

Spruce Pine Potter's Market

continued from Page 25

And specially invited guests.

One of Spruce Pine Potters Market's founding members is Ken Sedberry who has participated in all 14 Potters Markets. In the months leading up to SPPM he focuses on "a fresh body of work" that includes current work as well as new ideas. He tries to fire work specifically for this show. Most of his fired work is more decorative, using animal imagery and vivid color. Recently he has been "more concerned with articulating the form and using glazes in a more painterly fashion, where color and texture are the primary surface considerations." During the Covid era, he has tried to stay productive in other areas outside the studio, restoring a 1968 Dodge Power Wagon with a dump bed and assisting his son Galen (also in this year's market) with the construction of his new house.

One of SPPM's newest participants is Ruth Rutkowski. This will be her second year showing alongside her husband Michael. Ruth realizes that the SPPM draws people from all over with different reasons for collecting. She pushes herself to create for this show, work "with integrity and to showcase her passion for the art form as well." Rutkowski cites three main inspirations for her work: 1). The elements of water, sea and sky. Teal or cobalt blue show up on nearly every pot she creates. 2). The folk-art style of painting called Rose Maling is part of her family heritage, including the dot patterns, slip trailing and etching that make up her surface design patterns. 3). The use of words on her pieces. "When the spirit moves me, I cannot help but etch verses onto my pottery!"

In regards to this particular time of Covid, Ruth believes it is time for resiliency and as an artist to be a problem solver as well. "Market places are changing in fundamental ways, and I am hopeful that together we have what it takes to bring arts to the forefront as a viable way to earn a living as well as help our world to be a better place.

This year's roster of specially invited guests include: Lynne Hobaica, Rickie Barnett, Matt Repsher, Becky Lloyd, and Hitomi and Takuro Shibata.



Work by Shaunna Lyons

Born and raised in Phoenix, AZ, Lynne Hobaica received her BFA from Syracuse University in History of Art and Ceramics. After a couple years of traveling and working in various studios, she moved to Austria to be a nanny for a year during which was provided with a ceramics studio. When the little one went off to kindergarten, the nanny gig ended and Hobaica stayed in Austria to get her MFA in Conceptual Ceramic Sculpture at the University of Art and Design in Linz. After having lived and traveled to 9 cities in a 5-year span, she observed how relationships evolve and grow through distance and time, which along with emotional communications became a huge inspiration for her work. She currently lives in Bakersville, NC, where she shares a home and studio with her darling, Rickie Barnett.

Speaking of the nature of his figurative ceramic work, Barnett states, "My work is an internal look at the preeminent issues of being bound to another and the affects it has on an individual. The malleable nature of clay allows for a quicker way of working in a highly detailed manner. I work figuratively creating characters based on the struggle of balancing relationships, placing them in an open narrative where they can revisit emotions experienced but not quite understood."

Potter Matt Repsher was raised in the



Work by Gertrude Graham Smith

woods of Pennsylvania. His exposure to art, design, and ceramics started early, as he learned from his father about making pots. Matt earned his BFA in ceramics from Penn State University, and an MFA from Indiana University in 2003. From 2005-2008, he was the Studio Director at Santa Fe Clay. After his time there, he worked as a Visiting Professor at Indiana University, teaching ceramics and 3-D Design for two years, after which he returned to New Mexico to teach part-time at the University of New Mexico and also set up a studio in Santa Fe, which he shared with his metalsmith wife, Marian Miller. Matt has recently completed a three-year artist residency at Penland School of Craft.

Becky Lloyd joins the market this year from her studio in Clyde, NC. She states, "My work uses a centuries old technique called sgraffito to create very intricate patterns and designs. Each piece of hand thrown porcelain is coated with a black terra sigillata slip. I then use a very sharp knife to cut into the slip to expose the white porcelain underneath. This technique allows me to indulge in my passion for design and challenge my skills at the same time. Over the last few years my work has become more personal. A refuge. An expression of beauty, love and grief all at the same time. I have always had a keen interest in ancient civilizations and the incredible art they produced. Those ancient worlds hold endless inspiration for me and always will. But I am now looking inside myself. Searching. Searching for what I have lost."

Hitomi and Takuro Shibata are Japanese born potters who have established themselves in Seagrove, NC, where they built a Japanese style Anagama wood kiln. "Our focus is to make simple and functional pottery by using local wild clay and wood firing techniques. When we started our pottery studio in Shigaraki, Japan, we called it "Touya" - "Pottery House" in Japanese.

