

Southern Highland Craft Guild in Asheville, NC, Features Exhibit of Women Ceramic Sculptors

The Southern Highland Craft Guild in Asheville, NC, is presenting *Dynamic Narratives*, an exhibition highlighting the work of Women Ceramic Sculptors, twelve artists who address important issues of society, using clay to express their point of view, individually and collectively, on view in The Folk Art Center's Main Gallery, through Apr. 19, 2015.

Cindy Billingsley of Cookeville, TN, is a member of the Southern Highland Craft Guild and was instrumental in forming Women Ceramic Sculptors and curating *Dynamic Narratives*. She says, "Clay is the only medium that uses every element: fire, water, air and earth. It is meant to be touched by the heart, the eyes, and the hands." Citing William Faulkner as inspiration, the group believes that "the aim of every artist is to arrest motion, which is life, by artificial means and hold it fixed so that a hundred years later, when a stranger looks at it, it moves again, since it is life."

Other Southern Highland Craft Guild members represented in the show are Nancy Kubale of Rutherfordton, NC, and Marilee Hall of Cookeville, TN. They are joined by nine additional American artists. Some of the themes represented in the exhibition are Alzheimer's disease, endangered animals, relationships, confines of life, victimization, and hope. Prior to its installation at The Folk Art Center, *Dynamic Narratives* was on display at the National Association of Women Artists Gallery in New York City, and at the Tennessee Art League in Nashville, TN.

The Folk Art Center is located at Milepost 382 on the Blue Ridge Parkway



Work by Cindy Billingsley Silence

in east Asheville. It is the headquarters for the Southern Highland Craft Guild, an educational non-profit organization founded in 1930. The Guild's mission is "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.

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

UNC Asheville Offers Annual Exhibit of Contemporary Drawing

UNC Asheville in Asheville, NC, is presenting *Drawing Discourse*, its 6th annual international juried exhibition of contemporary drawing, juried by Val Britton, on view in the S. Tucker Cooke Gallery, through Mar. 1, 2015.

Val Britton is a nationally and internationally exhibited artist based in San Francisco, whose mixed media works incorporate "the language of maps" through collage, drawing, painting, staining, printing, stitching and cutting paper. In 2012 Britton was commissioned by the San Francisco Arts Commission to create a permanent piece for the San Francisco International Airport.

Britton selected 47 works for this exhibit from among more than 1,100 entries submitted by 379 artists from six different countries, including "Calendar," a work in bleach and graphite on found fabric by UNC Asheville alumna Erin Canady.

In addition to Canady, the artists represented are: Tedd Anderson, Chad Andrews, Richard Barlow, Michael Baum, Katie Bocian, Deborah Bryan, Paul Collins, Nicole Davenport, Sondra Dorn, Ron Fondaw,



Work by Erin Canady

Marina Fridman, Patrick Gabler, Mateo Galvano, Carl Gombert, Robert Green, Jean Hess, Sarah Heyward, Farrar Hood, Nancy Ivanhoe, Jenifer Kent, Bryce Lafferty, Lindsey Landfried, Jill Lavetsky, Jung Ji Lee, Corwin Levi, Jenna Lynch, Meghan Olson, Aurora Pope, Gail Postal, Jessica Rogers, Amy Sacksteder, Patricia Schappler, Suzanne Schireson, Emily Sheehan, Randy Simmons, Rhonda Smith, Tanja Softic, Patricia Sonnino, Eric Sweet, Jill Taffet, Kathleen Thum and Margi Weir.

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, call the gallery at 828/251-6559 or visit (art.unca.edu).

Asheville Gallery of Art in Asheville, NC, Features Works by Jane Molinelli, Juditta Musette, and Elise Okrend

The Asheville Gallery of Art in Asheville, NC, will present *Who's New?*, featuring the work of three new artists, Jane Molinelli, Juditta Musette, and Elise Okrend, on view from Feb. 1 - 28, 2015. A reception will be held on Feb. 6, from 5-8pm.

The diverse styles represented by the artists, from expressive to abstract to realistic, highlight the range of work found at AGA, Asheville's longest established downtown gallery.

Jane Molinelli prefers to use the term contemporary painter to describe herself rather than using the description of abstract artist. "In reality, my work is rarely an abstraction of anything. I use color, line,

and mark to convey an emotion, memory, or experience. In this way, I believe I can best communicate to the viewer using the universal visual language we all share." She works primarily in acrylics and oil, incorporating other media in her paintings, such as pastels and graphite. Molinelli began her work in art as a fiber artist in New York City, having studied fabric design at the Fashion Institute.

Juditta Musette, painter and musician, holds the heartfelt desire that each piece of art she creates is skillfully crafted while being infused with whimsy, irresistible insight, and delight. In describing her process she says, "My visions come from within my

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mind's eye. I am motivated to capture light and energy through textures and colors, while engaging with the mysteries of shadow feelings." Musette feels it is through pure spontaneity and gut feelings that she is able to bring the inanimate to life. She has a film & video degree from the Rhode Island School of Design with a minor in Theatre from Brown.

Elise Okrend, pastel artist, finds inspiration in her observations of the natural world. Okrend says of her work, "My attention is given to a strong sense of light and an intense richness of color. My intent is to connect the viewer to a sense of healing and inner peace." Okrend loves using pastels because she feels, "they create a direct connection from my body to the paper." She

starts each piece by blocking and building layers of color in the dark areas and working toward the lightest tones and highlights. Okrend has a background in commercial art and design. She worked for many years developing a nationally known greeting card company, MixedBlessing, before returning to her first love of painting.

Their work and that of the other 25 gallery members will be on display and for sale through the month during regular winter hours, Tue.-Sat., 10am to 5pm. The gallery is located on College Street in downtown Asheville, across from Pritchard Park.

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, call the gallery at 828/251-5796 or visit (www.ashevillegallery-of-art.com).

Asheville Art Museum Celebrates Human Faces and Forms in Exhibit

The Asheville Art Museum in Asheville, NC, will present *Go Figure: Faces and Forms*, an exhibition that brings together a selection of paintings, photographs, prints, drawings and contemporary craft that celebrate the human figure, on view from Feb. 14 through Apr. 12, 2015.

Drawn from the Museum's world-class Permanent Collection, the faces and figures in this exhibition span decades and artistic styles. Families will appreciate the show's spirit of play with its inclusion of puppet figures and images of children, while artists and visitors of all ages will be delighted and inspired by the range of expression given to the human form in the 20th and 21st centuries.

Since humankind first recorded ochre handprints in ancient caves, the human form has been an inspiration to artists. Whether represented in a painterly, abstract or realist manner, artists have used the human figure to explore movement, emotion, identity and human connection, among many other themes. This exhibition gives visitors the chance to contemplate the human form from a wide variety of perspectives.

Founded by artists in 1948 in Asheville, NC, the Asheville Art Museum annually



Jody Mussoff, "Horn", 1989, color pencil drawing, 53.5 x 38.5 inches. Asheville Art Museum Collection. Gift of the Artist. 2008.27.27

presents an exciting, inviting and active schedule of exhibitions and public programs based on its permanent collection of 20th

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