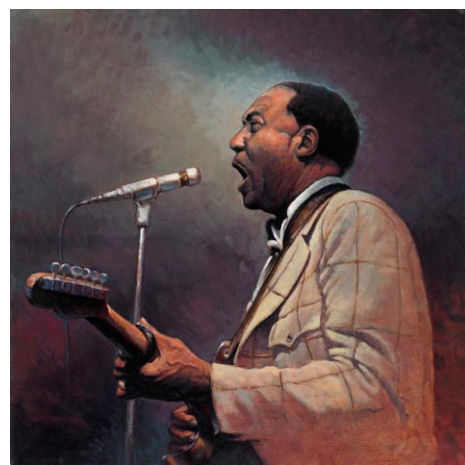


# Skyuka Fine Art in Tryon, NC, Offers Works by Gary Cooley & Michael McNamara

Skyuka Fine Art in Tryon, NC, is presenting the exhibit, *Cooley-McNamara*, a two-man show featuring the paintings of Gary Cooley and Michael McNamara, on view through May 31, 2012. A reception will be held on May 12, from 5-8pm, during the next Tryon Gallery Trot.

Both Cooley and McNamara hail from Detroit, MI, and both studied at Center for Creative Studies (now College of Creative Studies). Both studied illustration and worked or are working as illustrators now.

Gary Cooley now resides in Atlanta, GA, and has produced illustrations for books, magazines, Broadway posters and has even appeared in numerous illustration publications. Although he primarily works his illustrations digitally now, he enjoys painting traditionally with oils.



Work by Gary Cooley

Cooley's landscapes, and farm scenes are truly spectacular. He has also focused on a portrait series of Jazz and Blues musicians, this collection will get any fan of this genre humming. Some of his subjects include: Muddy Waters, Nina Simone, and Sam Cooke. Cooley also shows his humor and has painted a series of vintage toy space guns floating in mid air. Buck Rogers' ray gun has been brought into a new realm; fine art.

Michael McNamara splits his time between New York and Detroit, painting full time after being a professional illustrator for over a decade. McNamara paints from life on the streets and captures the flavor



Work by Michael McNamara

of wherever he is on canvas. The sights, sounds, chill in the air or warmth of the sun on your face can all be felt through his work.

McNamara painted very moving pieces during the aftermath of 9/11 and is a featured artist at the 9/11 Memorial Museum. A short film documentary by Martin J. Spinelli, *New York Canvas-The Art of Michael McNamara*, shows McNamara at work in the streets of the city.

"Much of my work explores the complexities of the urban environment, both graphically through the geometric relationships of an intricate man-made infrastructure, and emotionally by depicting the effects and conditions which this environment creates for the community," says McNamara. "Using color and value to establish the emotional impact of the subject, I emphasize the repetition of form and overlapping planes to create rhythm and space. It is a sense of spiritual content which binds it all together by revealing the struggle, as well as the beauty, which exists all around us, yet so often remains unnoticed."

One cannot help but be moved by his dramatic cityscapes. McNamara's talent can expertly let architecture shine as the subject, but also, and just as successfully, let a snow covered construction cone shine just as brightly.

For further information check our NC Commercial Gallery listings, call the gallery at 828/817-3783 or visit ([www.skyukafineart.com](http://www.skyukafineart.com)).

# MESH Gallery in Morganton, NC, Offers Group Exhibit of Woodworking

MESH Gallery in Morganton, NC, will present the exhibit, *Wood Expressions*, featuring works by eight artists, on view from May 7 through June 8, 2012. A reception will be held on May 11, from 6-8pm.



Work by John Ferguson

Woodworking and furniture design and manufacturing have long since been a part of the culture and visual vernacular of Morganton, NC. While much of the manufacturing has left the country the woodworking traditions of the skilled artisans and craftspeople still remain. *Wood Expressions* is a group exhibition of current works in wood that reflects on this heritage and also projects its evolution into the future. Freed from the strictly commercial motivation of mainstream furniture design this group of artists offers their unique take on the medium as applied to sculpture and functional furniture design.

Jim and Robin Cannon, Roger Carter, Tom Denne, John Ferguson, Blaine John-Page 36 - Carolina Arts, May 2012

ston, Roberto Paganuzzi and Ian Robins offer a rich mix of functional and "static" works in wood. Using a wide range of techniques the group will show pieces created from new and recycled/sustainable materials often mixed with other media such as stone or metal. Each artist brings a completely different visual aesthetic to the table making for a truly eclectic show that illustrates the limitless possibilities of woodworking.

Jim and Robin Cannon offer the following about their business: "Rustics and Stones is a small business that began out of a hobby and a necessity. We needed household items, things that we use every day and because our desire was to decorate our house in a lodge motif those items needed to be rustic in appearance. So, each creation began as the need arose for each specific item...first a paper towel holder, then a tray and on and on until we developed a complete line of rustic home décor."

"The way we meet the environmentally friendly goal is by what we like to call 'Reclaiming and Repurposing'. We never cut down a tree in order to create any item in our collection. We take trees that have naturally fallen and have unique characteristics that we think will enhance the beauty of our products. We also try to find mirrors and other material that appear to have lived a good life and are on their way out and we think how it can be turned into something beautiful. We continue today to meet those goals with every item we

*continued on Page 37*

# BLUEWOOD

PHOTOGRAPHY



© Donna Eaton

## Close-up Photography Exhibit

April 18 - May 26, 2012

BLUEWOOD PHOTOGRAPHY is presenting an important macro photography exhibit, featuring the images of nationally acclaimed photographers: Nancy Rotenberg, Les Saucier, Ben Geer Keys and Donna Eaton.

**Closing Reception: Friday May 25, 5 - 8pm**  
During the Brevard Gallery Walk

Tues. - Sat., 10am - 5pm or by appointment • 828.883.4142  
[www.bluewoodphotography.com](http://www.bluewoodphotography.com) • 36 West Jordan Street, Brevard, NC 28712



MAR. 13 - JUNE 2, 2012

**Mike Vatalaro:**  
*Emerging Works/  
Ancient Roots*

Top Left:  
Mike Vatalaro.  
Lidded Vessel. Stoneware/soda fired.



MAY 22 - AUGUST 4, 2012

**Function & Awe:**  
*Contemporary Furniture of  
Michael McDunn*

Center Left:  
Michael McDunn  
Table

Bottom Left:  
Michael McDunn  
Table ( detail of table inlay )



200 East St. John St • Spartanburg, SC • (864) 582-7616  
[www.spartanburgARTmuseum.org](http://www.spartanburgARTmuseum.org)

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