

Bender Gallery in Asheville, NC

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Bender Gallery is a fine art gallery with a focus on contemporary sculpture. It is located on So. Lexington Avenue in downtown Asheville. There is a parking garage on S. Lexington Avenue beneath the

Aloft hotel as well as a weekend parking directly in front of the gallery. For further information check our NC Commercial Gallery listing or visit (www.bendergallery.com).

Black Mountain Center for the Arts in Black Mountain, NC, Features Works by Local Art League

The Black Mountain Center for the Arts in Black Mountain, NC, will present the *Swannanoa Valley Fine Arts League's Bi-Annual Juried Show*, featuring a wide variety of mediums, on view from Oct. 10 through Nov. 21, 2014. A reception will be held on Oct. 10, from 6-8pm.

The Swannanoa Valley Fine Arts League, established in 1967, has its headquarters and member studios in the Red House adjacent to the Monte Vista Hotel in Black Mountain. They have regular workshops and programs to benefit the further education of its members, all of whom are dedicated to artistic growth and excellence.

For this show guests, members and artists will come down a block to the Arts Center whose generous gallery space is the perfect venue to display art.

"We are excited to have another opportunity to show at the Arts Center's beautiful gallery," said League board member and gallery chair Susan Hanning. "And we are very excited to have Martin DeWitt as juror. Our artists really look forward to this show. We have two- juried shows a year and this is one of them. Competition brings a higher quality of work and we believe the public responds because they expect a high level of quality."

DeWitt lives part of the year in Asheville, NC, and the other, presumably warmer part of the year in Duluth, MN. His abstract work features rich colors and evocative textures in latex, enamel, mixed media. Working as a studio artist for over 35 years, DeWitt's artwork is included in numerous public, private and corporate collections and exhibits regionally, nationally and internationally.

Concurrent with his arts administrative and curatorial duties as Founding Director of the Fine Art Museum, Western Carolina University ('03-'10), De Witt taught gallery and museum management practices to include the business of art, grant writing, and



Work by Susan Sinyai, a 2013 winner

exhibit and collections planning and management. Over the years he has also taught at various institutions including courses in painting, drawing, color theory, selected contemporary and art historical topics.

DeWitt was previously Director ('90-'03) and Curator of Exhibitions and Collections ('86-'90) at the Tweed Museum of Art, University of Minnesota Duluth. In Jan. 2011, DeWitt retired from Western Carolina University to begin full- time Martin DeWitt Studio + Fine Arts Services.

The show will be judged through DeWitt's specific aesthetic and careful eye. "For me, the process of painting is a form of expression that has the potential to generate a formidable intellectual, physical and emotional response to experience," Dewitt has said in his personal artist's statement. The members of SVFAL are delighted to have his opinion. The show offers first, second, third and best of show.

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings or call the Center at 828/669-0930.

Skyuka Fine Art in Tryon, NC, Features Works by Gary Cooley

Skyuka Fine Art in Tryon, NC, is presenting *Gary Cooley-Seven Days in Provence*, on view from Oct. 25 through Nov. 22, 2014. A reception will be held on Oct. 25, from 5-8pm.

Cooley hails from Detroit, MI, and he earned his BFA from Center for Creative Studies (now College of Creative Studies). Cooley studied illustration and worked as an illustrator for years; producing art for books, magazines and even the occasional Broadway poster. He has recently retired and he and his wife are relocating to the Hendersonville, NC, area after living in Atlanta, GA for decades.

A retirement gift from his coworkers was a trip to Provence to take a workshop from a much admired artist of Cooley's; Julian Merrow-Smith, who is most known for his "Postcard from Provence" website

where he auctions off his wildly popular "painting a day" pieces. Cooley spent a week painting, learning, and enjoying his time in Provence with Merrow-Smith and a handful of other talented workshop attendees.

"The highlight of this show are my works from a recent trip to the Provence area of France. Forty-five minutes north of Avignon, near the village of Malaucene, at the base of Mt. Ventoux is where I spent seven amazing days. With ten other artists we were inspired daily by the picturesque local landscapes as we painted amongst the vineyards and orchards that dot the countryside."

For further information check our NC Commercial Gallery listings, call the gallery at 828/817-3783 or visit (www.skyukafineart.com).

