

Haywood County Arts Council

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mechanic, landscaper, itinerant apple picker, railroad brakeman, carpenter and back-to-the-lander, it makes sense that Caryl Brt builds furniture. "I design and make items in a broad range of styles and types of wood in my studio in the Smoky Mountains. I sometimes use recycled objects and like to dabble in metal-working, polymer clay and hand-made paper. Sometimes these sideline interests find their way to my work as adornments." When Brt is not in her studio, she works as a studio assistant and part-time instructor at the Professional Crafts Department at Haywood Community College just west of Asheville, NC, where she graduated in 1993.

Susan Balentine enjoys creating with her hands which was instilled at an early age by her artistic mother, from whom she learned the value and love that goes into handmade items. Her functional individually thrown pottery is hand-painted with a wax resist in nature inspired designs.

Kaaren Stoner's relationship with clay began in 1963 at a folk high school in rural Sweden, where she was spending a year abroad as part of her Antioch College education. As it turned out, her year in Sweden had a profound effect on her life. "The strong aesthetic of Swedish design shaped how I viewed everyday household items. I knew that I wanted to be a

studio craftsperson." Stoner received her BA in Art from Antioch and a MFA from the University of Puget Sound where she studied ceramics with F. Carlton Ball.

"My source of inspiration through 35 years of working with clay is my endless fascination with the beauty of leaves, grasses, flowers, rocks and landscapes. The pieces I form (and which often seem to form themselves) are a spiritual, meditative act for me. What I'm really doing is trying to show that beauty is all around us. All we have to do is look and see," says Stoner.

Appalachian art in Western North Carolina has been a long-standing heritage throughout many generations. Haywood County Arts Council's Gallery 86 exhibition, *Appalachia*, celebrates the many forms and techniques used in this glorious form of art.

The mission of the Haywood County Arts Council is to build partnerships that promote art and artists, explore new cultural opportunities, and preserve mountain artistic heritage. This project was supported by the NC Arts Council, a division of the Department of Cultural Resources.

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, call the Council at 828/452-0593 or visit (www.haywoodarts.org).

Toe River Arts Council in Mitchell and Yancey Counties, NC, Offer Spring Tour

"If you build it, they will come." The Toe River Arts Council in Spruce Pine, NC, has been cultivating and building the bi-annual Toe River Studio Tours since 1993. And they are coming - visitors from all across the country. This year's event runs Friday through Sunday, June 7-9, 2013, with 67 studios, 12 galleries, and 114 artists opening their doors to welcome the public.

What began 20 years ago with five studios on one weekend has grown to a three-day event, twice a year. Folks come to spend a weekend meandering the beautiful countryside in search of the "best of the best" in artistry, purchase something distinctively handmade, and to perhaps make a connection with an artist or two.

The Toe River Arts Council offers the Toe River Spring Studio Tour as a way to glimpse into the innovative and productive world of the working artist. For those who appreciate and collect art, this is an opportunity to meet our regional artists in their own environment and observe the inside operations of the artist studio. The variety and quality of the art and craft put forward on the Tour is unparalleled. Artists in almost every concentration offer a broad selection and price range.



Work by Ben Elliott

Featured are: clay in all forms; glass in all colors; hooked and braided rugs; jewelry from metals, stones, gems, clays, woods, and polymers; wood boxes, bowls, ornaments, furniture, and lamps - for inside the home or out, to catch water or your eye from across the room. And this year's tour is larger than ever with nine new participants, including a dulcimer maker and "working farm" that offers not only unique Native American arts and clay work, but also goat cheese, jellies, and handmade soaps.

But the touring experience is more than art and craft collecting. Artists demonstrate. They explain the processes involved. Some make collectible items only for that weekend and not available outside their studios.



Work by Sally Morgan Guerard

Friendships are formed. And there is always the thrill of discovering a new talent about to take wing and fly. Bright red signs and a 48-page guide point the way from studio to studio, taking visitors into some of the most scenic and unusual parts of the mountains. Nothing awakens the senses more than driving our mountain roads, flanked by fields of lavender and rye; cows grazing on sloping grasses; cardinals and crows dotting a clean, cobalt sky; and emerald trees swaying seemingly just a foot away and up high on the ridgelines.

For those who want to get a head start on their weekend plans, participant work is on display at the Spruce Pine TRAC Gallery, 269 Oak Avenue, through the final day of the tour. A meet-the-artist reception is held from 5 to 7pm on June 7, the tour's first day with a sampling of participant/gallery pieces geographically displayed - a perfect opportunity to meet the artists, view their work, and make plans and routes for the remainder of the weekend. A map to the studios and local business support is available online at (www.toeriverarts.org).

The Studio Tour closes the gap between artists and the public. It's taken years to develop and grow to become known as the premier studio tour in the country. Visit studios, galleries; take the time to talk to the artists. Discover their history and evolution with their art. Share their vision and reflections of what art means to each of them. Come to the mountains for a weekend in June and experience what TRAC, with the help of a vibrant arts and local community, have built.

