

Arts Council of Henderson County

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Tomorrow, opens Mar. 17, from 5:30 to 7pm, and closes Mar. 24. The opening will include the announcement of awards, which will include a Best of Show Award of \$150, sponsored and presented by the Art League of Henderson County.

Hours for the exhibitions will be Mon. through Thur., 9am to 5pm, and Fri. from 9am to 6pm. All exhibitions are free, open to the public, and accessible to all at First Citizens Bank, 539 N. Main Street, Hendersonville, NC.

Participation in Mentors & Students is open to public, private, parochial and home school students and teachers in Henderson County.

Mentors & Students is sponsored by First Citizens Bank, and the Dr. Minor F. Watts Fund at the Community Foundation of Henderson County.

The Arts Council of Henderson County is a community organization that promotes, advocates for and nurtures the arts in Henderson County and Western North Carolina. Its office is located at 401 North Main St., Ste. 302, Hendersonville, NC



Works by Liz Wiesel, an art teacher

28792. (Entrance on Fourth Avenue West.)

The Arts Council is supported in part by the North Carolina Arts Council, a division of the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, funds administered by the Community Foundation of Henderson County, Henderson County, Henderson County Tourism Development Authority, and the City of Hendersonville.

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, call the Arts Council at 828/693-8504 or e-mail to (acofhc@bellsouth.net).

Wilson Arts Center in Wilson, NC, Features Works by Marion Clark Weathers and Ronald Sowers

The Wilson Arts Center in Wilson, NC, will present *Vollis Visionaries: Art in Motion*, featuring paintings by Marion Clark Weathers and photographs by Ronald Sowers, on view in the Annie D. Boykin Gallery, from Mar. 9 through Apr. 22, 2017. A reception will be held on Mar. 9, from 5:30-7:30pm, with Artists' Talks at 5pm.

A painter and a photographer have paired up to tell the story of the dynamic whirligig art, created by Vollis Simpson, found in Wilson. The show reveals a new series of abstract paintings by artist Marion Clark Weathers, and photographs of Vollis Simpson at work by photographer Ronald Sowers. There will also be actual whirligigs on display to connect the viewer to the art.

Marion Clark Weathers' abstract series, "Vollis", inspired by Vollis Simpson's whirligigs, was born the day she walked into the Whirligig Restoration Warehouse in Wilson, where she saw close-up the pieces and parts of whirligigs in various stages of restoration. She saw paintings immediately, with the whirligigs connecting realism to abstraction. She has been hooked ever since, has been back many times, and always sees something new!



Work by Ron Sowers

Thanks to her years of training in design at the Lamar Dodd School of Art at the University of Georgia, Weathers has always sought to build strong compositional elements into her paintings. Recent years of study in abstraction with John Salminen taught her a process that has grown to be her own - and is still developing. By consistently painting with a community of artists at Barton College, and study intensives at the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts, she finds her voice in a place between subjective and abstract design. Every day is a voyage of discovery.

The "Vollis" series, in some ways, makes these huge contraptions more accessible. Hardly anyone has a place to install a 20'x20' whirligig, but this painter



Work by Marion Clark Weathers

has captured the life and motion they have in a different way. Simpson's kinetic sculptures have evolved into kinetic works on canvas. Collectors can savor the excitement of a whirligig in a new medium. Whether a huge moving sculpture or a work on canvas, it is all about exploring shapes, motion, noise, paint application, color and depth.

"Motion has become very important to me," says the artist. "A serious car accident recently left me motionless. With the help of dedicated professionals and therapists, I am healing, regaining my own motion, and have a new appreciation for the simple things in life - like taking a step! This exhibition would have had more paintings in it, had I not lost eight weeks of studio time to my recovery from the accident. There are still exciting whirligig paintings to come!"

Photographer Ronald Sowers has photographed Vollis Simpson at work over a number of years, and shows an intimate and dynamic view of the artist in his workshop. Some of the whirligigs on display in this show are part of Sowers' private collection. Simpson lived to be 94 years of age, and passed away the same year the Whirligig Park was dedicated to further the life of his creations.

Sowers hails from Shippensburg, PA, where he won the Scholastic Gold Key for Sculpture when he was 18. From there he continued his education at the Arts Institute of Pittsburgh where he earned an Associate Degree in Specialized Technology majoring in Photography/Multimedia. His career in fine art, commercial, architectural photography and photojournalism has spanned over 35 years.

Sowers is the owner of Ronald L. Sow-
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