

# Blue Spiral 1 in Asheville, NC

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to which he visually integrates symbols, metaphors, and puns in his work.

On view in the Small Format Gallery will be the exhibition, *Vicki Essig: Quietude*.

Essig's silk weavings are characterized by a quiet, methodical approach that reflects both her observational practices and her intimate engagement with nature.

Based in Penland, NC, Essig's creative practice involves a collection of natural materials, such as mulberry branches, dried pods, and flower petals, which she integrates into her weavings. In a distinctive seasonal endeavor, Essig raises silkworms, nurturing them through their life cycle to produce silk fibers. This process is not only a demonstration of her craftsmanship but also an exploration of the lifecycle of the material itself. Through the constant shepherding of the worms, Essig transforms the raw material into intricate, tactile surfaces that evoke the quietude of her surroundings.

Founder, John Cram (1948 - 2020), opened Blue Spiral 1 on New Year's Eve of 1990 with a vision of creating a home for the many artists who had settled in the region in the mid-to-late 20th century. Additionally, he needed a suitable space to exhibit the recently acquired estate of Southern Modernist, Will Henry Stevens (1881 - 1949).

At the time Cram opened Blue Spiral 1, Asheville was a shell of itself. Having suffered through the post-industry recession, downtown buildings were boarded up and artists were moving to the area because the rent was cheap and the scenery, inspiring. Cram recognized a need, took a chance, and made an investment that altered the trajectory of visual culture in Asheville.



Work by Vicki Essig

What was once a defunk radio supply shop flanked by an adult theatre and plumbing supply store, is now one of the largest and busiest galleries in the South. Over three decades later, Blue Spiral 1 is the heart of a booming art scene in downtown Asheville.

For 34 years, Blue Spiral 1 has exhibited work by artists and makers in a three-story, multi-gallery setting. Maintaining a diverse and extensive exhibition schedule, the gallery presents over 25 shows annually. Thematic group exhibitions and individual artist showcases rotate in the Main and Lower Level galleries every other month, while the gallery's Upper Level features a wide array of works by over 100 represented artists.

For further information check our NC Commercial Gallery listings, call the gallery at 828/251-0202 or visit ([www.bluespiral1.com](http://www.bluespiral1.com)).

## Asheville Quilt Guild Hosts 40th Annual Quilt Show in Asheville, NC - Sept. 26-28, 2024

The Asheville Quilt Guild will host its 40th Annual Quilt Show at the WNC Agricultural Center, at the Davis Event Center in Fletcher, NC, from Sept. 26-28, 2024.

Featuring over 300 beautiful quilts made by national, regional and local quilt makers, the Asheville Quilt Guild will showcase this unique Appalachian craft Sept. 26 and 27, from 9am-5pm and Sept. 28, from 9am-4pm. Fulfilling its mission to preserve and advance the tradition and art of quilting. The Quilt Show will give visitors the opportunity to get an up-close look at how quilters have creatively transformed fabrics and threads into works of art and admire the prize winning- works selected by professional quilt judges in an array of quilting styles and designs.

In addition, they can:

- Attend free demonstrations of quilting techniques and new quilting products/machines
- View Special Exhibits such as quilts by Mountain Art Quilters on the theme of "Reflections: Connecting to Nature" and special Ruby Anniversary Quilts made by Guild members
- Peruse the Gift Shop and Gallery brimming with handcrafted quilted items to enhance their homes
- Shop for the latest quilting and sewing products being sold by 27 regional vendors
- Get a real bargain for gently used sewing/quilting supplies, fabrics and books/patterns at the What's Old Is New booth
- Take a \$1 chance to win the exciting Opportunity Quilt made by the PhD (Projects Half Done) Bee
- Enjoy the odds at the Product Raffle that gives away prizes donated by sponsors and vendors many times each day

To encourage the next generation of quilters the Guild offers a Kids Sewing Area where children from 4-12 years old create their own sewn projects to take home with them.



