

# Bender Gallery in Asheville

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different yet complementary styles reflecting the chaotic nature of the modern world and finding respite in nature and art. The exhibition celebrates the artists' vibrant abstract work and their interconnection with Western North Carolina and its longstanding arts culture.

Gritta grew up in Chicago and moved to Asheville in 2005. She has studied at the New York Studio School and holds a BFA from Converse College in Painting and Printmaking. Originally a figurative painter, she has steadily moved towards abstract work, as it gives her the freedom to dive deeper into aspects of the human condition. She paints in a pensive expressive style with a mastery of the interplay of color.

Gritta's work is reminiscent of Richard Diebenkorn's beautiful early Berkeley abstracts which, at times, can be read as landscapes. She has been featured in numerous solo and group exhibitions in North Carolina and the East Coast. Her work is included in many corporate collections in the Carolinas and Boston.

Gritta explains, "On any given day, we are surrounded by the relentless noise of social media. Unseen players offer up a non-stop barrage of words and virtual images from shiny devices of all shapes and sizes, each competing desperately for our attention and presence. Ironically, it is because of these forces that we are losing our ability to truly be present, to pay attention, and to slow down. More than ever before, in these times of dizzying change and chatter, we long for and need a place of quiet and repose".

Emerging artist Moni Hill was born in Berlin and was raised in Ohio. She knew she was destined to be an artist at an early age. In 2004, Hill moved to Asheville with husband and family and began painting in earnest. She has a love of the outdoors and a great respect for Eastern philosophy, which is reflected in her haiku inspired titles, vibrant colors, textured layers, bursts of



Work by Moni Hill

energy, and a style uniquely her own.

Hill's upbeat works invite the viewer to pause and experience the energy and balance of the work. Her paintings have been included in numerous solo and group exhibitions throughout NC and can be found in healthcare, education, and business settings.

Hill's work in *Place and Presence*, is inspired by "komorembi", a Japanese term which eloquently captures the effect of sunlight streaming through the trees. She states, "On my daily walks in the forest I am constantly scanning for those moments when the light shines through the trees. As a lover of metaphors, I similarly go through life looking for light shining through moments both grand and mundane. I am drawn to visual proof of life's wear and tear, ups and downs, triumphs and failures and our attempts to recover".

Bender Gallery is a contemporary fine art gallery in downtown Asheville, NC. We specialize in figurative and abstract work by regional, national, and international painters and sculptors.

For further information check our NC Commercial Gallery listings, call the gallery at 828/505-8341 or e-mail to (Info@bender-gallery.com).

## Caldwell Arts Council in Lenoir, NC, Offers Works by Tyler Stephens

The Caldwell Arts Council in Lenoir, NC, announces a new exhibition titled *All Riot on the Western Front*, featuring hand cut collage artwork by Tyler Stephens of Lenoir. The exhibition will be on view from Apr. 1 through May 27, 2022.

Tyler "Sour Steve" Stephens is the living embodiment of the new generation of DIY punk artists: a master of all trades from hand-crafted, surreal, tongue-in-cheek collage bits to writing, recording, and producing three full length punk rock albums from his studio apartment. Sour Steve has been creating thought-provoking collage works since 2019. By combining vintage pre-war and post-war adverts of the 1930's-1950's with more modern imagery of our current political and social landscape, Sour Steve's art challenges the viewer to confront incongruities and the political paradoxes of our modern society.

In 2020, Sour Steve became a member of Oakland, CA-based art collective, Destroy Art Inc. headed by legendary punk artist Winston Smith. Together, the team use their art as activism to fight off bigotry, hatred, and injustice as seen fit, and use their talents to promote love, empowerment and community. Since then, Sour



Work by Tyler Stephens

Steve's collage work has been featured in galleries and competitions across North Carolina as well as being featured in the first two issues of *Destroy Everything Fanzine*. Sour Steve has also created commission work for numerous venues and hardcore bands across the nation. Originally from West Virginia, Sour Steve has been wreaking havoc in the greater Lenoir area for the last two years. It really doesn't get any more DIY than Sour Steve.

The Caldwell Arts Council is located on College Avenue SW in Lenoir, NC.

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings or visit ([www.caldwellarts.com](http://www.caldwellarts.com)).

