

# Spruce Pine Potters Market

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fascination and enthusiasm. Many have collected the work of one or more of the artists over a long period of time and are equally eager to observe the new perspectives that each artist brings to his/her work. According to one collector who comes from a distance, "I go every year out of curiosity and then find something I wasn't expecting that I just have to have. It's always good to see the potters and be able to talk with them. That's where I find out what's really happening in contemporary ceramics."

This year's line-up of exhibitors, all of whom have been invited to participate, includes: Stan Andersen, Will Baker, Bandana Pottery, Barking Spider Pottery, Pam Brewer, Cynthia Bringle, Melisa Cadell, Claudia Dunaway, Susan Feagin, Terry Gess, Shawn Ireland, Lisa Joerling, Nick Joerling, Michael Kline, Fork Mountain Pottery, Shaunna Lyons, Jeannine Marchand, Courtney Martin, Linda McFarling, Shane Mickey, Jane Peiser, Michael Rutkowski, Ken Sedberry, Ron Slagle, JennyLou Sherburne, Gertrude Graham Smith, Liz Zlot Summerfield, Joy Tanner, and this year's visiting artist Marsha Owen.

The artists who have donated work to this year's raffle are Michael Rutkowski, Melisa Cadell, Shawn Ireland, and Cynthia



Work by JennyLou Sherburne

Bringle. The pieces will be on exhibit at the entrance to the show where someone will be selling chances. Raffle tickets are \$5 each or 5 for \$20. Buyers need not be present at the drawing to win. This year a percentage of the raffle proceeds will be donated to the Mitchell County Animal Rescue.

Spruce Pine is one hour from Asheville by car, one hour and 15 minutes from Johnson City, 2 hours from Charlotte, 30 minutes from Marion, three hours from Knoxville. Spruce Pine Potters Market is an affiliate organization of the Toe River Arts Council.

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, call 828/765-2670, 828/688-6422 or visit ([www.sprucepinepottersmarket.com](http://www.sprucepinepottersmarket.com)).

## American Craft Week Celebrates Its Sixth Anniversary in Western North Carolina - Oct. 2-11, 2015

It began as a small, grassroots effort to enhance the knowledge and appreciation of handmade craft. Now, entering its sixth year, American Craft Week is a well-established, national event, celebrating the tradition of American craft in artists' studios, galleries, museums, schools, and festivals. This year's official celebration will be held Oct. 2 - 11, during which hundreds of diverse events will occur in all 50 states.

With the theme "Craft Creates", participants across the country will be able to share their interpretation of art through their own events during the week. "Craft creates beautiful objects, but there is so much more," says Diane Sulg, founder of American Craft Week. "Craft creates jobs for thousands of Americans. The impact of this creative economy is profound, for individuals, communities, and the entire nation."

Western North Carolina is a vibrant creative community that capitalizes on craft as an economic driver for the region. The Western North Carolina group of participants are actively preparing for annual events that consistently draw people to the area during American Craft Week. Beginning with festivals at the John C. Campbell Folk School, the Spruce Pine Potters Market, Asheville Arts in the Park, and the River Arts District Studio Stroll, the public will be able to experience the rich craft heritage of the region. Throughout the week the following galleries will host exhibitions that spotlight featured artists - Grovewood, Mountain Made, Blue Spiral I, New Morning, Flow, Heartwood, and Van Dyke. Local arts councils, such as Henderson County will host their annual Art on Main, in addition to Asheville Area's "Local Cloth" exhibit in the Grove Arcade.

"Craft creates community" resonates strongly with Western North Carolina area artists and advocates. The regions craft schools, including John C. Campbell, Penland and Haywood Community College's Creative Arts Department, have fostered a camaraderie and supportive atmosphere for decades. More recently HandMade in

America's small towns programs strengthen communities and empower entrepreneurs.