Hitomi established her skill and knowledge as a professional potter in Shigaraki, one of the oldest Japanese pottery towns. In 2001 she received a scholarship by Rotary International to come to USA to learn American ceramics, and she ended up settling in Seagrove, NC. "My works are made from natural clays and it's really important for me to use materials from nature. Wood firing is also an important process to complete my works and it gives a sustainable energy and life into my works. I want to make beautiful pots from natural materials and elements, and hope people will love, hold, and use them functionally in daily life."

Takuro Shibata holds a degree in engineering and applied chemistry as well as an apprenticeship at local pottery studio in Shigaraki, Japan. In 2005, Takuro became the director of STARworks Ceramics center near Seagrove, NC. Takuro has a national reputation as a studio potter and as a wild clay specialist.

The Spruce Pine Potters Market encourages visitors to the market to join them in their annual support of two local non-profits with the purchase of raffle tickets. The work by potters Suze Lindsay, Lisa Joerling, Shane Mickey and Joy Tanner will be raffled for funds to be distributed in support of current food shortages to Shepherd's Staff and Neighbors Feeding Neighbors.

For more info visit (www.SprucePinePottersMarket.com), call 828/733-5755 or e-mail to (info@sprucepinepottersmarket.com).

Discover the Seagrove Potteries

Seagrove is a Community of Working Potters
& home to the North Carolina Pottery Center

You're invited....

to visit the Seagrove potters at their workshops & studios nestled in the countryside.

Experience a diversity of pottery from contemporary, one-of-a-kind art pottery, to traditional utilitarian forms, & folk art

It's an Adventure....

Pick up a free colored map at any of the pottery shops

Seagrove is located in the Center of North Carolina
40 miles south of Greensboro on Hwy. 220 (future I-73, I-74)

www.discoverseagrove.com

NC Pottery Center in Seagrove, NC, Offers Online Gala & Benefit Auction

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we are taking our 2020 Gala & Benefit Auction ONLINE this year! We are emphasizing the importance of "Working Together" in challenging times and circumstances. Multiple pairings of NC potters have collaborated (safely) to create wonderful pieces for this event. Our online event will give you a closer look, through images, video, and music, at these artists, their work, and why they believe supporting the pottery center is important.

The Online Auction & Raffle will take place on Oct. 18-25, 2020. The Online Streaming Event takes place on Sat., Oct. 24 from 7-8pm. There is a \$10 Registration Fee to participate.

Pottery is the "Art of the State." North Carolinians have long been enchanted by our potters who are able to transform lumps of clay into objects of startling beauty. That beauty and the stories behind it, old and new, are showcased by the nonprofit North Carolina Pottery Center in Seagrove, NC.

We all love our venerable folk pottery tradition. Today, contemporary studio artists build on this strong foundation to bring brilliant new clay expressions to light. The Pottery Center reveals the ever-changing tradition of pottery making in our state, changes which reflect the shifting culture of our state and world. We tell a story that builds the future from our mighty past. Join us and be part of the story.



Work by Mark Hewitt and Bruce Gholson & Samantha Henneke

Be proud of the clay beneath your feet. Be touched by something real. And be delighted by North Carolina's world-class clay culture. Potters place tangible beauty in your hands and decorate your homes. Find out where that beauty comes from. Help support our distinctive, superlative pottery heritage.

Collaborative Works (Online Silent Auction). We anticipate having around twenty collaborative pieces in our online silent auction. Check out the collaborative pairings



Work by Anne Pärtna & Erin Young

below:

Ben Owen III and Cynthia Bringle

Mark Hewitt and Bruce Gholson & Samantha Henneke

Donna Craven and Chad Brown

Fred Johnston and Takuro Shibata

David Stuempfle and Hitomi Shibata

Matt Jones and Michael Gates

Kate Waltman and David Fernandez

Joseph Sand and Brenda Hornsby Heindel

Sid Luck, Matt Luck & Jason Luck and Stacy Lambert

Ronan Kyle Peterson and Teresa Pietsch

Michael Mahan and Matthew Kelly

Ken Sedberry and Galen Sedberry

Pam Owens and Stephanie Martin

Eck McCannless and Jinsong Kim

Anne Pärtna and Erin Young

Jennie Keatts and Carol Gentithes

Ron Philbeck and Amy Sanders

Vicky Smith and Deborah Caliva

Mark Arnold and John Peel

and more...

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, call the Center at 336/873-8430 or visit (www.ncpotterycenter.org).

You can contact us by calling 843/693-1306 or by e-mail at - info@carolinaarts.com but do it before the 24th of the month prior to our next issue.