

# Western Carolina University in Cullowhee, NC Offers New Exhibits

Western Carolina University in Cullowhee, NC, is presenting three new exhibitions including: *Time and Again: Glass Works* by Kit Paulson and SaraBeth Post; *Curious Terrain: WNC From the Air*; and *Claire Van Vliet: Stone and Sky*, all on view in the WCU Fine Art Museum at Bardo Arts Center, through May 1, 2020.

*Time and Again: Glass Works* by Kit Paulson and SaraBeth Post is funded in part by the Art Alliance for Contemporary Glass, the exhibition brings together two Penland-based artists - Kit Paulson and SaraBeth Post - whose works explore ideas about time, history, memory, and the antique. In many of their works, objects from the past are remade and reimagined in glass, creating a bridge between past and present.



Alex S. MacLean, "Rolling Up Rows of Mulch Fabric, Erastus, North Carolina, 2019", chromogenic dye print

MacLean's striking images capture the unique qualities of the region's built environment while also raising broader questions about humanity's impact on the land through agriculture, energy, industry, and housing.

MacLean's images capture a range of subject matter along with some recognizable sites in WNC, including Santeetlah Dam, downtown Highlands, and the World's Largest Ten Commandments. The *Curious Terrain: WNC From the Air* reception will take place on Mar. 19, from 5-7pm, with a gallery talk from Alex S. MacLean at 5:45pm. This exhibition is supported by a grant from The Community Foundation of Western North Carolina.

The exhibition, *Claire Van Vliet: Stone and Sky*, highlights landscape prints by Claire Van Vliet, a renowned printmaker and book artist. Between 1993 and 2010, Van Vliet completed several residencies at Harvey Littleton Studios in Spruce Pine, NC, where she experimented with the medium of vitreography, a form of printmaking that uses a glass plate to produce a printed image. Fascinated by rocks of all kinds, Van Vliet produced detailed images of rock formations from around the world, including Wind Cave in New Mexico, Kilclooney More in Ireland, and the Moeraki Coast in New Zealand. This exhibition brings together a selection of these vitreographs, drawn from the WCU Fine Art Museum's Permanent Collection, and provides a glimpse into the artist's creative process. The exhibition includes a rare opportunity to view one of the original glass plates used in the vitreograph printing process.

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, call the Museum at call 828-227-2787 or visit ([arts.wcu.edu/museum](http://arts.wcu.edu/museum)).



Claire Van Vliet, "Kilclooney Night", 1998, vitreograph, 23.75 x 29.75 inches

Both of the artists featured in *Time and Again* are active in the glass community in Western North Carolina. Paulson, who holds an MFA from Southern Illinois University and is in her second year of a three-year residency at Penland School of Craft, specializes in torchworked glass. Post has a degree in glass from the University of Louisville and is pursuing a two-year work-study opportunity as one of Penland's Core Fellows. She uses a casting technique to recreate childhood objects in glass.

*Curious Terrain: WNC From the Air* features aerial photographs that explore the relationship between humans and the WNC landscape. Taken by Alex S. MacLean, a renowned artist and pilot with over 45 years of experience photographing the land from the birds-eye perspective of an airplane, these newly commissioned images focus on the seven westernmost counties of North Carolina.

# Caldwell Arts Council in Lenoir, NC, Features Works by Amber D. Watts and Joseph Bigley

The Caldwell Arts Council in Lenoir, NC, will present *Hunter-Gatherers on Smartphones*, featuring works by Amber D. Watts and Joseph Bigley, on view from Mar. 6 - 27, 2020. A reception will be held on Mar. 6, from 5-7pm, hosted by the Paterson School Foundation.

*Hunter-Gatherers on Smartphones* is a mixed media exhibition featuring 2-dimensional, 3-dimensional, interactive, and installation works by Amber D. Watts of Morganton, NC, and Joseph Bigley of Lenoir, NC. The theme of the show invites viewers to critically question aspects of the culture in which they live. The works are poetic and conceptual in their narratives, and depend on interpretations of visual information or clues, rather than formal beauty or design principles alone.

Through creative activity and research, Watts investigates elements of culture that are unnerving (or at least questionable) as she observes and participates in the activities of daily life. "I construct mixed media assemblage works in order to grapple with and critique parts of contemporary American culture. Some topics of interest are our Industrial Food System, "me" culture, addiction(s), and consumerism. This is with the understanding that I perceive the world through my own set of "cultural lenses", just like everyone else does. My aim is to sift through clues which may



Work by Amber D. Watts

lead me to a better understanding of how to live a meaningful life in a society of Just-Add-Water-Instant-Artificial Blueberry Mix. The work is a result of this sifting. It is a poetic expression of my questions and fears as it relates to my own life and those around me."

Watts is an award winning, North Carolina-based artist and instructor. She is the recipient of a 2019-2020 Regional Artist Project Grant, which has made recent creative work possible. Watts holds an MFA in Painting and Drawing from East Carolina University, where she focused

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on conceptual development and non-traditional approaches to art-making. Watts also studied painting and visual arts at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte and Caldwell Community College. She currently teaches courses in Drawing, Painting, and Art Appreciation at Caldwell Community College.

A native of North Carolina, Joseph Bigley holds a Master of Fine Arts degree from Alfred University in Sculptural Dimensional Studies and a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from Appalachian State University. His work has been exhibited across the United States and internationally including China, the Netherlands, Spain, Uruguay and Germany. A mixed media sculptor and educator, he worked as Assistant Professor of Art-Sculpture at Spelman College in Atlanta, GA for five years. He is currently a full-time lecturer of Art at Appalachian State University and is a founder and the executive director of the Western North Carolina Sculpture Center and Park in Lenoir, NC.

Bigley's work is a form of social commentary. This research-based practice allows each project's content to directly inform the chosen materials, methodologies and manners of display. As a result, he works with an expansive range of



Work by Joseph Bigley

mediums including traditional sculptural materials, site specific installation, mixed media, digital video and performance works. Humor or absurdity is a common mechanism for an access to ideas that reflect the complexities and conflicts that are a part of the human condition. The work is presented in an intentionally neutral territory as to avoid a didactic or heavy-handed delivery.

The Caldwell Arts Council presents the arts in all its forms to Caldwell County residents, and is located on College Avenue in Lenoir.

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)).

# Arts Council of Winston-Salem and Forsyth County in Winston-Salem, NC, Offers Works by Members of Associated Artists of Winston-Salem

The Arts Council of Winston-Salem and Forsyth County in Winston-Salem, NC, is presenting *Artist Spotlight 2020*, a juried exhibition of selected works by nine members of Associated Artists of Winston-Salem, on view in the Arboreal Gallery of the Milton Rhodes Center for the Arts, through Mar. 23, 2020.

Five or six pieces by each of the nine artists - two sculptors, two photographers and five painters - are on display.

The artists and their works were chosen from a field of 17 artists who each submitted up to eight art works for consideration by the six jurors who curated the exhibit. The result is a diverse range of media and styles by nine highly accomplished area artists whose work is brought together in this exhibit for the first time.

The selected artists are: Merlyn Bost - festive oil and oil-pastels from her exotic

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