## Discover the Seagrove Potteries

Seagrove is a Community of Working Potters & home to the North Carolina Pottery Center

**You're invited....**

To visit the Seagrove potters at their workshops & studios nestled in the countryside.

Experience a diversity of pottery from contemporary, one-of-a-kind art pottery, to traditional utilitarian forms, & folk art

**It's an Adventure....**

Pick up a free colored map at any of the pottery shops

Seagrove is located in the Center of North Carolina 40 miles south of Greensboro on Hwy. 220 (future I-73, I-74)

[www.discoverseagrove.com](http://www.discoverseagrove.com)

## Seagrove Potters in Seagrove, NC, Offers Spring Tour - Apr. 22-24, 2022

The 14th Annual Celebration of Spring Tour, featuring Seagrove, NC, area potters will take place, from Friday, Apr. 22, 2022, through Sunday, Apr. 24, 2022, from 10am-5pm daily (check the website and map for individual hours, as shop hours may vary.)

Check out the event page at (<https://discoverseagrove.com/events/celebration-of-spring-pottery-tour-2022/>) for more information.

This annual event kicking off springtime is a self guided studio/shop tour featuring 42 member shops. Experience the individuality of each shop, the variety of work, different firing and creation styles, while exploring the countryside of Seagrove. Online shopping will also be available with several shops,

Join in the opportunity to win one of three gift certificates, each for \$50. The gift certificates can be used at your favorite participating Seagrove shop. Fill out a card at any participating shop. Qualifying cards will be entered in a drawing, which will take place the week of May 22, 2022.



Works from Luck's Ware

tery, Smith Pottery, The Triangle Studio, Thomas Pottery, Tom Gray Pottery, Triple C Pottery, Turn & Burn, Whynot Pottery & Acacia Tile, Windsong Pottery, and Wyndham & Brookhaven Pottery.

Seagrove is in the central piedmont of North Carolina. Seagrove is the largest community of potters with the longest continual history of pottery making in the United States. More than 100 ceramic artists call this tourist destination home. Seagrove potteries are open year-round and visitors can shop galleries and studios from the town's center, extending to a 20-mile radius along the scenic NC Pottery Highway (NC-705). Tour different shops to experience Seagrove's pottery tradition, meet the potters and discover the limitless talent that thrives within this creative community.

Seagrove's long history of pottery making began with the abundant and varied natural clay deposits found in the vicinity. This history has continued with 4th and 5th generations carrying on the tradition. Due to the area's rich heritage, national and international ceramic artists have relocated to Seagrove, adding to the diversity of this unique pottery community.

The public is invited to start their tour at Luck's Cannery at 798 NC-705, Seagrove, NC 27341. A welcome tent will be staffed with volunteers wearing masks to answer questions and share a printed pottery maps. The map offers a guide to the studios and shops.

For further information check our NC Commercial Gallery listings or visit ([www.DiscoverSeagrove.com](http://www.DiscoverSeagrove.com)).



Works from The Triangle Studio

The following shops will be participating in the Spring's event: Ben Owen Pottery, Blue Hen Pottery, Bulldog Pottery, Carolina Crockery Gallery, Chris Luther Pottery, Chrisco Pottery, Crystal King Pottery, David Stuempfle Pottery, Dean & Martin Pottery, Dirt Works Pottery, Donna Craven Pottery, Donna's Pottery Haven, Eck McCannless Pottery, From the Ground Up, Hickory Hill Pottery, JLK Jewelry at Jugtown, Johnston & Gentithes Art Pottery, Jugtown Pottery, Keith Martindale Pottery, Latham's Pottery, Luck's Ware Pottery, Matthew Kelly Pottery, McNeill's Pottery, Michele Hastings & Jeff Brown Pottery, O'Quinn Pottery, Old Gap Pottery, Pottery by Frank Neef, Pottery Road Studio & Gallery, Ray Pottery, Red Hare Pottery, Seagrove Art Pottery, Seagrove Creations, Seagrove Stoneware Pot-

## STARworks in Star, NC, Offers Firefest 2022 - Apr. 1 & 2, 2022

The small town of Star, NC, will be aglow with fiery fun during Firefest at STARworks, Apr. 1 and 2, 2022. Firefest is a two-day festival celebrating the role of fire in the creation of art.

The event includes blazing finales, demonstrations in clay, glass and metal, artist talks, live music, food trucks, beer garden and the opportunity for attendees to get their

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