Co-chair, Sherry Masters points out that American Craft Week is having considerable growth in the cultural tourism arena. "There is excitement and power in collaborations, and American Craft Week has become a vehicle for both individual artisans and groups to join and invite the public to art events. Organizers wrap a large number of craft-related events, artist studios, and galleries into a large celebration, and market it to both locals and tourists."

American Craft Week invites participation from every corner of the American craft community. "The very essence of our event is to bring together everyone who is involved in craft, whether they make, sell, exhibit, celebrate, collect or just plain love craft, to help put it in the national spotlight," says Diane Sulg. "You can design your own craft-centered event and become part of this national movement." For more information, go to ([www.americancraftweek.com](http://www.americancraftweek.com)).

Organizers in Western NC meet monthly to plan collaborations and promotion of the regions' American Craft Week events. WNC annually hosts over 40 participants' events in area galleries, studios, schools and communities. This region was the first to work collaboratively to celebrate American Craft Week and while other states have since surpassed WNC in numbers of participants, WNC continues to lead in sponsors from a single region and variety of events offered. For more information, visit ([www.americancraftweek.com/wnc](http://www.americancraftweek.com/wnc)).

The 2015 American Craft Week is sponsored by: Urban Expositions, Wholesalecrafts.com, NY NOW, American Craft Council, John Campbell Folk School, Cumberland Valley Visitors Bureau, Southern Highland Craft Guild, The Center for Craft, Creativity & Design, Artisans Center of Virginia, TACA Tennessee Craft, Mountain Made Gallery, River Arts District Artists, Round the Mountain Artisan Network, Asheville Arts in the Park, Paradise City Arts Festival.

## Appalachian State University in Boone, Celebrates Center for Cartoon Studies

Appalachian State University in Boone, NC, will present *At the Junction of Words and Pictures: The Tenth Anniversary of the Center for Cartoon Studies*, guest-curated by Appalachian State University English Professor Craig Fischer, on view at the

Turchin Center for Visual Arts, from Oct. 2 through Feb. 6, 2016.

In a village in Vermont, there's a school where the library is named after Charles M. Schulz (Peanuts), students enroll in

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such classes as Survey of the Drawn Story ("From the tapestries of Medieval Europe . . . to the modern graphic novel") and the visiting faculty has included the comic-art luminaries Art Spiegelman, Jules Feiffer and Chris Ware. Even the diploma is a cartoon. While old fogies might scoff that cartoons are for kids, at Vermont's Center for Cartoon Studies (CCS)—the nation's premiere school for aspiring literary cartoonists—they've been training students for over a decade in the grown-up business of comic art, which happens to be one of the oldest forms of communication known to man (think cave paintings, illuminated manuscripts, hieroglyphics).

In fact, cartooning is in the midst of a 21st-Century renaissance.

"The diversity and number of contemporary comics projects that can be traced back to CCS is staggering," says Fischer, pointing out that alumni have created graphic novels for mainstream and alternative publishers, begun their own publishing companies and branched out into children's book illustration and comics journalism. "ASU and the Turchin Center are proud to be celebrating CCS's achievement and birthday," says Fischer. "I'm especially gratified that my students will be able to study closely the many process sketches, zines and pieces of original art that make up the exhibit."

Included in the show will be artwork by CCS faculty, fellows and alumni, a collection of CCS publications and ephemera (such as those custom-drawn diplomas for graduating classes) and a reading area

stocked with CCS-related books, mini-comics and zines.

The work in the exhibit comes from the school's archives, supplemented by contributions from CCS co-founder James Sturm's personal collection and submissions by individual artists. The exhibit includes pieces by Sturm, Stephen R. Bissette, Julie Delporte, Colleen Frakes, Sophie Goldstein, Kevin Huizenga, Jason Lutes and other renowned cartoonists.

