

# Upstairs Artspace in Tryon, NC, Features Salon-Style Exhibition

The Upstairs Artspace in Tryon, NC, is pleased to announce that it will be hosting *Salon d'Upstairs*, a community engagement initiative where all artists, high school age and up, amateur to professional, are invited to participate in an open "salon" hanging. The exhibition will run from Sept. 8-21, 2024.

In a departure from the contemporary art gallery's typical professionally curated and installed exhibitions, *Salon d'Upstairs* will follow in the footsteps of the French Salons which originated in 1667 to show the artwork of recent graduates of the Paris Académie des Beaux-Arts.

These were popular exhibitions that served as a testament to the creative productivity of artists in the region and were characterized by a floor-to-ceiling hanging, an informal jostling of artworks contrived to provide an opportunity for the greatest number of artists to participate.

"*Salon d'Upstairs* is open to anyone in the area who explores the visual arts as a means of expressing ideas that make a positive difference in society," says Eldred Hudson, Exhibitions Committee member. "We are asking artists to show one piece. They will set the price, and if the piece sells

during the two-week show, the proceeds will be divided between the artist and the gallery."

"We are excited to initiate this community event, open to all, until there is no more wall space available," says Sarah Schroth, also of the Exhibitions Committee. "I encourage the artists to carefully review the requirements and fill out the online form, and I look forward to seeing both floors of the gallery exuberantly full of paintings, drawings, sculptures, photography, and more."

The gallery is located on S. Trade Street, in downtown Tryon, will be accepting pieces for the show Sept. 4-6. Volunteers will be on hand to help the artist hang (or place) their piece in a location of the artist's choosing. An opening reception will be held on Sept. 8 at 2:30pm and artists are encouraged to attend.

More details on how to participate in the exhibition are on the gallery's website, ([upstairsartspace.org/upcoming](http://upstairsartspace.org/upcoming)), and include size restrictions, drop off dates, an entry form, and more. Contact the gallery at 828/859-2828 or e-mail to ([frontdesk@upstairsartspace.org](mailto:frontdesk@upstairsartspace.org)) with any questions.

# Tryon Arts and Crafts School in Tryon, NC, Features Works by Bayard Wootten and More

Tryon Arts and Crafts School in Tryon, NC, is presenting *Bayard Wootten Photography Exhibition*, on view through Oct. 18, 2024.

The Bayard Wootten exhibition will highlight her remarkable photography of the western Carolina mountains, with special focus on Tryon.

Bayard Wootten (1875-1959) is celebrated as one of North Carolina's most remarkable, versatile, and productive photographers. While she photographed throughout the state from her home base in New Bern, she spent time in the 1930s documenting life and nature in the western Carolina mountains, including Tryon. Her compelling images of our region's past, as well as a few other locales, will be on display.

The photographs presented consist of archival pigment prints made from digitizing the original 5"x7" and 8"x10" negatives in the Mary Bayard Morgan Wootten Photographic Collection in the North Carolina Photographic Archives at UNC, Chapel Hill. The images were chosen from among two earlier Wootten exhibits, *Light and Air* and *The Joy is in the Going* as well as newly printed work, much of it never exhibited before. In fact, this show, curated by Lili Corbus, art historian and TACS board member, and Will Barclift, Director of TACS, with the help of UNC archivist Stephen Fletcher, will constitute the largest-ever gathering of her work to be exhibited.



Photograph by Bayard Wootten, "Toymaker (Pauline Miller Cowan)," Tryon, NC, 1030s

postcards, street scenes, architecture, gardens, and landscapes.

Wootten first visited the western mountains when she accepted her cousin Lucy Morgan's offer to make promotional photos of the Penland School of Craft that Morgan founded in 1929. Some of these Penland photos of the school will be featured in this exhibition.

Wootten returned to the mountains often and photos from her jaunts in Appalachian communities were published in classic books including *Backwoods America* (1934), *Cabins in the Laurel* (1935), and *From My Highest Hill: Carolina Mountain Folks* (1941).

