

## TRAC Art Center in Spruce Pine, NC

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including photographs, stories, magazine and newspaper articles will ribbon the walls; artist “signature” pieces will fill the floor.

Visitors will see who was here when it all began and who came to call it home - for decades or for just a few years. Come wind along the banks of the Toe River Valley and meet the people who made it

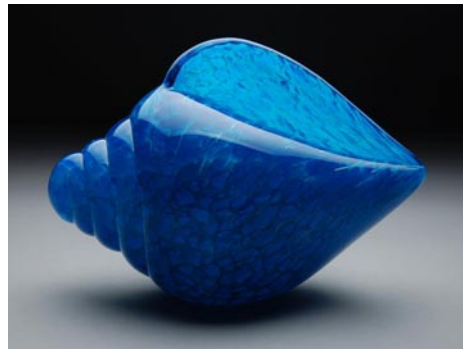
happen.

The TRAC Art Center is a program of the nonprofit Toe River Arts Council (TRAC) and is located at 269 Oak Avenue in Spruce Pine, NC.

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

## “Glass in the Mountains” Celebrates the 50th Anniversary of the Studio Glass Movement - Sept. 20 - 23, 2012

Close to 60 Toe River Valley glass artists have joined forces to create “Glass in the Mountains”, an activity-rich, four day celebration that commemorates the 50th anniversary of the birth of the studio glass movement. A dozen galleries as well as studios throughout Burnsville, Bakersville, Penland, and Spruce Pine in Western North Carolina will be hosting tours, unique glass exhibits, demonstrations, a book signing and even a special “goblets and glasses” wine tasting where locally made, handcrafted wine glasses will be available for sale.



Work by Polly Lorien

The Sept. 20 – 23 events kick off Thursday night, Sept. 20 with glass blowing demonstrations and guided stargazing at the Energy Xchange, a one-time landfill converted into a one-of-a-kind incubator for glass and ceramic artists. On Friday evening, Sept. 21, visitors can look forward to a special “History of Glass in the Toe River Valley” reception at the Toe River Arts Council’s new art center in Spruce Pine.



Work by John Littleton and Kate Vogel

“Few places in the country have as rich a history in glass art as we do in the rural Toe River Valley,” says “Glass in the Mountains” Coordinator Kate Vogel. “Harvey Littleton, recognized worldwide for his remarkable contribution to the studio glass movement in addition to being designated a “North Carolina Treasure,” was instrumental in making this region a hot-bed for glass artists. Our current roster of residents working in glass reads like a ‘Who’s Who in Glass’ directory, with renowned artists such as Mark Peiser, John Littleton, Richard Ritter, Rob Levin, the Bernstein family, Shane Fero, and Rick

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Beck. One of the things I think visitors will appreciate most is the opportunity to see an incredibly diverse body of work that ranges from functional to sculptural.”

While many of the weekend long activities are free, a limited number of special VIP tickets are also available. “The Littleton family has agreed to open Harvey’s studio, which has been closed to the public for years. The studio not only houses a large selection of his work from the 40s through the 90s, but work from his students as well,” Vogel says.



Work by William Bernstein

On Saturday evening, Sept. 22, VIPs will be treated to a gala event held at the Burnsville Town Center. Guests will have to opportunity to mingle with the glass artists before settling in to locally crafted appetizers prepared by Chef Nate Allen of the Spruce Pine based Knife and Fork restaurant.

Appetizers and wine will be followed by a lecture and book signing by Joan Falconer Byrd, who discusses her book, *Harvey K. Littleton: A Life in Glass*. The evening also includes a slide show of local artists’ work and a video that tells the fascinating story of the studio glass movement. (A limited number of non-VIP lecture passes will be made available for a nominal fee.)

The VIP program also includes a private glassblowing demonstration at The Penland School of Craft as well as a personalized tour of Mark Peiser’s studio. The cost of a VIP ticket is \$250. “We’re expecting collectors and curators from across the country,” Vogel adds. “I have no doubt it’s going to be a memorable weekend for both visitors and artists alike.”

Maps will be available at Toe River Arts Council in Spruce Pine and Burnsville as well as Yancey Chamber of Commerce, down loadable version will be available on line at the website. VIPs will be mailed a full packet for all events including a VIP map.

As “Glass in the Mountains” approaches and details of venues and events crystallize, they will be posted on our website

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