

Carlton Gallery, Near Banner Elk, NC, Presents 34th Spring Group Exhibition

Carlton Gallery, near Banner Elk, NC, is presenting its 34th Spring Group Exhibition, which showcases fine art in paintings, glass, wood, clay, sculpture, wearable fiber and jewelry by local, regional and national artisans represented by the gallery. An Artists' Spotlight "Perceptions of Nature" with Debbie Arnold, Tonya Bottomley and Trena McNabb is a feature of this exhibition which continues through July 15, 2016.

New work is on exhibit for the 34th Spring Group Exhibition by artists Kevin Beck, Andrew Braitman, Mary Martha McKinley, Charles Lawson, Mary Dobbin, Helen Farson, Egi Antonaccio, Lisa Boardwine, Marion Cloaninger, Fred Mead, Dottie Leatherwood, Freeman Beard, Holly Glasscock, Vae Hamilton, Don Haywood, Kate Worm, and Ralph Mello.



Work by Trena McNabb

Paintings in oil, acrylic, mixed media and watercolor; clay works in decorative and functional vases, urns and bowls; sculpture, trays, candelabra and coasters, along with finely crafted jewelry in precious stones and gemstones are a small selection of the fine art and handmade crafts which can be found in this exhibition.

This exhibition's Artists' Spotlight "Perceptions of Nature" - by three women in the arts - Debbie Arnold, Tonya Bottomley and Trena McNabb whose contemporary paintings displays varied styles and interpretations of nature. Their work adds a distinctive voice to the eclectic mix of new work at the 34th Spring Group Exhibition.

Debbie Arnold's paintings are best described as a stream of consciousness from which emerges inner methodologies. Her approach is spontaneous beginning with color and texture without subject matter. Arnold uses different techniques - sponges, pallet knife, spattering, collage and imprinting, along with pouring layers of thin colors onto the canvas. She is greatly inspired by nature and paints the feel of a scene rather than a literal interpretation of it. Arnold is highly motivated by shapes, textures and colors rather than defined subject matter.



Work by Tonya Bottomley

The art of Tonya Bottomley is a very stylized method depicting the natural rhythms of life and nature. She paints what she sees, thinks and feels. Bottomley's paintings are an orderly composition of lines and shapes that shift from organic flowing curves to angular geometric forms with bold lines to outline shapes. There is no literal portrayal of subject matter but rather an emphasis to produce unusual, entertaining and thought provoking art work. Bottomley's paintings reflect her imagination and artistic vision, as well as stirring up emotion and curiosity in the viewer.

Every painting tells a story and the work of Trena McNabb reveals its deeper meaning through a connected series of smaller paintings, each a tale in itself. Images overlap in a kaleidoscope of colors depicting the flora, fauna and landscapes that comprise our planet. The synthesis of realism and imagination in McNabb's art reflects her interest in nature and the environment by her use of windows created by overlapping images, adding many layers to the narrative which becomes profounder the longer one studies the art work. Even though the canvas is overflowing with nature's array, McNabb's paintings display an astute knowledge of linear perspective.

All are welcome to visit Carlton Gallery for the 34th Spring Group and "Perceptions of Nature" Exhibition with its spirited collection of art work which continues through July 15.

Carlton Gallery is located south of Boone on Hwy 105 and north of Linville and Banner Elk in the Grandfather Mountain Community.

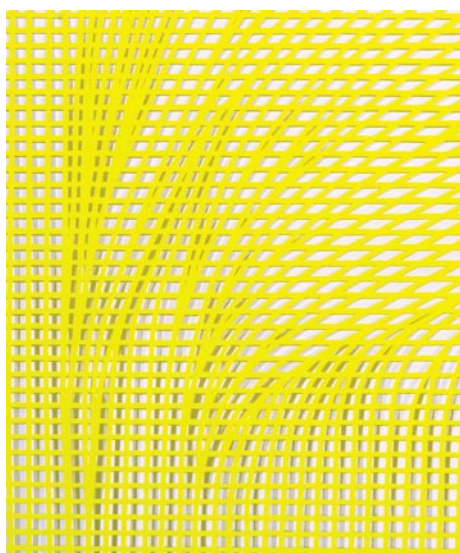
For further information check our NC Commercial Gallery listings, call the gallery at 828/963-4288 or visit (www.carltongallery.com).

