

Appalachian State University

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at Omaha and his MFA at the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities. He has exhibited nationally and internationally, and his work can be found in many collections throughout the United States, Europe, Asia, Australia and South America. His works have also been featured in many publications including *Sculpture Magazine*, *New American Paintings* and *HGTV Magazine*.

The exhibition, *Art Department Faculty Biennial*, will be on view in Galleries A & B at the Turchin Center and the Smith Gallery in the lobby of the Schaefer Center for the Performing Arts, through Nov. 10, 2022.

The exhibition is a collaborative exhibition organized by the Smith Gallery and the Turchin Center for the Visual Arts. These non-juried exhibitions provide the campus and surrounding communities with an opportunity to engage with the ideas and practices being explored by the talented multidisciplinary visual arts educators at Appalachian State University. Artists at TCVA galleries include: Adam Adcock, Andrea Keys Connell, Andrew Caldwell, Andrew Bailey Arend, NA_AB collective (Nida Abdullah and Anna Buckner), Clifton Meador, Edison Midgett, Erin Ethridge, Frankie Flood, Greg Banks, Jeana Eve Klein, Jessica Greenfield, Jody Servon, Joseph Bigley, Joshua White, Lilith E. Nielander, Lisa Stinson, Maggie Flanigan, Mark Nystrom, Rosa Dargan-Powers and Travis Donovan. Artists at the Smith Gallery: April Flanders, Daniel Rich, Catherine Altice, Vicky Grube, James Toub, Kate Wurtzel, Martin Church, Scott Ludwig, Stephen Parks, Timothy Ford, Topher Lineberry, and IlaSaha Prouty.

The exhibition, *Folded and Gathered: Nicole Pietrantonì*, on view in the Mezzanine Gallery, from July 1 through Feb. 4, 2023, consists of vibrant printed accordion books on Japanese papers that expand to create large scale installations. Much of her work is informed by her time in beautiful but ecologically fragile landscapes.

According to Pietrantonì, "My artists' books and installations explore the representation of beauty in times of loss, photography's role in producing memory and humans' relationship to the environment. Taking an experimental approach to the book form, my art asks how the book and printed matter can both enable and undercut humans' active role in constructing and idealizing images. Rather than a fixed site or single image, the fragmented paper columns, text, and book forms engage the world as an unstable accumulation of processes, perceptions and narratives."

Pietrantonì is the recipient of numerous awards including a Fulbright to Iceland, an Artist Trust Fellowship, a Larry Sommers Printmaking Fellowship, a Leifur Eiríksson Foundation Grant, the Manifest Prize and a Graves Award for Excellence in Humanities Research and Teaching. She received her MFA and MA in Printmaking from the University of Iowa and her BS in Human and Organizational Development and Art History from Vanderbilt University. Nicole served as the President of SGC International in 2016 - 18, the largest professional organization dedicated to scholarship in printmaking, book arts and papermaking in North America. Nicole is an Associate Professor of Art at Whitman College where she teaches printmaking and book arts.

The exhibition, *Installation with Ukrainian Flag: Lowell Hayes*, on view in



"Skin and Stone" by Adam Adcock

the Turchin Center's Community Gallery. In this installation, Lowell Hayes, one of Boone's most well-loved artists, shares his artistic response to the war in Ukraine. His work typically evokes a strong connection with viewers and enhances and deepens awareness of the featured topic. Hayes is a local artist, with deep roots in Boone and the High Country and is being showcased as part of the Boone Sesquicentennial 150 celebration.

Lowell Hayes was born near old Butler, TN, in 1936. He has a BA from Lynchburg College and a BD from the University of Chicago. He has lived in Valle Crucis, NC, since 1972. Over the course of his career, Hayes has made art in many styles and mediums. His work has been shown at The National Museum of American Art in Washington, DC, and has been featured on the show, *A TVA Commonplace*. He appeared on Charles Kuralt's *Sunday Morning on CBS*, was interviewed on NPR, by the *New York Times* and *Art in America*. Hayes has had his works featured on several magazine covers and in dozens of public and private collections including the Tennessee State Museum.

