



Southern Highland Craft Guild

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Julie Calhoun-Roepnack, Nancy Graham, Walt Cottingham, Bayley Wharton, Cat Jarosz Pottery, Majik Studios, Tamela Wells, Probststein Glass, David Grant, Lynn Fiorenza Jewelry, Ilene Kay Jewelry, and Nathan Favors.

Participants on June 3 include: Rachel David, Heidi Bleacher, Brant Barnes, Jay Massey, Vicki & Terry Bradshaw, Paveen Chunhaswasdikul, Linda Azar Jewelry, Valerie Berlage, Noel Yovovich, Tom Godleski, Audrey Laine Sawyer, Laurey Faye Dean, Linda Caristo, Darryl Maleike, Melanie Miller, Amy Brandenburg, Annie Fain Liden, Magruder Glass, and Erica

Stankwyth Bailey.

The Southern Highland Craft Guild is a non-profit, educational organization established in 1930 to cultivate the crafts and makers of the Southern Highlands for the purpose of shared resources, education, marketing and conservation. The Southern Highland Craft Guild is an authorized concessioner of the National Park Service, Department of the Interior.

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, call the Guild at 828/298-7928 or visit (www.craftguild.org).

Mark Bettis Gallery in Asheville, NC, Features Works by Tess Darling

The Mark Bettis Gallery announces a new art show featuring Asheville artist Tess Darling, beginning May 13, at Bettis' River Arts District Asheville gallery. This showcase, titled *Into the Hollow*, is a meditated mixed media exploration of the Appalachian cove, and continues through May 26, 2023. A reception will be held on May 13, from 5:30 to 7:30pm.

Darling's *Into the Hollow* approaches landscapes, wildlife and portraiture with a subtle science fiction theme, using her detailed sketching and note-taking naturalist style. Her show features mixed media works – using acrylic, ink, and graphite on canvas, wood panels and paper. She describes her show as a “means to rediscover the wonders of nature in Appalachia, combined with visualizing the concept of making contact with other life forms and reflecting on the self as a curious outsider.”

Originally from Chapel Hill, NC, Darling now resides in Asheville. She is a recipient of the Tucker Cooke Scholarship for Studio Drawing at the University of North Carolina, Asheville, and the Penland School of Craft Work Scholarship for Screen-printing. Describing her art to *Carolina Home & Garden Magazine*, Darling said, “I want to help others connect to the natural world.”

Mark Bettis Gallery offers two locations



Work by Tess Darling

in Asheville: the original River Arts District Gallery located on Roberts Street, and the Downtown Asheville Gallery located on Broadway Street. 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 District 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).

Bender Gallery in Asheville, NC, Features Works by Hunt Slonem

Bender Gallery in Asheville, NC, will present the *Year of the Rabbit*, a solo exhibition and book signing featuring the lush Neo-Expressionist works of internationally celebrated artist Hunt Slonem and his newly released book, *Butterflies*.

Slonem's opulent textural paintings of his iconic birds and butterflies and his wildly popular rabbits, as well as unique sculptural works, give us a glimpse into Slonem's colorful maximalist world and artistic empire. A private collectors' dinner and preview is being held on May 31, 2023, followed by a public opening reception and book signing event on June 1 at the gallery from 5-8pm. RSVP to the gallery to purchase the book and have it signed. The reception is open to the public. The exhibit will continue through June 30, 2023.

Hunt Slonem (b. 1951, Kittery, Maine) and his family moved often growing up due to his father being a naval officer which included living in Hawaii for a time. It was in Hawaii that Hunt became fascinated by the exotic colorful birds of the islands. He would continue to seek out far flung locations as a young adult, studying abroad in Nicaragua, Peru, and Mexico. These rich visual experiences imbued Slonem with an appreciation for sensuous tropical landscapes which influence his unique style.



Work by Hunt Slonem

After graduating with a BFA in painting and art history from Tulane University in New Orleans, Slonem moved to Manhattan where he lives and works today. Slonem has been a prominent figure in the NY art scene for decades. He went to Studio 54 and knew Andy Warhol, the artist that is Slonem's primary inspiration. Slonem loves the idea of repetition which Warhol made famous in his work. He considers repetition his mantra; whether in paintings filled to the edges with multiples of imagery or individual smaller



Work by Hunt Slonem

works displayed salon style resembling a sort of pattern and redundancy.

Slonem's favorite subjects are birds (he once had over 60 of them as pets in his studio), butterflies and, of course, the endearing bunnies which have become his unique signature. The exuberant and vibrantly colorful paintings are created with generous layers of oil paint and gestural brush strokes. He often uses rich materials such as metallic paint and diamond dust to add to the impact of his unapologetically glamorous look. Slonem often adds textural interest to the work by extensive cross-hatching into the surface leading to a grid-like look. In juxtaposition, Slonem's deliberately simple, almost naïve mark making counterbalances and defies the preciousness of the work.

Slonem's “bunny paintings” took off in the early 2000s, from monumental works of multiple rabbits (a fluffe, so to speak) to his signature 8x10 inch individual bunnies in ornate antique frames. The artist attributes his passion for bunnies to their sweet natures and the fact that he discovered that he was born in a “Year of the Rabbit” while dining at a Chinese restaurant with Chinese Zodiac place mats. It was then that Slonem knew that bunnies were part of his destiny.

Slonem also produces a variety of other thematic works including glass, bronze, and ceramic individual rabbit sculptures, glass wall busts, led controlled lightbox paintings on plexiglass, and large stainless-steel sculptures, many of which will be featured in the exhibition. The artist also has a line of high-end lifestyle furnishings sold through

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The deadline each month to submit articles, photos and ads is the 24th of the month prior to the next issue. This will be May 24th for the June 2023 issue and June 24 for the July 2023 issue. After that, it's too late unless your exhibit runs into the next month. But don't wait for the last minute - send your info now. And where do you send that info? E-mail to (info@carolinaarts.com).