

American Folk Art in Asheville, NC, Features Annual Face Jug Show

It's coming! Get ready for American Folk's 11th Annual Face Jug Show, on view from Apr. 5 - 26, 2023. We love to dedicate every April to these wild, wonderful, and culturally iconic vessels! A reception will be held on Apr. 7, from 5-8pm.

Face Jugs began to appear in this region of North Carolina in the very early 1800s and were created to store moonshine. Because these potters were intending to scare children away from drinking the alcohol inside, they began to add snakes, grimacing faces, and devil horns to these jugs.

In those days, self-sufficiency ruled, thus handmade locally-crafted clayware was common. The regional soils contain all the elements needed to make hardy clay, and our forests plenty of wood for the fueling of kilns. Many of the potters represented in the Face Jug Show are still following those old-school traditions: digging and creating their own clays as well as firing in wood-fired kilns. While these techniques are labor-intensive, the passionate pursuit by these skilled craftspeople is evident in the pottery they create. The Face Jug has become an eagerly sought after, as well as a widely collected part of our mountain heritage.



Work by Joel Huntley

Each year American Folk Art curates an eclectic selection of these jugs, made by select potters who use their own knowledge & creativity to explore and expand upon the beloved tradition of these works. Mike Ball follows the traditional face jug method, incorporating glass drips and broken plates for the teeth of his faces, while also putting his own indelible mark on the tradition itself. His contribution to the ongoing and



Work by Wayne Hewell

ever-evolving art form is the eyeball jug, which of course will feature in this year's show. Stacy Lambert's story jugs are an expansion of the traditional face jug form. His rich color palette and three-dimensional interpretations of people and animals are as much fun as a potter ought to have. Ten other regional (and further afield) potters will be featured, including, new to this year's show, South Carolina potters Vicki Miller and Tim Whitten.

"It's really such a fun time of year here in the gallery. We love sharing the history and tradition of these unique jugs with folks who are new to the face jug scene, and we also have the opportunity to reconnect with our most steadfast collectors during this event. It's a wildly popular show and not to be missed." says Julia L. Mills, gallery owner.

Whether you can visit the gallery in person or only visit online, please join us in celebrating this storied pottery tradition at American Folk Art.

The show will debut on the gallery website (www.amerifolk.com) at 11am on Apr. 5 and for one hour, every piece included in this year's show will be available for previewing before sales begin sharply at noon via telephone. Remaining Face Jugs will be displayed in the gallery through the remainder of the show.

For further information check our NC Commercial Gallery listings, call the gallery at 828/281-2134 or visit (www.amerifolk.com).

Mark Bettis Gallery in Asheville, NC, Offers Works by Galen Cheney

Mark Bettis Gallery in downtown Asheville, NC, will present *Off The Grid*, featuring works by Galen Cheney, on view from Apr. 7 - 27, 2023. A reception will be held on Apr. 7, from 5-8pm.

This limited solo art showcase is called *Off the Grid*, a dynamic exhibit that connects a group of paintings in the shape of a grid that alternately weaves and warps, changes from being pulled taut, to coming apart or even barely there.

In describing this body of work, Cheney says, "All the paintings function in relation to the grid, which serves to create a sense of space. Sometimes the grid is closed, its squares solid like walls; other times they are open like windows, inviting the observer deeper into the painting. She adds, "Often when one thinks of a grid, they think of order, repetition, predictability. That is not what defines these paintings. These pieces are happier living off the grid, making their own rules, living independently, creating their own energy and luminosity."

Born in Los Angeles and widely traveled, Cheney spent most of her life in New England where she felt a deep connection to her roots, the land, and centuries-old architecture. A childhood trip to Europe was the start of her enduring love of travel and fascination with ancient civilizations. Along with an affinity for the ancient world, Cheney feels the gravitational pull of contemporary urban life – its grit, noise, and neon graffiti



Work by Galen Cheney

– and an unshakable connection to the mid-century Abstract Expressionists.

In her own way she says she synthesizes these influences to create work that is complex, and uniquely hers. Cheney's work has been exhibited and collected widely in the US and in Europe, China, Canada, and the UK. Cheney was featured in *New American Paintings* (vol. 86) and was nominated for a Joan Mitchell Foundation Grant. Past residencies and fellowships include the Millay Colony, MASS MoCA, Vermont Studio Center, Saint-Gaudens National Historic

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Site, and Da Wang Culture Highland.

