

Haywood County Arts Council

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connect her to the DIVINE and are done when she “gets out of the way” and allows the spirit to flow through her.

Dawn Behling earned her BFA in Textile Design from East Carolina University, where she also discovered her love of screen printing and dyeing on various fibers. Using her sense of color and visual texture, Behling created a way of combining her textile sensibilities and love of printing and painting into a unique artistic style.

Behling continued to explore this unique artistic vision by earning a MFA at Western Carolina University. “I love color, texture, and nature. My creative research currently explores the use of organic, abstract images that are taken from nature and recreated in two-dimensional, mixed media work. I love to take photographs out in nature; I collect these images dozens of times in one piece so they become unrecognizable, abstract designs. I focus on small areas of nature and image them as their own micro-environments. I create my own interpretation of these environments by working with visual texture and repeated pattern in a painterly way, primarily on paper and stretched canvas, however, my work includes a wide range of mediums, from wearable scarves to mixed-media collage pieces.”

Nancy Blevins is a Haywood County native who learned silk dye painting from Belgian artist, Judith Hue, 35 years ago. This technique is used for clothing, wall hangings, and framed art. She is a long time member of the Blue Ridge Water-media Society; her mediums include silk dye painting, watercolor, and mixed media. Her watercolor education includes workshops with Pat Weaver, Sue Archer, Harry Thompson, Fred Graff, and Sonya Terpening.

Blevins has exhibited at the Biltmore Estate, Studio D, Leapin’ Frog Gallery,



Work by Dawn Behling

West Queen Studio, and in local street fairs. While striving for expressive color, Blevins demonstrates that the techniques used in silk painting and watercolor are interchangeable and complement each art piece.

Although, the term “mixed media” has only been around since the early 20th Century, this form of art has been used since the 1400s with the application of gold leaf to paintings and other various art forms. Haywood County Arts Council’s Gallery 86 exhibition, *Nature Inspired*, celebrates the form of mixed media used to express the influence of nature on its creator.

The mission of the Haywood County Arts Council is to build partnerships that promote art and artists, explore new cultural opportunities, and preserve mountain artistic heritage. This project was supported by the NC Arts Council, a division of the Department of Cultural Resources.

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, call the Arts Council at 828/452-0593 or visit (www.haywoodarts.org) or (www.facebook.com/haywoodarts).

Black Mountain Center for the Arts in Black Mountain, NC, Offers Exhibition Focused on Black Mountain College

The Black Mountain Center for the Arts in Black Mountain, NC, will present *The Arts at Black Mountain College*, on view in the Center’s Upper Gallery, from July 1 - 26, 2013. A reception will be held on July 7, from 2-4pm.

Based in Black Mountain from 1933-56, Black Mountain College continues to hold sway as a mecca for academics and artists from all over the world. Curated by BMCA Executive Director Gale Jackson in collaboration with the Black Mountain College Museum + Arts Center and the NC Western Regional Archives, both located in Asheville, NC, this exhibit focuses on the school that lived at nearby Lake Eden and brought its influence into many of the world’s realms of visual art, architecture, dance, music, clay, film, literature, poetry and more.

Pieces in the exhibit include paintings, mixed media, and photography, as well as archival documents about the famous avant garde college. Works by former students and faculty will also include photos of events that took place and people who were there. Among them: A painting by Ati Gropius Johansen, daughter of Walter Gropius, Bauhaus architect who created the original designs for Black Mountain College campus, and who herself was later a graduate student under her father’s colleague, Josef Albers. Black and white photographs of faculty members Charles Olson and Lou Harrison by student Jonathan Williams. Lithographs by Emerson Woelffer and Robert Rauschenberg. An etching by Gwendolyn Knight Lawrence. Pieces that tell the story of what happened in the short span of two decades that has impacted the world of the arts and academia now for more than seventy years, and as the foundation of modernism, far into the future.

Originally housed at the YMCA Blue Ridge Assembly, the school opened its own

campus on the opposite side of US Highway 70 in 1941, now the site of a private K-8 school and a boy’s summer camp. Numerous books and articles have been written about the college, and a documentary film, “Fully Awake,” premiered in 2008.



Work by Ati Gropi

When Professor John Andrews Rice was fired by the president of Rollins College (FL), an ambitious group of that school’s faculty determined to start a new college. They chose to locate in the mountains of western NC. Along with those faculty members, a group of European academics and artists who were fleeing the instability of the continent just prior to World War II came to the US and settled into teaching at Black Mountain College – among them, Josef and Annie Albers.

“The new school, according to the first catalog, was founded ‘in order to provide a place where free use might be made of tested and proved methods of education and new methods tried in a purely experimental spirit. . .’. It was one of the first schools in the nation to create an educational plan embodying the principles of progressive education. One of the major tenets of the school’s plan was to elevate the fine arts to full curricular status.

“Owing partly to the imbalance between the arts and sciences, Black Mountain

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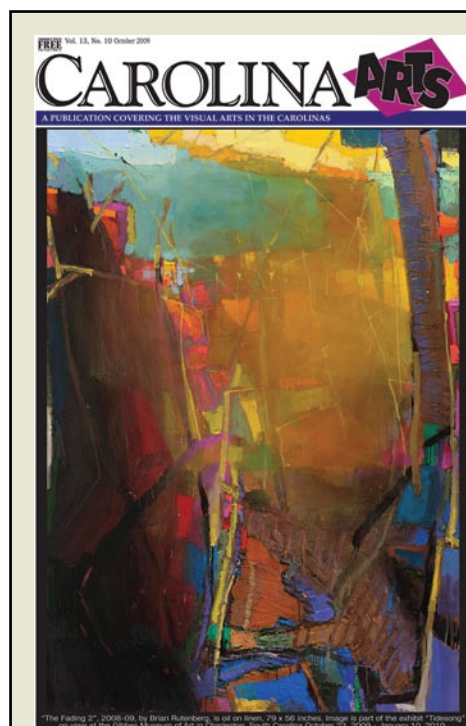
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