

# The Folk Art Center in Asheville, NC, Offers Exhibition Focused on Education Center Members

The Folk Art Center in Asheville, NC, in conjunction with the Southern Highland Craft Guild, is presenting *A Legacy of Makers and Mentors*, featuring works by students to alumni of University of North Georgia, on view in the Center's Main Gallery, through Feb. 12, 2017.

Showcasing over 40 pieces of work from its Education Center member University of North Georgia, the exhibit ranges in experience and talent. The makers are from different sectors in their careers and with the university; students, professors, and alumni will have their work on display. Though the university has been an active member of the Southern Highland Craft Guild since 1977, this is its second collaborative effort for marketing and education in the main gallery. The previous exhibit was over seven years ago.

Advocating for high quality craftsmanship is a constant goal for the 86-year-old organization. Though the majority of membership is comprised of individuals, there are other levels that makers can apply for. For larger institutions, like the University of North Georgia, the opportunity for Education Center level membership was ideal. Every three years these centers undergo a review from the Guild's Education Committee to ensure that quality and standards are upheld to the other creative visionaries in the organization.

"Having these educational organizations as members of our community is significant in the trajectory of craft's growth," says librarian and archivist Deb Schillo. "Places like The Village Potters and Silver River Chair Caning Center are among the few who are very much focused on preserving the skills and traditions of specific techniques in one's medium."

Of the 42 exhibitors, one is also an individual member of the Southern Highland Craft Guild. Tommye Scanlin joined into the organization in 1979 under the fiber media, and granted Lifetime membership of the Guild in 2009. "I began teaching in the Fine Arts Department at UNG in 1972," says Scanlin. "In the next year, the department sponsored spinning, dyeing and weaving workshops, taught by Mary Frances Davidson and Elizabeth Edens, both highly regarded Guild members."

The University of North Georgia and the Southern Highland Craft Guild have a several decades-long connection through two former faculty members, the late Bob Owens and Scanlin, Professor Emerita. The contacts between UNG with the Guild continued in the 1970s when Owens arranged for an exhibition of Guild members' work at the school's art gallery. "That's where I fell in love with weaving. Both Bob's enthusiasm for the Guild and those fabulous woven objects in the exhibit gave me the incentive to strive for Guild



Work by Ivan Ivanoff

membership in weaving, and I became a member in 1979."

In addition to University of North Georgia, the Southern Highland Craft Guild has eight other Education Center members: Arrowmont School of Crafts, Penland School of Crafts, Haywood Community College's Creative Arts Program, Country Workshops, The Village Potters, Silver River Chair Caning Center, Odyssey Center for Ceramic Arts, and Tryon Arts & Crafts Center. There are other well-known educational institutions in the Guild's region, though their membership is a Production Center as their focus is about the marketing efforts as opposed to educational opportunities.

With their headquarters in the Blue Ridge Parkway's Folk Art Center, the Guild offers visitors a variety of experiences with the craft form, from their oldest store, Allstand Gift Shop, to two galleries, an interior design space, a library and archives, and their Permanent Collection Gallery. The main gallery is upstairs in the Folk Art Center and is open year-round with free admittance.

The Southern Highland Craft Guild is a non-profit, educational organization established in 1930 to bring together the crafts and craftspeople of the Southern Highlands for the benefit 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 Department of Visual Arts (DoVA) at the University of North Georgia is a multi-campus, student-focused department that fosters quality education, service, inquiry, and creativity. DoVA provides an environment of academic excellence, cultivated by faculty role models, through high professional standards of scholarship, craftsmanship, and leadership. As an innovative community, the department promotes global and contemporary practices while honoring the rich cultural and artistic heritage of the region.

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

# The Folk Art Center in Asheville, NC, Offers Annual Holiday Maker Market by Guild Members - Dec. 3 & 10, 2016

The opportunity to purchase handmade for the holidays has returned to the Folk Art Center in Asheville, NC, with shopping deals for all customers. Each year makers of the Southern Highland Craft Guild liquidate overstocks and annual inventory at the Guild Artists' Holiday Sale. Occurring two Saturdays on Dec., 3 and 10, 2016, members will be on hand in the center's auditorium selling select work 10-50% off retail from 10am to 4pm. A separate group of makers will be exhibiting on the 3rd from the makers who will be there on the 10th. This allows a range in goods and designs for the public to shop from the Guild's large.

The sale provides artisans a market in which they can cycle out remaining 2016 product to begin the new year with a fresh start. This allows many creatives to try out

new techniques, and begin their annual production process. For the customer, the sale means great deals for holiday shopping and a chance to connect with the makers. It also provides an exciting, festive alternative to mall and big box import shopping. Choose from a variety of gift items including ceramics, jewelry, fiber, paper, glass and wood. Buying from makers supports the local economy and promotes the mission of the Guild which is bringing together the crafts and craftspeople of the Southern Highlands for the benefit of shared resources, education, marketing and conservation.

Nearly 70 members will be participating over the course of the two sales, with a different group each weekend – so plan on coming to both for best selection! A com-

*continued above on next column to the right*



THERE'S A FINE LINE BETWEEN PRICELESS AND WORTHLESS.



Artist Diane Falkenhagen's Texas studio — destroyed by flooding during Hurricane Ike, 2008

What would you do if you lost your work, your tools, your images, and a lot more to a flood? Metalsmith Diane Falkenhagen knows what five feet of contaminated saltwater can do to a jewelry studio. CERF+ can help you learn how to protect your career from crossing that fine line.



[CraftEmergency.org](http://CraftEmergency.org) + [StudioProtector.org](http://StudioProtector.org)

plete list of exhibitors is now available at ([www.craftguild.org/holiday-sales](http://www.craftguild.org/holiday-sales)).

Visitors will also want to shop at Allstand Craft Shop, the nation's oldest craft gallery, where they will find premier gifts for everyone on their list, and a variety of handmade holiday decorations from Christmas tree ornaments to wreaths and

table arrangements.

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

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

# Gallery of the Mountains in Asheville, NC, Offers Works by Amolia Willowsong

Gallery of the Mountains in Asheville, NC, will host an *Artisan-Made Jewelry Trunk Show*, featuring works by Asheville artist Amolia Willowsong, on Dec. 16, from 11am-5pm.

This exclusive trunk show will feature Willowsong's new "Desert Magic" collection, inspired by her fond memories of the varied and exciting landscapes of Santa Fe, as well as some glistening pieces for the holiday season.

Willowsong creates distinctive and elegant wearable art including one-of-a-kind neckpieces, bracelets and earrings. Her work is characterized by colorful and graceful sculptured beadwork interwoven with natural semi-precious stones. Her pieces feature gold seed beads with Peruvian opals, turquoise, amethyst, lapis, jade, and always a piece of polished abalone or pearls to bring a reflective brilliance to each piece.

Willowsong is a member of the Southern Highland Craft Guild. Her beadweaving can be seen in *Masters: Beadweaving* published by Lark Books.

Gallery of the Mountains features over 100 local and regional artists of the Southern Appalachians. The gallery is located inside The Omni Grove Park Inn (Sam-



Works by Amolia Willowsong

mons Wing Promenade - lobby level).

For further information check our NC Commercial Gallery listings, call the gallery at 828/254-2068 or e-mail to ([sales@galleryofthemountains.com](mailto:sales@galleryofthemountains.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 Dec. 24th for the January 2017 issue and Jan. 24 for the February 2017 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)).