Opportunity Quilt made by PhD (Projects Half Done) Bee to be raffled off during the show

Held at the WNC Agricultural Center, Davis Event Center, located at 765 Boylston Hwy. in Fletcher, NC 28732, the Quilt Show offers ample free parking and a cafeteria offering lunch and snacks. Groups of 10 or more people get a discount off the \$10 admission price by contacting NancyLynn at ([QuiltShow.Admissions@Asheville-QuiltGuild.org](mailto:QuiltShow.Admissions@Asheville-QuiltGuild.org)) prior to the show.

This event is made possible by generous support from sponsors, including Moda Fabrics, Explore Asheville, and Aurifil Threads, the Quilt Show will award \$12,000 in prize money to the winners. This elevates the show beyond what most quilt shows of 300+ quilts, 350 members and 3,000 visitors are able to offer. Further enhancing the show is the cadre of guild members who volunteer to help set up, operate and take down the show. Asheville Quilt Guild has helped develop and maintain Asheville's reputation as a city known for its breadth and excellence in artistic and cultural achievements and welcomes visitors to explore this exciting Quilt Show.

For further information contact Susan Sweeney by calling 978/514-0323 or e-mail to ([sweeney@teamalpha.org](mailto:sweeney@teamalpha.org)).

The deadline each month to submit articles, photos and ads is the 24th of the month prior to the next issue. This will be Sept. 24th, at 5pm for the October 2024 issue and Oct. 24, at 5pm for the November 2024 issue. After that, it's too late unless your exhibit runs into the next month. But don't wait for the last minute - send your info now to ([info@carolinaarts.com](mailto:info@carolinaarts.com)).

[www.theartistindex.com](http://www.theartistindex.com)



The Artist Index  
of Upstate  
South Carolina  
& Western  
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## Bi-Annual Grovewood Village Studio Tour Takes Place in Asheville, NC, on Sept. 14 & 15, 2024

The Grovewood Village Studio Tour will take place in Asheville, NC, on Sept. 14 & 15, 2024, from noon to 5pm. During this event, the resident artists at Grovewood Village will open up their studios to the public, allowing visitors to gain insight into their creative process and view their most recent works. This is a free, self-guided, explore-at-your-own-pace tour.

Additionally, these creatives will have pieces available for purchase at the adjacent Grovewood Gallery, which will extend a 10% discount on nearly all items and donate 1% of all sales to Arts For Life, a local non-profit. Metro Wines will also be on-site serving complimentary wine.

Guests looking to round out their experience can enjoy brunch next door at Eldr and visit the Biltmore Industries Homespun Museum and the Estes-Winn Antique Car Museum, also located in Grovewood Village.



Carl Powell glass sculptures, photo by Ryan Theede Photography

Grovewood Village is home to 8 working artist studios and a yoga studio. These workspaces were originally built to house the weaving operations of Biltmore Industries, an Arts and Crafts enterprise that played a significant role in the Appalachian Craft Revival during the early 20th century. Today, these resident artists - inspired by an earlier craft force - create jewelry, pottery, sculpture, and more in the same workshops where



Metalsmith Tom Reardon demonstrating in his Grovewood Village, photo by Ryan Theede Photography

the famed Biltmore Handwoven Homespun was once made. Resident artists include: Chris Abell (wooden flutes and whistles), Rick Ekerd (blown glass), Melissa Engler & Graeme Priddle (sculptural wood art), Lisa Gluckin (ceramic art), Carl Powell (glass sculpture), Helen Purdum (ceramic art), Tom Reardon & Kathleen Doyle (jewelry), and Brent Skidmore (fine furniture & sculptural wood art).

The artist studios are located in the same building as the Biltmore Industries Homespun Museum, directly next door to Grovewood Gallery. Free parking is available on-site.

The Grovewood Village is a privately owned historic Asheville destination located adjacent to the Omni Grove Park Inn. This site once housed the weaving and wood-working operations of Biltmore Industries, an Arts and Crafts enterprise co-founded by Edith Vanderbilt. Today, the 11-acre property - listed on the National Register of Historic Places - is home to Grovewood Gallery, working artist studios, the Estes-Winn Antique Car Museum, the Biltmore Industries Homespun Museum, and Eldr restaurant.

For further information check our NC Commercial Gallery listings, call 828/253-7651 or visit ([grovewood.com](http://grovewood.com)).