



Asheville offers architectural charm, eclectic restaurants and a wide variety of lodging. As an organization, the Guild has been serving artists in this area since 1930.

“Creating a world in which craft and other native talents can flourish – this is the Guild’s legacy. The craftspeople of Southern Appalachia are always aware of tradition and forever renewing themselves from the old sources of nature, family, spiritual life and the desire to share one’s gifts with others,” said Jan Davidson, former director of John C. Campbell Folk School, an educational center of the Southern Highland Craft Guild.

The Southern Highland Craft Guild is a non-profit, educational organization established in 1930 to bring together the crafts and craftspeople of the Southern High-



Fair visitors at an artist’s booth

lands for the benefit of shared resources, education, marketing and conservation. The Craft Fairs are one of the ways in which the Guild fulfills its mission.

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, call the Guild at 828/298-7928 or visit (www.craftguild.org).

Southern Highland Craft Guild in Asheville Offers Works by Members

The Southern Highland Craft Guild in Asheville, NC, is presenting *Finding Balance*, featuring works by Barbara Jones, Elaine Dohms, Denece Harrell, Thomas Irven, and Janice MacDonald, on view in the Folk Art Center’s Focus Gallery, through Nov. 13, 2023.

This exhibition features the work of five Guild members: Barbara Jones and Elaine Dohms in fiber, Denece Harrell in clay, Thomas Irven in wood, and Janice MacDonald in mixed media.

With a professional background in illustration, graphic design, quilt design, long-arm quilting, and a love for mixed media art, Barbara Jones manipulates natural and synthetic fabrics, threads, yarns, and ribbons creating intricate colorful designs. “I work in an improvisational style; I don’t have a blueprint or a set of tried-and-true instructions to create one of my pieces.”

“There is no Step 1, Step 2, Step 3 - it’s more like the fiber and I take a journey together. The fiber may pull me one way or I may nudge it in a different direction; sometimes we have a destination in mind, or sometimes we just wander, roaming and rambling until we realize we’ve arrived. I’m always thrilled by this process of discovery and refinement, and I hope the result intrigues and involves the viewer,” states Jones.

Another style of framed fiber in the exhibit is by artist Elaine Dohms, who uses a needle to merge layers of assorted wools, tussah, and margilan silk, creating landscapes full of textures and colors.



Work by Denece Harrell

Her pieces reflect the scenes around her of mountains and trees, framed in burl and natural edge wood such as walnut and ambrosia maple.

Visitors may recognize the work of 2022 Craft Fair of the Southern Highlands featured artist, Denece Harrell, who manipulates layers of porcelain into organic asymmetrical sculptures with gold leaf interiors. Her white and gold pieces captivate viewers, inviting one to reflect on life’s experiences.

When asked about her process Harrell states, “Questioning, searching, and wrestling with ideas of purpose, identity, and worth drive my creative process. Experiences layer, fusing the unexpected and predictable, the uncontrolled and intentional. The juxtapositions that create the story of our

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lives are reflected in my sculptural porcelain vessels. I am learning to see and to treasure life, shaped by beauty in the hands of love.”

Possibly Thomas Irven’s most recognizable pieces are wooden acorn sculptures and boxes made in various sizes, shapes, colors, and from different types of trees, but this nationally recognized artist makes a variety of wooden sculptures, lamps, and furniture.

Irven is an award-winning artist who has produced custom furniture in his Bellaire, TX, studio since 1987 before moving to Waynesville, NC. With an earned BS in Business and an MS in Occupational Education, Irven has taught woodworking and drafting in public schools and in private institutions. Irven apprenticed under an English master craftsman and has conducted seminars in which he has taught woodworking, woodturning, and design.

The mixed metal sculptures on display are made of scraps of fabric, mica chips, wire, aluminum, recycled materials, cast bronze, complete with metallic, epoxy, and acrylic glazes and show a range of work by Janice MacDonald. Working in mixed media materials for over a decade, MacDonald states, “The goal is to show that ordinary can become extraordinary with little cost, no experience and few tools by anyone with an idea and a need to express themselves by igniting the create spirit.”

The Southern Highland Craft Guild



Work by Janice MacDonald

is a non-profit, educational organization established in 1930 to cultivate the crafts and makers of the Southern Highlands for the purpose of shared resources, education, marketing and conservation. The Southern Highland Craft Guild is an authorized concessioner of the National Park Service, Department of the Interior.

The Folk Art Center is located at Milepost 382 of the Blue Ridge Parkway, just north of the Highway 70 entrance in east Asheville, NC.

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, call the Guild at 828/298-7928 or visit (www.southernhighlandguild.org).

Mark Bettis Gallery in Asheville, NC, Offers Works by Deb Williams

Mark Bettis Gallery in Asheville, NC, will present *Anomalies*, featuring new glass and mixed media work by local glass artist Deb Williams, from Oct. 13 - 21, 2023. A fall and carnival themed reception will be held on Oct. 13, from 5:30-7:30pm. The public and guests are encouraged to wear costumes for Halloween and Circus themed festivities.

Williams’ exhibit is the second solo show at the Mark Bettis Gallery. This current show is a slight departure from Williams’ all glass artwork into the world of glass and mixed media. The work in *Anomalies* will focus on the weird, quirky and unusual. Both animals and plants will be highlighted. Williams is known for her extraordinary and unusual glasswork and her new pieces will not disappoint!

Williams has been an artist working in glass for nearly 20 years, focusing mainly on cast glass. Her new work features sculpting and metal work in addition to glass.



Work by Deb Williams

The gallery features distinctive and unique works of art in a variety of mediums including contemporary paintings, glass and sculptural work, as well as a variety of rotating exhibitions by local and nationally acclaimed artists.

Mark Bettis Gallery is located in the River Arts District on Roberts Street, Asheville, NC 28801.

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