



## Asheville Art Museum

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us all to join together in a collective act of resilience.”

*Asheville Strong* features a variety of mediums, including painting, drawing, printmaking, sculpture, ceramics, and photography. Each work is accompanied by the artist’s information, allowing viewers to connect and learn more about the creators.

“The Asheville Art Museum, since 1948, has celebrated artists and art of the region,” says Pam Myers, Executive Director. “Asheville Strong continues this tradition and will provide a needed place for gathering, contemplation, inspiration, remembrance, and celebration as our region continues on the path to recovery.”

This exhibition has been made possible through the generous support of The Americana Foundation, with additional support from ArtsAVL.

Pay-what-you-wish admission: In response to Tropical Storm Helene, the Museum is pleased to offer pay-what-you-wish admission for residents of affected counties. This initiative aims to provide a welcoming space for those impacted by the storm, inviting community members to experience art as a source of solace, inspiration, and recovery.

Established by artists and incorporated in 1948, the Asheville Art Museum is committed to being a vital force in community and individual development and to providing lifelong opportunities



Jaime Byrd, “The Soaked Earth”, 2024, oil on wood, 18x24x2 inches. Courtesy of the artist.

for education and enrichment through the visual arts. The Museum’s mission is to engage, enlighten, and inspire individuals and enrich the community through dynamic experiences in American art of the 20th and 21st centuries. The Museum is dedicated to advancing diversity, equity, access, and inclusion - now and in the future - and we welcome all visitors without discrimination.

The Museum acknowledges that it is situated upon the ancient, southern Appalachian ancestral homeland of the Cherokee Tribe and that this region is still the home of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians today. The Museum is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization accredited by the American Alliance of Museums.

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, call 828/253-3227 or visit ([www.ashevilleart.org](http://www.ashevilleart.org)).

nature influences the creative process. Featured artists include: Peggy DeBell, Katrina and Joe Miller, Neil Carroll, Daniel Shipman Baron, and Wendy and Joe Edwards.

Peggy DeBell is a fiber artist from Hot Springs, NC, whose work blends photography, fabric, and recycled materials into vibrant, textured creations.

Katrina and Joe Miller, a collaborative duo whose metalwork reflects both natural forms and industrial techniques.

Neil Carroll is a wood artist whose finely crafted pieces reflect the elegance of nature influences the creative process.

natural materials and traditional methods.

Daniel Shipman Baron is a fiber artist specializing in needle felting, known for his lifelike and intricate bird sculptures that capture the essence of the avian world in wool.

Wendy and Joe Edwards are jewelry artists whose work integrates organic textures and colors, highlighting the beauty of their materials.

Peggy DeBell explains her artistic approach: “I enjoy creating the unexpected from familiar scenes and everyday objects. A simple pasture or an old building can become a canvas of colors and textures, printed onto fabric, stitched, and embellished. I combine recycled items like aluminum pull-off lids with hand-dyed threads to create something new and meaningful.”



Work by Katrina and Joe Miller

Visitors will have the opportunity to explore the creativity and craftsmanship of these artists and gain a deeper appreciation for the connection between nature and handmade art. *A Natural Influence* will be



Work by Neil Carroll

on display in the Focus Gallery at the Folk Art Center, located on the scenic Blue Ridge Parkway in Asheville.

Founded in 1930, the Southern Highland Craft Guild is a non-profit organization dedicated to preserving and promoting the rich craft traditions of the Southern Highlands. Through shared resources, education, marketing, and conservation, the Guild supports local artisans and fosters a thriving creative community. As an authorized concessioner of the National Park Service, the Guild plays an important role in both preserving craft traditions and supporting the regional economy.

Items featured in the exhibition will be available for purchase starting Feb. 8, either online or directly through the Folk Art Center.

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, call 828/298-7928, or e-mail to ([info@craftguild.org](mailto:info@craftguild.org)).

## Southern Highland Craft Guild in Asheville, NC, Features Works by Member Artists

The Southern Highland Craft Guild in Asheville, NC, will present *A Natural Influence*, the first member-focused exhibition of the year, on view in the Focus Gallery at the Folk Art Center, from Feb. 8 through Apr. 20, 2025.

The exhibition features a stunning collection of traditional and contemporary craft by seven talented Guild members, each interpreting the theme of nature in their work.

The exhibition highlights a diverse range of materials and techniques, including paper, metal, wood, fiber, and jewelry, offering a unique perspective on how

## Southern Highland Craft Guild in Asheville, NC, Features Works by Exceptional Members

The Southern Highland Craft Guild in Asheville, NC, *A Legacy Worth Noting*, which presents highlights of lifelong contributions of guild members, on view in the Main Gallery, at the Folk Art Center, from Feb. 1 through Apr. 30, 2025.

*A Legacy Worth Noting*, celebrates the contributions of these artisans who have influenced the field of craft and the Guild itself.

Some of the featured artists include: Cynthia Bringle, Edwina Bringle, Connie Brown, Curtis Buchanan, Douglas Dacey, Lee Davis, Anna Fariello, Jim Gentry, Michael Hughey, Lynn Jenkins, Susan Leveille, Greg Magruder, Barbara Miller, Sandy Rowland, Micki Shipe, Liz

Spear, Lyle Wheeler, and many more. The exhibition highlights both traditional and contemporary craft, offering a diverse range of media, including pottery, wood, metal, fiber, and jewelry.

The Lifetime Achievement Award, the highest honor bestowed by the Guild, recognizes individuals who have made significant contributions as artists, teachers, and mentors for at least 25 years. The Life Membership is awarded to Guild members in recognition of outstanding service to the Guild, with full membership privileges and no further dues.

The exhibition celebrates both the artistry of these members and their influence

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