Penland School of Crafts in Penland, NC, Features Works by Kensuke Yamada and Leigh Suggs

The Penland School of Crafts in Penland, NC, will present *Conversation: Unspoken Language*, featuring new work by ceramic sculptor Kensuke Yamada and mixed-media artist Leigh Suggs, on view in the Penland Gallery, from June 4 - 26, 2016. A reception will be held on June 3, from 4:30-6:30pm.

When you walk into the Penland Gallery exhibition hall right now you are immediately greeted by a pair of four-foot tall, swimsuit-clad ceramic figures with their arms high in the air as if they are about to dive off the low pedestal they are standing on. Behind them are more figures, and on the walls around them are patterned panels - some of them reflecting the light and some of them so brightly colored that they seem to glow.

Kensuke Yamada's six pieces are each titled "Swimmer." With large heads and squat bodies, they are a group of slightly unruly children, each of them preparing to take a plunge. Loosely but expertly rendered, the figures have rough and scruffy surfaces, most of them inscribed with mysterious "x" and "o" marks. The attitude of these swimmers is somehow both



Work by Leigh Suggs, (detail)

cautious and exuberant, and they exhibit so much life that viewers may be tempted to speak to them.

Yamada most recently was visiting artist, ceramics technician, and instructor at the University of Arkansas. He is currently in residence at Cheekwood Botanti-

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cal Garden in Nashville, TN. His work has been widely exhibited in galleries in Seattle, Philadelphia, Chicago, Atlanta, and other cities.

Leigh Suggs refers to her pieces in the exhibition as "sculptural paper," which is surprising given that all of the pieces hang on the wall, and many of them are framed. However, with surfaces that range from highly reflective to fluorescent green and intricately hand-cut patterns that create weave-like textures in some pieces and topographic undulations in others, this almost-flat work suggests so much dimension that it seems fair to call it sculpture. There are perceptual games going on with this work as well - some of the reflective pieces steal color from their cousins across the room, and several of the panels have bright colors that are concealed on the back of the paper, but mysteriously leak out as the viewer moves past them.

A recent MFA graduate of Virginia Commonwealth University, Suggs has exhibited her work in numerous shows in Virginia and North Carolina.

This exhibition is a great opportunity to visit the recently renovated and expanded Penland Gallery, which is also featuring functional work by potters Forrest Middleton and Adam Field in the Focus Gallery, and a site-specific installation by Asheville, NC, artist Jackson Martin. This intriguing piece includes steel structures, live juniper trees, and raked gravel patterns. Also on view are large, outdoor sculptures by area artists Hoss Haley and Bill Brown, Jr.

The Visitors Center Gallery has an ongoing display of objects that illuminate Penland's history. And the gallery sales area represents hundreds of artists who are affiliated with the school.

The Penland Gallery & Visitors Center is located on Conley Ridge Road, just off of Penland Road in Mitchell County (near the town of Spruce Pine). It is the first building on your right as you enter the Penland campus.



Work by Kensuke Yamada

Penland School of Crafts is a national center for craft education dedicated to helping people live creative lives. Located in Western North Carolina, Penland offers workshops in books and paper, clay, drawing and painting, glass, iron, metals, printmaking and letterpress, photography, textiles, and wood. The school also sponsors artists' residencies, an outreach program, and a gallery and visitors center. Penland is a nonprofit, tax-exempt institution which receives support from the North Carolina Arts Council, an agency funded by the State of North Carolina and the National Endowment for the Arts, which believes that a great nation deserves great art.

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, call the gallery at 828-765-6211 or visit (penland.org/gallery).

Toe River Arts Council's 2016 Studio Tour Takes Place in WNC - June 3 - 5

The Toe River Arts Council's (TRAC) Studio Tours, always the first weekend in June and December, hits in 2016 this June 3 - 5. The tour runs from Friday through Sunday from 10am to 5pm. Hours have been expanded on Friday to give visitors more time to meander and visit studios. The first night of the tour ends with a reception at the Spruce Pine TRAC Gallery in Spruce Pine, NC, from 5:30 to 7:30pm.

For 23 years, the TRAC Studio Tours have encouraged involvement of local artists who open their studios and of those from outside the area who show in participating studios. Each tour features over 100 artists and galleries. This year's event is just getting bigger and better—many studios and many artists. And five of those artists are first time tour participants; two returning after several years.

Rona Kritzer will be showing her clay work at the High Country Ceramics (#80 on the tour). A transplant from the Miami



Work by Victoria Hicks

area, where she was an art teacher in the schools, Kritzer now makes her home in Yancey County where she is continually awed by the beauty of these mountains and the welcoming handshakes of other

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