In conjunction with the CCS exhibition, the Turchin Center will also feature the work of an Appalachian State alum (Back to Boone: Editorial Cartoons by Andrew David Cox, also opening Oct. 2), as well as a screening of a documentary film about CCS, lectures and other events listed below. All events take place in the TCVA Lecture Hall, unless otherwise noted, and are free and open to the public.

PLEASE NOTE: The artwork in these exhibitions contains material that viewers may find challenging, illuminating, unsettling, provoking or even offensive. To exhibit a work of art is not to endorse the work or the vision, ideas and opinions of the artist. It is to uphold the right of all to respectfully express and experience diverse visions and views.

This exhibition is underwritten in part by ASU's Office of Academic Affairs, the College of Arts and Sciences, Belk Library and Information Commons, the Department of Art and the Department of English.

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, call the Center at 828/262-3017 or visit ([www.tcva.org](http://www.tcva.org)).

## Carlton Gallery in Banner Elk, NC, Offers Works by Warren Dennis & More

The Carlton Gallery in Banner Elk, NC, is presenting its *33rd Autumn Group Exhibition*, celebrating the art work and birthday of Warren Dennis, the gallery's longest standing artist and other gallery artists, on view through Nov. 15, 2015.

This exhibition "Celebrating a Lifetime of Art" presents Dennis' new cubist style along with a several of his signature elongated figurative works.

The paintings of Dennis are rendered with an expression of a moment in time or a suggestion of an unspoken feeling or emotion. After a lifetime of painting "ordinary people doing ordinary things" in his elongated style, Dennis in true artist fashion decided to try something new. His cubist paintings are based on the work of Picasso who over 100 years ago created the technique, but unlike Picasso, the paintings of Dennis are more personable and identifiable.

Dennis' paintings of his musicians' series - *Bass Player*, *Drummer* and *Band Master*, along with the *Bicyclist*, *Man on Scooter*, *Man Feeding the Pigeons* and a *Lady Juggling* are vibrant and cheerful art which entertain the viewer. Dennis' cubist paintings are rendered with sharp lines and strong contrast outlining the geometric shapes. His sense of life and vitality is an important element in his work which he transposes vividly to canvas.

About his cubist style work, Dennis says, "These came to me in a dream and developed rapidly into drawing studies that evolved into my paintings. My entire body of work is a meditation on the American Spirit which I have seen in its humor, complexity, struggles and above all, in its unquenchable determination to triumph over adversity. All my work is personal and it all has personality - That's what I try to get across".

Born in Clarksdale, MS, Dennis earned a Bachelor of Art from the University of Southern Mississippi and a Master of Fine Arts from the University of Mississippi. He served as art professor at Appalachian State University from 1965-1993 and was Chair



Work by Warren Dennis

of the Art Department from 1980-1984. A noted artist of long standing, Dennis has exhibited in solo and group shows and his award winning art is in many corporate and private collections throughout the US and Canada. Dennis still enjoys painting full time in his studio.

The *33rd Autumn Exhibition* also showcases new work by artists, Kevin Beck, Amy Sullivan, Andrew Braitman, Sharon Rusch Shaver, Connie Winters, Jane Desonier, Charles Lawson, Linda Apriletti, Mary Martha McKinley, Freeman Beard, Holly Glasscock, Egi Antonaccio and Toni Carlton. Their work covers many styles, subjects and techniques.

Tonya Bottomley, a new artist to the gallery, exhibits contemporary acrylic paintings exemplifying her vivid imagination. This exhibition also features the work of the local, regional and national artists the gallery represents working in glass, wood, clay, sculpture, wearable fiber and fine jewelry.

The gallery is located on Hwy. 105 South in the Grandfather Mountain community.

For further information check our NC Commercial Gallery listings, call the gallery at 828/963-4288 or visit ([www.carltongallery.com](http://www.carltongallery.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 Oct. 24th for the November 2015 issue and Nov. 24 for the December 2015 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.

And where do you send that info?  
E-mail to ([info@carolinaarts.com](mailto:info@carolinaarts.com)).