Nan Chase, whose work has appeared in practically every regional magazine as well as in *The New York Times*, is a Boone resident and established author and is a collaborator in this exhibition. She has contributed several literary selections, including a section from a memoir written by her grandfather who lived in the province of Chernihiv Oblast which was the location of one of the first struggles between Russian and Ukrainian forces in 2022. This exhibition has been generously supported, in part, by a gift from Mary Bickers.

The Turchin Center will offer several related programs in conjunction with these exhibits and An Appalachian Summer Festival. Contact the Center for further information.

The Turchin Center for the Visual Arts, named for university benefactors Robert and Lillian Turchin, fulfills Appalachian State University's long-held mission of providing a home for world-class visual arts programming. The largest facility of its kind in the region, the center presents exhibition, education and collection programs that support the university's role as a key educational, cultural and service resource. The center presents multi-dimensional exhibits and programs and is a dynamic presence in the community, creating opportunities for people of all ages and backgrounds to experience the power and excitement of the visual arts. Its seven galleries host changing exhibitions featuring local, regional, national and international artists.

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, call the Center at 828/262-3017 or visit (tcva.org).

The Art Cellar Gallery in Banner Elk, NC, Offers Works by David Birmingham & Loren Dibenedetto

The Art Cellar Gallery in Banner Elk, NC, will present two new exhibits in July including: *David Birmingham: Solo Exhibition*, on view from July 6 - 23, 2022, with an open house on July 9, from 3-5pm, and *Loren Dibenedetto: Solo*

Exhibition, on view from July 27 - Aug. 13, 2022, with an open house on Aug. 6, from 3-5pm.

Born in London, England in 1937, David Birmingham has studied and traveled

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throughout Europe, Asia, South America, Africa, and New Zealand. Birmingham taught for twenty-five years at the Art Institute of Miami, FL; now retired, he has moved full time to Florida but continues to visit the Blue Ridge every summer.

Birmingham's art shows his passion and artistic mastery as he captures the landscapes of the Blue Ridge Mountains. Pathways, country roads, and shaded lanes lead viewers into his paintings and welcome exploration of scenes, allowing the imagination to move beyond the next curve or past the next grove of trees.

"I find the play of light and shade in nature somewhat hypnotic and try to project my feelings in my landscapes. Nature, with a capital 'N' is the best of teachers," says Birmingham.

Born in Carteret, NJ, Loren Dibenedetto was classically trained and graduated from DuCret School of the Arts, in New Jersey. She is an award winning artist best

noted for her bold still life paintings, vivid floral compositions, luscious fruits & vegetables and dramatic life drawings.

Dibenedetto has won numerous awards in juried competitions, and has participated in national shows where her work has been highly regarded. Recently juried into the prestigious American Society of Traditional Artists, she is also a member of the Oil Painters of America and the International Guild of Realism.

Dibenedetto resides in Huntersville, NC, with her husband and three dogs.

"Through my representational paintings I hope to convey a sense of peace and clarity. The goal for my work is to engage the viewer so that they might see the beauty in a common subject in a way that is not familiar to them," says Dibenedetto.

For further information check our NC Commercial Gallery listings, call the gallery at 828/898-5175 or visit (www.artcellargallery.com).

Blowing Rock Art and History Museum in Blowing Rock, NC, Offers Several New Exhibits

Blowing Rock Art and History Museum in Blowing Rock, NC, is presenting several new exhibitions including: *Fragmentary Dimensions: Painting & Sculpture from Chenoweth • Halligan Studios*, on view in the Atwell Gallery, through Aug. 28, 2022; *Imminent Perils: To Wonder at Trifles in the Paintings of John Beerman*, on view in the Rankin West Gallery, through July 31, 2022; *Wildflowers: Glass Sculptures by Ronnie Hughes*, on view in the Schaefer Gallery, through Aug. 21, 2022; and *Jagged Path: the African Diaspora in Western North Carolina in Craft, Music, and Dance*, on view in the Fort Gallery, through Oct. 22, 2022.

Jan Chenoweth and Roger Halligan work in markedly different dimensions: Chenoweth collapsing expansive forms onto a relatively two-dimensional surface and Halligan building outwards, expanding graphic compositions into three-dimensional space. Both artists pursue abstraction rigorously, manipulating familiar yet sometimes unexpected materials into novel forms and surfaces. Seen together here, their work is marked by both its differences and a subtle shared vocabulary.