Mark Bettis Gallery offers two locations in Asheville: the original River Arts District Gallery located on Roberts Street, Asheville opened about ten years ago, and the Downtown Asheville Gallery located on Broadway Street, Asheville opened April of 2022. Each gallery features unique and distinctive works of art in a variety of mediums including contemporary paintings, glass,

and sculptural work, as well as a variety of rotating exhibitions by local and nationally acclaimed artists. The River Arts Gallery is a working art studio and gallery, where visitors can observe the creative process as artists compose new works.

For further information check our NC Commercial Gallery listings, call the gallery at 941/587-9502 or visit (markbettisgallery.com).

Pink Dog Gallery in Asheville, NC, Features Exhibit Focused on Collage

The Pink Dog Gallery in Asheville, NC, will present *Cutting Edge: Art of Collage*, co-curated by Connie Bostic and Marya Roland, from Apr. 7 through May 7, 2023. A reception will be held on Apr. 7, from 5-8pm.

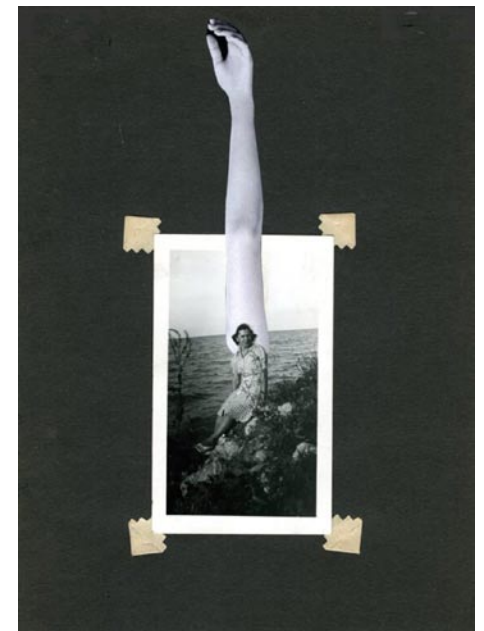
Connie Bostic, (co-curator) has been a consistent force in the Asheville art community for over 30 years. She has exhibited her paintings widely and was the owner of Zone One Gallery. Collage has at times been a major focus in her work and always a side focus via studies and post cards.

Marya Roland, (co-curator) nominally a sculptor, is interested in creative energies integrating with life. She became involved with collage during COVID when postcards sent by Connie Bostic and others piqued her interest. At that time she began a collage collaboration with artist Diane Nushida-Tokuno in Hawaii.



Work by Jean Hess

The basic materials of collage (scissors, paper, glue), make it one of the most widely practiced art mediums - but not necessarily the most exhibited. *Cutting Edge* celebrates the accessibility and democracy of collage art, with a full spectrum, from postcards to large works, from energetic immediacy to thoughtful craft. *Cutting Edge* artists, whether they are titled collagist, painter, photographer, poet, or sculptor, demonstrate the great diversity and excitement of the



Work by elin slavick

medium.

Participating artists include: Susan Amorde, Los Angeles, CA; Pinky Bass, Fair Hope, AL; Connie Bostic, Asheville, NC; Jean Hess, Knoxville, TN; Judy Kleinberg, Bellingham, WA; Suzanne Malitz, New York; Diane Nushida-Tokuno, Hawaii; Marya Roland, Asheville, NC; elin o'Hara slavick, Los Angeles, CA; Steven Siegel, New York; Ruby Silvius, New York; and Terry Taylor, Asheville, NC.

Participating artist Judy Kleinberg has done a collage every day for several years. The series now numbers over 2,600 pieces.

Kleinberg offered the following artist statement, "The two threads of my creative life, for as long as I can remember, have been words and collage. Sometimes they were separate, sometimes entwined. What propels me is the surprise, the accident, the noticing that allows me to recycle the unintended into this curious, evolving, personal, visual-verbal form."

For further information check our NC Commercial Gallery listing, call 828/691-0405 or visit (pinkdog-creative.com).

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