

Carolina Creations in New Bern

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canvas to paint with oils.

Richmond's lifelong interest lies with animals. As a child she got an animal encyclopedia for Christmas which sparked her fascination. That interest has continued as she has observed different animals and experienced their personalities.

When no ordinary gift will do, visit Caro-

lina Creations. We're part art gallery, part contemporary gift shop. We represent a vast selection of American hand crafted pottery, jewelry, glass, wood, paintings and gifts by local, regional and nationally known artists.

For more info check our NC Commercial Gallery listings, call the gallery at 252/633-4369 or visit (www.carolinacreations.com).

Carving Art Studio in Beaufort, NC, Features Works by Jo Ridge Kelley

Carving Art Studio in Beaufort, NC, will present an exhibit of works by Waynesville, NC, artist, Jo Ridge Kelly, on view from Mar. 1 - 31, 2014. A reception will be held on Mar. 1, from 6-8pm.

Kelley is well-known in the state and regional art community for her expressive plein air and studio landscapes and abstractions from nature. She has work in private and corporate collections all across the globe and has often been featured in American fine art magazines over the years.

The soft-edged, expressive paintings of Kelley are as much about emotional connection as they are about visual expression. Since childhood, growing up on a dairy farm in rural North Carolina, she has felt a deep-rooted bond with nature's perennial beauty and power. Today, as a talented and accomplished artist, every stroke of Kelley's paintbrush or palette knife is flowing with this lifelong passion as evidenced by the bold and powerful color harmonies and soothing organic textures.

"For me, painting is a way of sharing my love of the land, and hopefully conveying to viewers what it feels like to breathe in the sights, sounds and smells of a glorious landscape. I find making art a very emotional experience," relates Kelley.

For Kelley, art is a means to express and share with viewers her innermost joy and gratitude for the myriad of forms and moods of the natural world, and also those emanating from the ever-restless topography of the human imagination. Her paintings are a convergence point at which the artist's painterly interpretation meets a visual world colored by divine mystery.

Says Kelley, "When I begin a painting, I take inspiration from a beautiful light, color, form or texture and then continue working through observation. But the painting soon takes on life of its own. More often, I end up choosing exaggerated and unexpected color relationships and compositions that reflect my emotional response more so than what I'm seeing in front of me. I find it much more satisfying to be guided as much by my imagination and memory as my eyes."

Kelley's intimate connection with nature was nurtured by the day-to-day milieu of the dairy farm where she grew up. She was born in High Point, NC, and was raised in

the Quaker tradition, living in the old home place of her grandparents which she shared with her parents and four siblings. Grabbing a sketchbook and sitting in a meadow or beside a creek, drawing trees, rocks and wildflowers, provided a respite from her daily chores. Art making offered Kelley an exciting creative outlet and brought her welcome praise from family, teachers and friends.

Kelley continued this artistic journey studying drawing and painting at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, NC, and graduated with a Bachelor of Creative Arts. After college, she taught art at the high school level for several years and continues today to conduct annual private workshops.

After marrying photographer Ed Kelley, the two artists made their home in Waynesville and opened their own studio/gallery, Ridge Runner Naturals, showcasing their wildlife screen prints, original paintings and fine art photography. They also shared their gallery space with their daughter, a talented jewelry designer.

Kelley's career reached a turning point in 2008 after spending a week-long mentorship in Canada with the En Plein Air Masters, working along side Kevin Macpherson, Kenn Backhaus and John Cosby, among others. This invaluable experience working with these contemporary Masters, has had a significant impact on Kelley's work. Richer, more colorful grays, deep shadows and intense light are now expressed with a greater sense of confidence in her paintings. Painting in a bolder and more impactful manner, she enjoys experimenting with new color relationships and sometimes abstracted subject matter on ever-larger canvases. Kelley's paintings, which can lean toward abstracted images with an expressionistic palette, evoke a rare combination of alluring calm and formidable power-characteristics shared by the landscapes which inspired them. She has gained momentum in her career and has now created a demand for her dramatic, moody landscapes and her vibrant "Water Dance" series.

For further information check our NC Commercial Gallery listings, call the Studio at 252/728-0243 or visit (www.carvingartstudio.com).

Carolina Artist Gallery in Morehead City, NC, Features Exhibit Focused on Food

Carolina Artist Gallery in Morehead City, NC, is presenting *Art that Looks Good Enough to Eat*, featuring works by invited artists, on view through Apr. 4, 2014.

Show Director Sheila Brodnick says that this will be a lighthearted and fun exhibit. Artists were invited to depict anything and everything edible. All media will be represented. Clay artists were especially encouraged to design, imaginative, unusual serving pieces with the whimsical food theme.

Judges will evaluate the artwork in two categories – artistic merit and the "yummy" factor. In other words, what makes you think "I'd like a bite of that right now." Charles Smith will judge entries from an artist's point of view.

Smith is the Curriculum Coordinator for Carteret Community College's Fine Arts and Humanities Program. The challenge of deciding what looks good enough to eat goes to Shana Olmstead. Olmstead is the Hospitality & Culinary Arts Curriculum Area Coordinator at Carteret Community



Work by Sheila Brodnick

College.

Carolina Artist Gallery is a nonprofit artists' co-op located on the historic Morehead waterfront.

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings or visit (www.carolinaartistgallery.com).

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NC Wesleyan College in Rocky Mount, NC, Features Works by Horace Raper and Jerry Taylor

NC Wesleyan College in Rocky Mount, NC, will present *Stories in Paint*, featuring an exhibit of works by Wilson, NC, artists, Horace Raper and Jerry Taylor, on view in the Mims Gallery in the Dunn Center, from Mar. 21 through Apr. 20, 2014. A reception will be held on Mar. 21, from 7-9pm.

Raper and Taylor are old friends with enough years under their belts to know some good old stories to tell in paint.

Now in his early seventies, Raper is self-taught artist who has been making art since first grade. His studio is located on the James T. Eatmon farm where he creates paintings and sometimes sculpture in a wide variety of art mediums. A prolific artist, Raper also creates acrylic miniature paintings, which are highly collectable and these along with his other works are found throughout the world in private collections.



Work by Horace Raper

Raper has always been a tobacco farmer. He says, "For as long as I can remember, my daddy and his daddy worked tobacco. It's all that I know. I ain't never wanted to do nothing else, never wanted to leave what I grew to love, sure have been some hard times, bad crops and all, but ain't nothing that's bad all the time. I guess the good times made up for the bad." Much of his art reflects his life in rural Wilson County



Work by Jerry Taylor

in farming and other outdoor activities, and are the source of the stories he tells with his paintbrush.

Jerry Taylor says, "While talent is God given, desire, determination and perseverance are the keys to success. Art is a passion to be pursued and a pleasure to be enjoyed."

Taylor grew up drawing "on everything," he says. After six years in the Marine Corps and better than thirty years as an executive in the advertising and graphics business in Washington, DC, Taylor "retired" and began seriously painting. A member of Wilson Active Artists Association and an award winning exhibiting painter, Taylor's work is found in stores, galleries and museums around the country.

Taylor will depict those real moments in the life and times of a Wilson artist as well as a romanticized better days of the simple life away from the hustle and bustle of contemporary living. Narrative representation is his specialty as a painter.

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, call the gallery at 252/985-5268 or visit (www.ncwc.edu/Arts/Mims/).

The deadline each month to submit articles, photos and ads is the 24th of the month prior to the next issue. This will be Mar. 24th for the April 2014 issue of *Carolina Arts*.

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