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diverse and inclusive collection. *Cultivating Collections: Glass* showcases the curatorial efforts of nine students who participated in the 2022 Exhibition Practicum class.

*Cultivating Collections: Glass* highlights a range of artists who have connections to the history of glass in Western North Carolina. Many made significant contributions to the Studio Glass Movement and are teachers, mentors, and innovators who have inspired other artists to work in glass. One notable example is Fritz Dreisbach, who helped build an early glass furnace on the Western Carolina University campus in 1972. Three examples of Dreisbach's work are on view in the exhibition, including an example of sculptural blown glass from c.1970, a mold-blown mug from 1976 created from an aluminum waffle iron, and a more recent "trick cup" that contains a surprising drinking mechanism. Other exhibiting glass artists include William Bernstein, Shane Fero, Jack King, Robert Levin, Harvey Littleton, Dona McKinney West, David Nichols, Roger Parramore,



Richard Ritter, "Western Carolina Glass Apple", 2010, solid hand blown and handworked glass murrinis and latticino, 4 x 4 x 4 inches, Gift of the Artist.

Richard Ritter, Tadashi Torii, Jan Williams, and others.

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, call the Museum at 828/227-ARTS or visit ([arts.wcu.edu/cc-glass](http://arts.wcu.edu/cc-glass)).

## Tryon Fine Arts Center in Tryon, NC, Features Works by Monica Stevenson

Tryon Fine Arts Center in Tryon, NC, is presenting *The Animals of RedBell Run: Flora & Fauna*, featuring works by Monica Stevenson, on view through Oct. 29, 2022.

Passion begets passion, beauty begets beauty.....this is thought that is in professional photographer Monica Stevenson's mind every moment she spends at Red Bell Run. The photographs for this exhibition are inspired by Mary Adams, the owner of Red Bell Run, affection for and dedication to the animals and plants that thrive at her equine sanctuary.

As with much of Stevenson's work, she leans heavily on her own collaborative spirit and the generous nature of her artistic partners - Preston Wainwright, floral designer, Thomas Ignatius and Sean Smith, both illustrative designers, to support some of the exhibit's featured works. The resulting pictures included in this show, photographed with a large format digital camera and hand printed, display an abundance of beautiful details - flowers, leaves, illustrations, textures, colors, dogs, cats, horses, donkeys, expressions, shapes, movement, fur, teeth, limbs--all the things that make up the natural world that is Red Bell Run.

Since its inception, Tryon Fine Arts Center has been the creative driving force for performances, exhibits, arts education, and community partnerships in the Foothills.

On Feb. 12, 1969, TFAC first opened to the public with a performance of "The Madwoman of Chaillot" from Tryon Little



Work by Monica Stevenson

Theater. TFAC was originally founded as a home for the many active arts organizations in the Foothills.

While these organizations have matured and found homes of their own, TFAC has grown into a thriving arts center in its own right, engaging the community with dozens of performing and visual arts events each year.

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, call the Center at 828/859-8322 or visit ([www.tryonarts.org](http://www.tryonarts.org)).

## Annual Spruce Pine Potters Market Takes Place in Spruce Pine, NC - Oct. 8 & 9, 2022

The 16th Annual Spruce Pine Potters Market returns to Spruce Pine, NC, on Sat. and Sun., Oct. 8 and 9, 2022, from 10am-5pm, at the Historic Cross Street Commerce Center, at 31 Cross Street, Spruce Pine, NC.

After two years of being online, the Spruce Pine Potters Market will return to its location at the historic Cross Street Commerce Center.

This annual event showcases 27 artists from Mitchell and Yancey counties who have established studios and made this area home. The ceramic work seen in this show represents a wide range of aesthetic and stylistic interpretations, ranging from functional to sculptural pieces, allowing many choices for the attendees.

Returning potters include: Stan Anderson, Will Baker, Pam Brewer, Cynthia Bringle, Naomi Dalglish, Susan Feagin, Terry Gess, Michael Hunt, Lisa Joerling, Nick Joerling, Michael Kline, Suze Lindsay, Shauna Lyons, Courtney Martin, Linda McFarling, Shane Mickey, Teresa Pietsch, David Ross, Ruth Rutkowski, Michael



Work by Terry Gess

Rutkowski, Valerie Schnauffer, Galen Sedberry, Ken Sedberry, and Gay Smith. We are also pleased to announce the addition of three new members: Rickie Barnett, Jason

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Hartsoe and Lynn Hobaica.

For further information check our

NC Commercial Gallery listings or visit ([www.SprucePinePottersMarket.com](http://www.SprucePinePottersMarket.com)).

## American Craft Week in Seagrove NC, Pottery Capital of the USA - Oct. 1 - 10, 2022

Seagrove is certainly American. North Carolina is one of the original 13 colonies of the US. Seagrove is located near the geographical center of the state, roughly equidistant from the mountains and the sea, conveniently between Queen City Charlotte and the Raleigh Triangle.

