



## Asheville Art Museum in Asheville, NC, Offers Photos by Ken Abbott

The Asheville Art Museum in Asheville, NC, is presenting *Heritage & Home: Photographs of Hickory Nut Gap Farm*, featuring works by photographer Ken Abbott, on view through Oct. 11, 2015.

The exhibition features approximately 40 images, as well as a selection of historic photos and artifacts, from photographer Ken Abbott's Hickory Nut Gap Farm Project.

After discovering the old Sherrill's Inn in 2004 while chaperoning his daughter's preschool field trip to Hickory Nut Gap Farm, Abbott, a newcomer to Western North Carolina, spent the next several years photographing the Fairview, NC, house and family.

Sherrill's Inn, a stage stop and drover's stand along an important trade route to Rutherfordton, NC, and parts east, became the private home and farm of Jim and Elizabeth McClure in 1916. Jim, a distinguished Protestant minister, started the Farmer's Federation in the early 1920s, and Elizabeth, a painter educated in Paris prior to WWI, set about creating a home and gardens at the old Inn. After almost 100 years of busy family life, the home and working farm have become an important center for the Fairview community, as well as a monument to Elizabeth's sense of the importance of beauty in daily life.

Ken Abbott received his MFA in photography from Yale University School of Art in 1987, and spent 15 years as chief photographer for the University of Colorado at Boulder. He moved to Asheville with his family in 2002, and has pursued independent art projects including an extensive documentary of Mrs. Hyatt's Oprahouse, a gathering of musicians and devoted fans meeting weekly in the garage behind the house since the 1950s. Abbott also photographed businesses, people and buildings in



Ken Abbott, "Hickory Nut Gap Farm Series", 2012, photograph. Courtesy of the Artist.

the old Asheville stockyards area, prior to its recent transition into the new brewery for New Belgium Brewing Company.

Abbott received an Artists Fellowship from the North Carolina Arts Council for the Hickory Nut Gap Farm Project in 2006.

Founded by artists in 1948 in Asheville, NC, the Asheville Art Museum annually presents an exciting, inviting and active schedule of exhibitions and public programs based on its permanent collection of 20th and 21st century American art. Any visit will also include experiences with works of significance to Western North Carolina's cultural heritage including Studio Craft, Black Mountain College and Cherokee artists. Special exhibitions feature renowned regional and national artists and explore issues of enduring interest. The Museum also offers a wide array of innovative, inspiring and entertaining educational programs for people of all ages.

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings or visit ([www.ashevilleart.org](http://www.ashevilleart.org)).

## Asheville Gallery of Art in Asheville, NC, Features Works by Elinor Bowman

The Asheville Gallery of Art in Asheville, NC, will present *New Paintings* by Elinor Bowman, on view from Aug. 1 - 31, 2015. A reception will be held on Aug. 7, from 5-8pm.

The exhibition reflects Bowman's exploration of the nature of watercolors. "I'm currently enjoying working with varied subject

matter, as well as seeing how watercolor behaves (or doesn't)," Bowman says. Some paintings using acrylic will also be included in the show.

For the past several years, Bowman has focused on painting or drawing live models in watercolor and ink. As she works, she

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says she can see something of the persona of the subject emerge on the page. "Right now, for me, watercolor is the most interesting medium. I like the process, not always being able to predict how the painting will turn out."

After a career in business, she began painting in 1996, first in art-process sessions, then taking lessons in oil painting. Bowman says of her art, "Growing up, I never imagined I would become an artist. I'm fascinated by how you can portray three dimensions in two." When she moved to Asheville in 2002, she studied at the Fine Arts League of Asheville, where the emphasis was on classical methods of portraiture and figure drawing. Bowman has also studied with several teachers, and participated in numerous workshops.

The gallery also displays the works of the 27 other gallery artists.

For more info check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, call 828/251-5796, or visit ([www.ashevillegallery-of-art.com](http://www.ashevillegallery-of-art.com)).



Work by Elinor Bowman

## Woolworth Walk in Asheville, NC, Features Works by Rob O'Sheeran

Woolworth Walk in Asheville, NC, will present *Rob O'Sheeran: Painting*, on view in the FW Front Gallery, from Aug. 1 - 30, 2015. A reception will be held on Aug. 7, from 5-7pm.

O'Sheeran's artwork draws on symbols and imagery from his imagination and

memory using color, play and repetition. Utilizing a sense of place and connection to environment, he embraces scenes from nature, history, and the little moments in life that resonate with everyone. The natural world is rich with patterns, from feathers

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**Ann Vasilik**  
**Watercolor Workshop**  
 Cheap Joe's Art Stuff  
 Boone NC  
 September 28 - October 2, 2015  
*Big, Bold and Beautifully Simple*

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