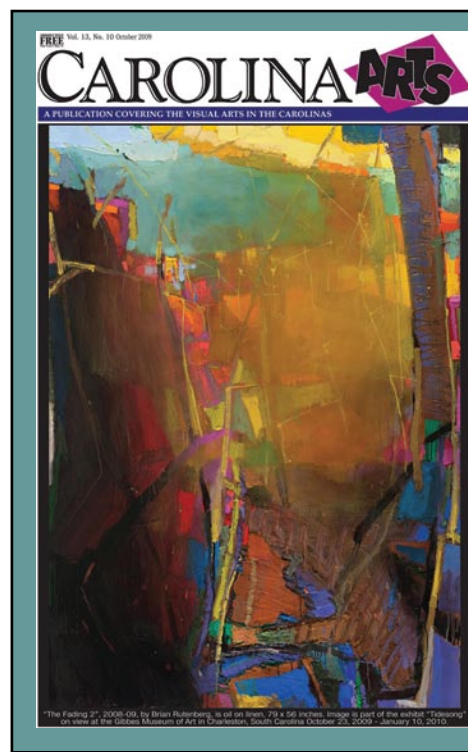
Tryon Arts and Crafts School in Tryon, NC, Offers Works by Regional Members of Southern Highlands Craft Guild

The Tryon Arts and Crafts School in Tryon, NC, is currently showing *Inspirations*, an exhibit which features regional artists and artisans who are members of the Southern Highlands Craft Guild, on Page 26 - Carolina Arts, October 2014

view through Oct. 14, 2014.

Each of these artists was selected for this show for their exceptional work in their field, as well as a level of creativity

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in the use of their medium that tends to be inspirational to other artists.

The artists showing in this exhibit are: Kelemen Kwarto (fused glass), Judi Harwood (ceramics), Alan Daigre (wood/furniture), John Geci (blown glass), Christine Kosiba (clay sculpture), Tom Turnbull (clay/wallhangings), Matt Kelleher (clay sculpture), and fiber artists Neal Howard, Elizabeth Spear, and Leslie Owens.

As an officially recognized Southern Highlands Craft Guild Education Center, Tryon Arts and Crafts School maintains a highly qualified staff of instructors in a wide range of media, as well as seeks to bring in additional regional talent from time to time to add to the creative mix.



Works by John Geci

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, call the School at 828/859-8323 or visit (www.TryonArtsandCrafts.org).

Carlton Gallery, Near Boone, NC, Offers Works by Toni Carlton and Group Show

Carlton Gallery, near Boone, NC, is offering two new exhibits including: *Art Songs of the Heart*, featuring works by Toni Carlton and *Autumn Group Exhibition*, both on view through Nov. 15, 2014.

Toni Carlton says, "I am often deeply moved by what is happening outside...in the world and in my close environment but if I take it inside and transform it using movement, writing, vocal toning...art making ...expressive arts...it feels like my life mission as an artist is somehow being fulfilled and that there is a higher purpose for me to do this work."

"I enjoy speaking to the heart of others in person and through my artwork. In the beginning...The Word moved upon the face of the waters of the canvas. Through my passion for working in mixed media combined with my expression of spiritual journey, my creative process begins in a consciousness of prayer and song; a focused intention to allow a centered prayer to become an artistic expression through movement on the canvas. In my latest collection *Art Songs of the Heart* the texture of ancestral patterns of the fabric of all life are blended with the hand-woven threads shared between genera-

tions. 'Art as a Prayer' becomes the theme as the exhibition embodies the vibration of the voice within a painting."

"The woven fabric, offers the observer to 'see beyond' what appears to be to what can be experienced and transformed through the sacred voice of the heart," adds Carlton. "The word in script is becoming a lost art. My artwork is imprinted with the expressive calligraphic text in English to create elegant flowing abstract compositions which are seen through hand woven fabric adhered to canvas with many layers of transparent paint."

"Another layer of the creative process in the *Art Songs of the Heart* series includes the process of touch drawing. This technique is done by touch with only the hands on transparent paper that is placed on a thin layer of water based oils. The expressions in the work come from the subconscious, the heart space and from within rather than from a plan to create a specific image. Using movement, meditation and healing sounds as a prompt to begin the art work, my work expresses the connection to the Divine Feminine and Mothering Peace."

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