Webster defines craft as an occupation requiring skillful use of the hands, Seagrove potters certainly fit that bill. Webster also lists art as a synonym for craft. Art vs. Craft is an age-old debate. A debate we'll leave for the art critics and scholars to continue. We call Seagrove pottery both.

So we certainly fit the bill to continue to celebrate American Craft Week this year, Oct. 1 - 9, 2022.

Seagrove has been celebrating American Craft Week since Sherry Masters, co-chair of the event approached SAPA (Seagrove Area Potters Association) Marketing Chair Jennie Lorette Keatts in 2010 about collaborating. Currently Masters had this to say about the event, "In 2010 we were coming out of the '08 recession, and craft retailers, from small to large, were dealing with low budgets for advertising - and some were even shuttering their business. But then an idea started forming to plan a national week-long celebration, during which any artist, gallery, studio, craft organization, etc. could band together, have an event, and 'join the celebration'. From that beginning, and from Washington state to Florida, from California to Maine, small events to large through American Craft Week the nation came together to highlight the handmade."



Work by Ben Owen III

"Since the beginning of American Craft Week, North Carolina was a leader with strong participation," continues Masters. "Galleries and artists planned events from the coast to the mountains. The Seagrove community unified the east and the west in the center of the state with open studio events each year. We all know North Carolina has an amazing craft community and American Craft Week brought attention to much that we have to offer!"

American Craft Week is a volunteer managed program of CRAFT (Craft Retailers and Artists for Tomorrow) a trade association dedicated to the growth and vitality of the craft industry. The following was taken from the 2017 press release from American Craft Week: "For the past month, craft lovers have been logging on to the American Craft Week website to choose their favorite place to enjoy a vibrant craft scene. With more than 17,000 votes tallied, the contest closed on Apr. 16 at midnight. The top vote getter in the nationwide poll turned out to be Seagrove, NC. The small town (population 228) is considered the 'Handmade Pottery Capital of the United States'. Seagrove garnered just over 33% of all the votes cast."

"Congratulations to Seagrove," said American Craft Week co-chair, Diane Sulg. "The potters there did a tremendous job publicizing the contest and urging folks to vote for them. Even more impressive, the town was not on the initial ballot, but after an early number of write-in votes, they were added to the ballot and their tally just kept growing." In all, ten US places were named as the Top Ten Towns for Craft Lovers. Here is the complete list of winners:

1. Seagrove, NC
2. Gatlinburg, TN
3. Berea, KY
4. Cumberland Valley, PA
5. Asheville, NC



Work by Chad Brown

6. Brattleboro, VT
7. Blue Ridge, GA
8. Bedford, VA
9. Door County, WI
10. Gloucester, MA

"We congratulate all the winners and hope they use their designation to attract more visitors. Cultural tourism is on the rise across the country as people seek out interesting, creative destinations," said Sulg."

While the American Craft Week organization has taken a break to re-evaluate and refresh, the Seagrove Area Potters Association has continued the tradition of celebrating the first two weekends in October as American Craft Week.

Coming out of the pandemic of the past two years has been extremely challenging for small business craftspeople across the country and the Seagrove Community is no exception. Individual pottery shops depend on in-store purchases to remain in the black and while many have transitioned to on-line sales, others are not as well equipped to take on the technological and logistical challenges of that method. But the potters of Seagrove are an adaptable lot continuing to evolve yet maintain the unbroken tradition of pottery in the area.

Honestly, Seagrove has been Celebrating American Craft long before that. Designated in 2005 as the "State Birthplace of North Carolina Traditional Pottery," Seagrove owes its deep ceramics roots, in part, to geology. There is no doubt that Native Americans were the first potters in the region followed by the Moravians. Those groups of potters worked almost exclusively with earthenware - a low fire temperature type of clay. In Randolph County, early stoneware (a more durable clay body, fired to a higher temperature than earthenware) was first mass produced by hand during the initial quarter of the 19th century and production expanded rapidly during the second quarter of the nineteenth century.

Documentation is sparse but tax records show J.D. Craven trained Manly W. Owen, W. H. Hancock, William H. Chrisco, John Wesely Teague, Bryant Owens, William Henry Luck, and many neighboring men to turn. While these farmer / potters were skilled in making functional items for sale and home, pure function did not necessitate the artfulness and pride they employed in the repetition of strong form and design, familial traits of characteristic tapered handles and smooth spouts and decorative embellishments made with coggle wheels or incised designs brushed with costly cobalt.

Potter's marks (stamps) and signature further evidence the artistry of the time. In addition to being superb craftsmen, Seagrove potters exhibited strong marketing skills. Such talent is displayed in the straight sided whiskey jugs produced in the area, straight sided as opposed to a bulbous form, as a larger quantity of straight sided

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