She also visited Tryon in the 1930s, at least twice, staying with her friends George and Sally Cathey, owners of the Blue Ridge Weavers. While here, she photographed many landscapes and people, including Tryon toymakers, basket weavers, farmers, country roads, waterfalls, mountain vistas, and more. Most of the images in this show will be of our local region. Some places and faces may be hard to identify from our current perspective, some 90 years later, so it will be interesting to learn if any viewers recognize these scenes from our past.

There will also be future lectures on Wootten by her collection's archivist Stephen Fletcher and Dr. Corbus who will re-present a lecture on women photographers in Tryon from 1890 to 1950 (including Wootten) that was previously offered as

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Photograph by Bayard Wootten, "Toll Gate," Tryon, NC, 1030s

Wootten's photographic contributions are significant. Never afraid of adventure, she is considered the first woman aerial photographer, designed the first trademarked Pepsi-Cola logo, and was a member of the NC National Guard. She reached a level of professionalism few in her era achieved. She supported her two sons and family by maintaining successful studios from the early 1900s through 1954 when she retired, making "my Old North State" her field of work. Her collection includes a wide variety of subjects and genres, including portraits,

a Tales in Tryon event.

The exhibit also includes original photographs from local artists that capture the essence of the extended Polk County region.

Tryon Arts and Crafts School is located

at Harmon Field, on Harmon Field Road, Tryon.

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, call the School at 828/859-8323 or visit ([tryonartsandcrafts.org](http://tryonartsandcrafts.org)).

# Blue Spiral 1 in Asheville, NC, Offers New Exhibitions

Blue Spiral 1 in Asheville, NC, will offer four new exhibitions on view from Sept. 6 through Oct. 23, 2024. A reception for all four exhibits will be held on Sept. 6, from 5-7pm.

On view in the Main Level Gallery will be the exhibition, *Common Thread*. The exhibit celebrates a selection of twenty artists whose practices are united by a singular material: fiber. While many of the artists employ traditional textile techniques such as weaving, quilting, and embroidery, others explore the potential of fiber through basketry and sculpture. The show aims to highlight how textiles can be reimagined to address both personal and cultural narrative; underscoring the material's role as a common thread that links craft and fine art.

Participating artists include: Eleanor Anderson, Natalie Baxter, Anna Buckner, Kate Burke, Clay Burnette, Claire Drennan, Casey Engel, Kimberly English, Helen Gaglio, Kay Healy, Bryant Holsenbeck, Asa Jackson, Julian Jamaal Jones, Paula Kovarik, Connie Lippert, Stephanie Santana, Lars Shimabukuro, Britny Wainwright, and Lowell Zelenka.

On view in the Lower Level Gallery is the exhibition, *Portraits*. Portraiture has been a fundamental genre in art history, functioning as a reflective lens through which the values, identities, and emotional landscapes of societies are examined. The artists featured in this group exhibition expand upon this venerable tradition, engaging in a re-evaluation of what constitutes a portrait and how it can convey the complexities of human identity.

Participating artists include: Sasha Baskin, Tamie Beldue, Melissa English



Work by Duy Huynh

Campbell, Stephanie Cobb, Joshua Donkor, Kevin Foote, Cyrus Glance, Kathleen Hall, Althea Murphy-Price, Rafael Rodriguez, Tokie Rome-Taylor, Luis Sahagun, Amy Scherer, Jon Sours, David Samuel Stern, and Marisa Stratton.

On view in the Showcase Gallery will be the exhibition, *Andréa Keys Connell and Duy Huynh*. Ceramist Andrea Keys Connell and painter Duy Huynh both engage with the concept of narrative to explore the ways in which stories and meanings can resonate collectively.

Andrea Keys Connell considers the language of monuments and figurines as a formal framework to serve as a means of exploring narratives such as motherhood, myth, romance, and joy.

Whereas, Duy Huynh, who navigates the complexities of language as a non-native English speaker, is intrigued by the ambiguities inherent in words and phrases,

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