativity of craft practice today, which is the ultimate purpose of both institutions.

Many Haywood graduates have become individual members of the Southern Highland Craft Guild and have served the Guild in various capacities. Instructor Brian Wurst of the Professional Crafts Wood program says, "Our students benefit so much from the opportunities that the Guild offers its education partners, and we in turn are thrilled when they grow into active participants



Work by Kelly Jones

themselves and continue that tradition of giving back. *The Graduate Show* spotlights the program's best work, and it's a delight to see it so well displayed and in such a beautiful venue as the Folk Art Center."

Haywood Community College is located in Clyde, NC., just west of Asheville. The college's Professional Crafts Program began in recognition of the region's strong craft heritage. It was envisioned that students would learn the basics of craft media and how to transform that craft into a business. The clay studio was the first to open in 1974. With the addition of jewelry, wood and fiber studios, a comprehensive curriculum was in place by 1977.

The Southern Highland Craft Guild is a non-profit, educational organization  
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established in 1930 to cultivate the crafts and makers of the Southern Highlands for the purpose of shared resources, education, marketing and conservation. The Southern Highland Craft Guild is an authorized concessioner of the National Park Service, Department of the Interior. The Folk Art Center is located at Milepost 382 of the Blue Ridge Parkway, just north of the Highway 70 entrance in east Asheville, NC.

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, call the Guild at 828/298-7928 or visit ([www.craftguild.org](http://www.craftguild.org)). For more information about the Professional Crafts Program, call 828/627-4674 or



Work by Jesse Sawyer

visit ([creativearts.haywood.edu](http://creativearts.haywood.edu)).

## Woolworth Walk in Asheville, NC, Offers Works by Eric Cunningham

Woolworth Walk in Asheville, NC, will present *Appalachian Disasterpiece*, featuring works by Eric Cunningham, on view in the FW Gallery, from July 1 - 30, 2017. A reception will be held on July 7, from 5-7pm.

Cunningham who produces his art under the moniker Erikus Maximus, has lived in the Appalachian Mountains of the Bristol Tennessee/Virginia area his entire life. He started his artistic journey at a very young age when he first picked up a pencil. As Cunningham states it, "I was the young kid who drew on the walls, on my school books, in bathroom stalls...any place that had a flat clean surface fell victim to my vandalism." "I have always been a fan of southern inspired themes, the people, the heritage, the customs, and the weirdness that makes our area unique.

I consider my current style of art a cross between Americana/Folk/Pop that I call Appalachian Disasterpieces. I am a self-taught mixed media artist, creating art out of recycled materials and anything I can get my hands on such as plywood, bottle caps,



Work by Eric Cunningham

license plates, electronic components and/or any other junk that catches my eye."

Not only does Cunningham have a plethora of fans in the Appalachia region, his collector base includes folk art enthusiasts and galleries throughout the nation and several different countries. Recently he was honored to be one of the artists featured in the book "When the Spirit Speaks: Self-Taught Art of the South" by Margaret Day Allen. The book introduces the reader to 32 up and coming self-taught artists in the Southeastern United States.

For further information check our NC Commercial Gallery listings or call the gallery at 828/254-9234.

Every once in a while I feel like just filling one of these spaces with a kind of nothingness. You know as if nobody reads what's in these spaces anyway. So if one time I said something like the first person to read this and send me an e-mail to ([info@carolinaarts.com](mailto:info@carolinaarts.com)) during the month of July, they'll get a free 1/4 ad in our August 2017 issue. But who reads these space fillers anyway? Not many I bet.