

# Mitchell & Yancey Counties

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Bring a jacket, there'll be a nip in the air, but the studios will be warm, the artists inviting, and the work something you'll remember for a long time or until next time.

The Toe River Arts Council is a not-for-profit organization. For the past 40

years, their programs and events have been dedicated to connecting the community with the arts.

For more information about TRAC or the Studio Tour, please visit the website at ([www.toeriverarts.org](http://www.toeriverarts.org)), or call 828/682-7215 or 828/765-0520.

## Black Mountain Center for the Arts in Black Mountain, NC, Offers Annual Clay Studio Exhibit & Pottery Market

The Black Mountain Center for the Arts in Black Mountain, NC, makes its contribution to Holly Jolly starting at 5pm on Dec. 2, 2016, by celebrating with a Clay Studio Exhibit and Pottery Market. The Clay Studio Exhibit in the Upper Gallery will feature the best of BMCA Clay Studio teachers Charles Freeland, Mathilda Tanner and Geoff Bird alongside the excellent work of their students. More than 20 talented resident potters will have work in this yearly exhibition, on display until Feb. 14, 2017.

"This year many students have displayed 'Clay bravery,'" says Charles Freeland, clay studio manager and instructor. "Some of our first time students have taken creative approaches to scale. These potters are not daunted by the processes. They allow themselves the freedom to explore without fear." Freeland says this means creating vessels rather than vases, or large cylindrical forms instead of cups and mugs. "I'm excited by this year's outcomes," he says. "The work in the gallery in tandem with the pottery market will offer visitors an exceptional experience in clay that hopefully will encourage more to participate at the Clay Studio."

On the other side of the hall a dozen potters sell their wares at affordable prices in a festive setting befitting Holly Jolly kick off night. The range of work available includes a wide selection of plates, bowls, cups, mugs, vases, jewelry, ornaments, salt and pepper shakers and wall decorations that make perfect gifts.

Pottery student Carrie Maresh was very successful at last year's pottery market. "Most of the potters price their work fairly and the variety is great," she says. This year she will have 30-40 cups, mugs, bowls, and her signature egg plates. "I've started selling in a few other places like Mountain Nest and Fall by the Tracks, but I love the Holly Jolly Pottery Market



Work by Charles Freeland

because at some point you see everyone in town."

The Clay Studio is adjacent to BMCA in the renovated old City Garage and is accessible off the back parking lot. The Studio offers classes to all skill levels, is open seven days a week and has ample open studio time for students to perfect their work and experiment with new techniques and glazes. A class is an excellent holiday gift for someone who wants to experience clay for the first time or rekindle their passion for pottery. Gift certificates are available for this worthy endeavor. An Independent Study option is available for experienced potters who need studio time surrounded by a friendly, vibrant local clay community happy to grow and learn.

The Black Mountain Center for the Arts is located on W. State Street.

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, call the Center at 828/669-0930 or visit ([www.BlackMountainArts.org](http://www.BlackMountainArts.org)).

## Caldwell Arts Council in Lenoir, NC, Presents Annual Holiday Sale

Everyone is invited to attend the Grand Opening of the annual Satie's Holiday Sale at the Caldwell Arts Council, in Lenoir, NC, on Friday Dec. 2, 2016, open 9am-7pm with refreshments served by the Caldwell Women's Club beginning at 5pm, and live music featuring Trevor and Bailey Woods.

The Satie's Holiday Sale will continue through Dec. 24, with the Caldwell Arts Council open Mon.-Thur., 9am-6pm, Fri., 9am-7pm and Sat., 10am-3pm.

New this year are the Snowflake Socials and Gallery Crawls each Friday in Dec., with downtown art & craft galler-

ies (Caldwell Arts Council, Charles Babb Designs, Chix With Stix, Frye Art Studio/Folk Keeper Gallery, My Happy Place Gallery, Sevenfold and the City of Lenoir Pottery Studio) and other stores open til 7pm! Enjoy the children's decorated trees and holiday music while shopping for locally handcrafted gifts.

Give local, original, handmade art for the holidays.

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, call the Council at 828/754-2486 or visit ([www.caldwellarts.com](http://www.caldwellarts.com)).

## Western Carolina University in Cullowhee, NC, Offers Contemporary Ceramic Exhibit

Western Carolina University in Cullowhee, NC, is presenting *Contemporary Clay, a Survey of Contemporary American Ceramics*, featuring works by 25 ceramic artists, on view at the University's Fine Art Museum, through Dec. 16, 2016.

Curated by Heather Mae Erickson, WCU assistant professor of art, the exhibition examines the expanding and evolving use of clay through the work of artists,

such as Cristina Cordova and Thomas Schmidt, both recipients of a North Carolina Artists Fellowship in visual arts. During its run at the museum, located in the John W. Bardo Fine and Performing Arts Center, the exhibition will show the diversity of the medium, from expressive sculpture to functioning objects, she said.

"I am excited to host such a stellar

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## Turtle Island Pottery

Handmade pottery by Maggie & Freeman Jones



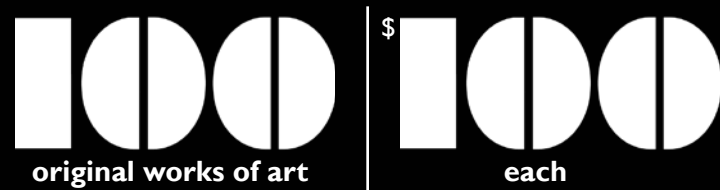
**Holiday Sales,  
Mention this ad for 15% off!**

**Old Fort Showroom Open Most Saturdays**

Please call 828-337-0992 for an appointment any other day.  
Map to showroom @ 2782 Bat Cave Road • Old Fort, NC 28762  
[www.turtleislandpottery.com](http://www.turtleislandpottery.com)



Art  
A Unique Event



**December 10, 2016**

Gallery opens for previewing 5 pm • Sales begin 6 pm  
Closing reception December 17, 5 -7:30 pm

upstairs  
[artspace]

Details at [upstairsartspace.org](http://upstairsartspace.org) or 828.859.2828  
49 South Trade St. • Tryon NC • [upstairsartspace.org](http://upstairsartspace.org)

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