Living and working in Lake City, SC, Chenoweth and Halligan redeploy the detritus of our modern world - beachside garbage, caution tape, traffic cones, building materials - and create serendipitous windows into common landscapes and into their own process of making. *Fragmentary Dimensions* is an opportunity to look closely and discover the cunning breaches hidden within the work of these two artists where abstraction reigns but gives way to ruminations on the world we've built for ourselves and the aesthetic potential therein.

In the exhibition, *Imminent Perils: To Wonder at Trifles in the Paintings of John Beerman*, Beerman's paintings are uncommonly contemporary in their glimpses of natural and built environments. He carefully frames the landscape, illuminating its beauty without erasing the persistent trespass of human development; rigid edges of buildings, dilapidated fences, and straying power lines are just as much part of Beerman's compositions as the tranquil skies, rippling waterways, and sprawling fields. In these honest representations of precarious landscapes, Beerman quietly captures the anxiety and the awe of experiencing Nature's beauty in the 21st-century.

In a lecture given at Wellesley College in 1941 titled *The Art of Literature and Commonsense*, eminent author and critic Vladimir Nabokov urged his listeners to value experiences of wonder over commonsense principles. Nabokov emphasized a seemingly irrational "capacity to wonder at trifles - no matter the imminent peril... and it is in this childishly speculative state of mind, so different from commonsense and its logic, that we know the world to be good." Like Nabokov's rejection of prudence, John

Beerman's paintings, if given sufficient time and attention, disrupt assumptions about beautiful pictures and their ability to teach us about the world we are living in.

This exhibition gathers together new works alongside earlier paintings to trace Beerman's approach to the landscape. Often painting places that are gone, disappearing, or changing irrevocably, the artist uses a variety of techniques to articulate the uncertainty of these specific places and spaces, frozen in time on his canvas.

Born and raised in the Blue Ridge Mountains, Ronnie Hughes' passion for working with glass came as a surprise. Despite his aptitude for fine detail, Ronnie's technique of frameworking durable borosilicate glass is largely self-taught, and will be explored in the exhibit *Wildflowers: Glass Sculptures by Ronnie Hughes*.

Initially inspired by an unexpected field of Pink Lady Slipper orchids during a hike in 1980, Hughes has devoted his studio work exclusively to wildflowers native to North Carolina ever since. His sculptures are characterized by an exacting attention to accurate flower structures and the organic forms that support and reinforce these delicate compositions. Seen here in clear glass, the artist's forms, while drawn from Nature, are almost ethereal in their ability to capture and diffuse light.

Using propane and oxygen-fed torches, Hughes heats the glass to a molten state then shapes his floral subjects while the medium is pliable, without the aid of molds, specialized tools, glues, or paints. The works are finished in a 1040 degree kiln—a process called annealing—in which all thermal stress is removed from the sculptures and the glass is returned to its previous unaltered strength.

Works on view were drawn from the collection of Bo Henderson and Ed Springs.

The exhibit, *Jagged Path: the African Diaspora in Western North Carolina in Craft, Music, and Dance*, will illuminate the obscured history of African contributions to craft, music, and dance in Western North Carolina. Drawing connections from the 17th through 21st centuries, the *Jagged Path* will demonstrate how African traditions that survived the Middle Passage have helped create the culture of Western North Carolina through interviews, performances, historic artifacts, artist residencies, and more.

The *Jagged Path* is excited to feature the following artists (in alphabetic order): LaKisha Blount, Marie T. Cochran; Nathan Favors & Mariela de Leeuw; Theresa Gloster; Cara Hagan, Victoria Casey McDonald, Jim McDowell, Jenny Pickens, Viola Spells, Valeria Watson & Junaluska Heritage Association.

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, call the Museum at 828/295-9099 or visit (www.blowing-rockmuseum.org).

Looking for info on the next juried art show in the Carolinas, an opportunity to show & sell your work at the next festival taking place in the Carolinas or do you want to know who the new director of an art museum in the Carolinas is - just check out our Blog, "Carolina Arts News" at (<https://carolinaartsnews.wordpress.com/>).