



Southern Highlands Craft Guild

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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 programs have thrived for nearly five decades, and our relationship with the Southern Highland Craft Guild has been a key part of that. We're always thrilled to have work showcased at the Folk Art Center, and in turn scores of our alumni have gone on to become active Guild members. The *Graduate Show* is the capstone of two hard years by these students, and it's a delight to share it in this beautiful space."

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 established in 1930 to cultivate the crafts



Work by Jacob Hoke

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 Center at 828/298-7928 or visit (www.craftguild.org/exhibitions).

American Folk Art in Asheville, NC, Offers Group Exhibition

American Folk Art in Asheville, NC, will present *Chasing Joy*, a group exhibition, on view from June 5 - 26, 2024. A reception will be held on June 7, from 5-8pm.

For many of the artists represented at American Folk, finding happiness and delight in their surroundings and in their connections is what drives their work. *Chasing Joy* is a celebration of all those precious things that make our hearts beat faster: the exhilaration of birds in flight, the wild abandon of romping children, the deep, soul-nourishing communion with nature, or the quiet glee that comes from being close to someone who shares part of your soul.

With bird feeders hanging from any available real estate and a cherry tree on hand, Danette Sperry's lush backyard oasis is the place to be for the local avian population. Her garden visitors often serve as the focal point of her textural paintings and



Work by Jack Klippel

embody her spiritual connection to nature.

Ellen Langford paints figures dancing through life and celebrates the small, perfect

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moments of the everyday. You can see her soul in her paintings, as well as her deeply-rooted connection to her environment and the people who inhabit it with her.

An avid hiker and lover of the outdoors, Jackson Hammack seeks to capture the wild gaze of his woodland subjects. He says their eyes invite us to reconnect with the natural world from which we originate. After retiring to our Blue Ridge mountains a few years back, Hammack found himself back

in step with his environment, an experience that has had an incredible impact on his inspiration and his creativity.

"A central theme at American Folk is joyful artwork," says owner Julia L. Mills. "Often, that's one of the first things visitors to the gallery comment on: how bright and spirited our space feels. The artists we represent create with joy in their hearts, and folks can sense that energy as soon as they

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