TRAC is a non-profit organization founded in 1976 to promote the arts in Mitchell and Yancey Counties.

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

The Bascom in Highlands, NC, Features Works by Nancy Judd

The Bascom in Highlands, NC, is presenting *ReDress: Upcycled Style* by Nancy Judd, on view through Aug. 18, 2013.

After viewing the amazing women's clothing at The Bascom's high-fashion exhibition, *ReDress: Upcycled Style* by Nancy Judd, you'll realize that haute couture has truly come to Highlands. But these dramatic fashions are not what they appear: instead of real fur, jewels and luxe fabrics, they are made of such components as aluminum cans, tires and plastic grocery bags - even crime scene tape!

ReDress is a visual feast designed by Santa Fe, NM, artist Nancy Judd, to direct attention to the problem of waste in our society and to promote environmental conservation.

"If everyone on earth lived like the average American does, it would take 3 to 5 planets to support our consumptive habits," says the artist. "This exhibit is a way of exploring the issues associated with our 'throw-away' society in a fun and positive way."

Judd created "Recycle Runway" and its same-named website while working as

the Recycling Coordinator for the City of Santa Fe, then as Executive Director of the New Mexico Recycling Coalition. In 1998, she founded the Recycle Santa Fe Art Market & Fashion Contest, recognizing that art and fashion could be combined to motivate the public to be more environmentally conscious. Judd used her experience as an artist to design and make recycled garments to promote this event. The ensuing Recycle Runway Collection has been an international hit, with widespread exhibits, corporate sponsorships and articles, including front page coverage in *The Wall Street Journal*. One of her pieces was accepted into the Smithsonian's permanent collection in 2011.

"I hope that people will look differently at trash after seeing my work," Judd says. "I want people to be inspired to reduce their waste, and use their own creativity to live more sustainably."

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, call The Bascom at 828/526-4949 or visit (www.TheBascom.org).

Caldwell Arts Council in Lenoir, NC, Offers Works by Catawba County Artists

The Caldwell Arts Council in Lenoir, NC, will present *Foothills Painters*, a group exhibit of works by artisans mostly from Catawba County, NC, on view from June 7 - 28, 2013. A reception will be held on June 7, from 5-7pm.

Since their beginning in 2002, the purpose of the Foothills Painters has been to promote and invigorate the creative talents of its members, to provide an exchange of ideas between its artists, to expose to the Unifour area the special artistic talents of its residents and to generate interest in fine art.

Foothills Painters is a community of individuals from a wide range of backgrounds, ages, skills and interests who have come together to express themselves through art. They have joined together to explore new ideas, share new techniques, encourage artistic development, share friendships and to broaden horizons.

"We paint, draw, sculpt, throw pottery, make jewelry, design fabric, photograph and much more. Our diversity in art is as different as we are personally unique."

Foothills Painters have held successful exhibitions in Hickory, including the Hickory Museum of Art, Newton, Morganton, Taylorsville and have participated in numerous artistic venues throughout the area.

This project is supported by the NC Arts Council, a division of the Department of Cultural Resources.

The Caldwell Arts Council has been



Work by Shirley Lee

promoting and presenting high quality arts in Caldwell County since 1976. Located in an historic building in downtown Lenoir, the Caldwell Arts Council offers much to the community. The Caldwell Arts Council is home to 4 beautiful gallery spaces and a small artisan craft gift shop. Exhibits in the gallery change monthly and range from contemporary to traditional, paintings to pottery.

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, call the Council at 828/754-2486 or visit (www.caldwellarts.com).

Skyuka Fine Art in Tryon, NC, Features Works by Cecelia Cox

Skyuka Fine Art in Tryon, NC, will present *Objective Beauty*, featuring works by nationally known Greensboro, NC, artist Cecelia Cox, on view from June 8 through July 12, 2013. A reception will be held on June 8, from 5-8pm.

Cox is an accomplished artist who creates works of painterly realism. Originally having extensive experience in portraiture and figurative art, she is now most known for her evocative still lifes and floral pieces. She is an Associate Member of Oil Painters of America and American Women Artists. Cox's works are in many private and public collections and her paintings have been juried into several prestigious national exhibits, including Oil Painters of America and Salon International.

Cox studied art at Mississippi University for Women and the Atlanta College of Art. She continues her art study with workshops and classes given by well-



Work by Cecelia Cox

known artist/instructors, most notably Jim Aplin, Daniel Greene, Marc Hanson, Janice Yow Hinds, Robert Liberace, Scott Burdick, Susan Lyon, and Sherrie McGraw.

For further information check our NC Commercial Gallery listings, call the gallery at 828/817-3783 or e-mail to (info@skyukafineart.com).

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 2013 issue of *Carolina Arts*.