

Toe River Studio Tour

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locations of participating artists are now available at both TRAC galleries, participant studios, local businesses, and online at (www.toeriverarts.org) in May.

The deadline for artists to sign up has past and the tour is cranking up to be another great adventure for visitors. We have 53 studio sites with 83 artists, including eight who have never participated or participated over three years ago. In their own words, they introduce themselves.

First on the list is Garold Amsberry (#74) of Midnight Sun Pottery in Micaville. "The story is in the clay. What I get from clay is the challenge. There's always what the clay, glazes and kilns are doing and what you're trying to get them to do. I'm constantly thinking of what the clay can become within form and function."

Lisa Clague is well known in the ceramics community. She'll be showing in her Bakersville studio (#17) after several years' hiatus. "My work evokes a place between the subconscious and the intangible...They may bring delightful fantasy or feverish fear, fusion of overlaying images reflects desire, anxiety and the poetic lure of many inner worlds...images in a passageway between what is dreamt what is lived, what is remembered and what is to come." Also, in Clague's studio, her mother, Sarah, will have her own clay work up for viewing. "As a graduate from the Cleveland Institute of Art, I've taught and worked in clay for over 50 years and am looking forward to an exciting event this June."



Work by Tori Motyl

pottery I grew up admiring, I want my work to be pared down to the essentials, emphasizing the fundamentals of pots and be truly useful. Form communicates a pot's gesture; it speaks of utility, my pots reference common shapes and engage one's imagination."

Stone cutter Collene Karcher returns to the tour at her studio, Stone Crossing (#99). "As a sculptor living in these mountains, I've always been interested in and inspired by the work I saw in tiny local graveyards. I learn something new every time I run my hand over an old grave marker. I have always practiced letter carving alongside my three dimensional work and at some point it began to cross over—letter carving on sculpture, sculpture mixed in with letter carving."

Tori Motyl is new to the area and new to the tour. She will have her work in Selena Glass and Metal's studio (#52) on the outskirts of Burnsville. "I began making and selling pottery in 2011 in Rochester, NY, and moved to Burnsville last year to be part of a larger and thriving craft community. My work exemplifies minimalist simplicity. It is my desire that my work promotes a sense of calm and present mindfulness in the users every day life."

Finally, the tour welcomes another new Burnsville resident and artist, Robert Alvin Crum (#75). "I am a full-time professional oil painter and muralist and paint still lifes, portraits, and figurative work using the same materials and methods used by the Old Masters. En plein-air landscapes are completed when I travel, and large landscapes are developed from these in my studio."

The Toe River Arts Council is a not for profit organization dedicated to connecting the arts and the people to improve the life in the Toe River Valley. It is supported, in part, by people who believe the arts are vital to a thriving community.

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, call the Arts Council at 828/682-7215. For information about the tour exhibition, please call 828/765-0520.



Works by Tom Jaszczak

Galen Sedberry is another following in a parent's "footsteps." Galen will be showing in his new studio - Sedberry Pottery - with Ken (#51). "My interest in clay peaked during a year off from college when I began helping my father in his studio and learning the basics of throwing, glazing and firing. I returned to college, received a degree in Appropriate Technology, and after several years, my hands have found their way back to clay."

From the Penland area, Tom Jaszczak (#79) joins the tour in his resident artist studio at the Barns on the Penland School of Crafts campus. "My pots are minimal and are rooted in the traditional Minnesota

21st Annual Blessing of the Inlet Takes Place at Belin Memorial United Methodist in Murrells Inlet, SC - May 6

The 21st Annual Blessing of the Inlet takes place at Belin Memorial United Methodist in Murrells Inlet, SC, on May 6, 2017, from 9am to 4pm.

The Blessing of the Inlet was first started 21 years ago to create a festival filled with worship, food, fun, family and fellowship that was highlighted by a 'Blessing' ceremony, celebrating our Lord's continued blessings in the Inlet Community. And the Blessing of the Inlet was to generate funds for many missions, charities, and nonprofit organizations.

The festival has grown to include more than 100 arts and crafts vendors, various Murrells Inlet restaurants and local food purveyors, children's play area with inflatable rides and fun events.

This year's entertainment emcees will feature: Nicole Boone, WBTW, from 9am-noon and Ed Piotrowski, WPDE, from noon-4pm. Entertainment acts include: Witness For, Performing Arts

Company, Coker Streett, Low Country Chorus, Bobbi Holt, Belin UMC Choir, Seaside Elementary School Choir, 2nd Chance Ministries. The Reynolds. Project 9, and JoEllen Langlely's Students.

The festival continues to be a free event with no admission or parking charge and is always held rain or shine. The festival is highlighted by the Blessing of the Inlet ceremony which starts at 11:30am. The blessing will be administered by the Reverend Dr. Mike Alexander and the Reverend Walter Cantwell.

Immediately following the "Blessing" ceremony, all visitors will be invited to "Stay to Pray" in the Belin sanctuary. Belin's Stephen Ministers will be on hand.

Everyone is invited to come help us celebrate the Glory of God and all He has 'blessed' us with.

For further information about the event visit (www.BlessingoftheInlet.com).

Don't forget about our website:

www.carolinaarts.com



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Contact: JoAnne Utterback at 843-446-3830

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