

# MICA Gallery in Bakersville, NC

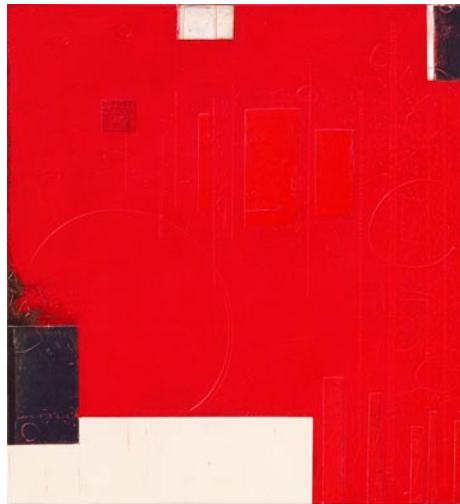
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in its liquid state - creating goblets, vases and bowls that convey elegance, harmony, and beauty. My works celebrate function and elevate the users' experience".

Glass artist Pablo Soto creates glass forms for lighting, drinking or sculpture. In Pablo's words, he is "a maker that gravitates to purity of form and material".

Tim Turner uses color and texture with the push/pull of dark and light in his rich paintings. Tim adds "I've always compared painting abstractly with music - jazz and orchestral in particular - where a lone instrument can make an impressive statement but with the depth and diversity of all of the components working together a larger, more complex and beautiful work of art can be achieved".

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, call the gallery at 828/688-6422 or visit ([www.micagallerync.com](http://www.micagallerync.com)).



Work by Tim Turner

[micagallerync.com](http://micagallerync.com)

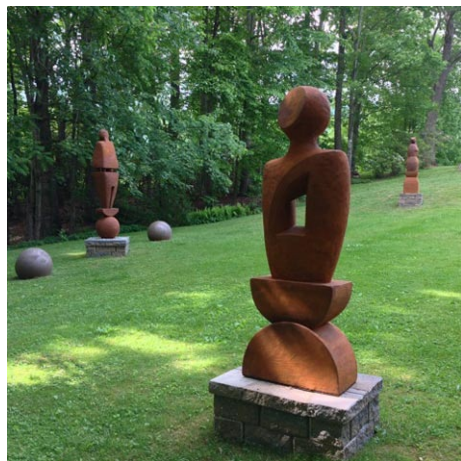
## Florence Thomas Art School in West Jefferson, NC, Offers Celebration of Women Artists

The Florence Thomas Art School in West Jefferson, NC, will present the Corey Anne Celebration of Women in the Arts, including an exhibit of works by Wheeler Munroe, Mary-Ann Prack, and Loretta Weaver, on view from Aug. 4 - 31, 2016. A reception will be held on Aug. 12, from 5-8pm. A special opening will take place at Prack Open Studio / Sculpture Garden, in Jefferson, NC, on Aug. 13, from 11am-5pm. A symposium will take place at Florence Thomas Art School, on Aug. 20, from 10am-noon, with Keynote Speaker Sally Atkins.

The Corey Anne Celebration of Women in the Arts has as its purpose, the celebration of contributions and influences of female artists at all stages of their careers and to inspire artists and patrons to encourage and support their artistic endeavors.

Sculptor/painter Mary-Ann Prack was recently awarded a grant from the Regional Artist Project of Northwest North Carolina, to create a sculpture garden adjacent to her studio in Jefferson, NC.

"I am very excited and grateful to have my outdoor sculpture in a permanent outdoor setting." And to coincide with the annual 'Corey Anne Celebration of Women in the Arts', I will have a special Studio/ Sculpture Garden opening on Saturday, Aug. 13, from 11am to 5pm.



Works by Mary-Ann Prack

The Prack Studio / Sculpture Garden is now open to the public by appointment.

Mary-Ann Prack was born in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada. Her background includes three generations of family artist tradition encompassing sculpture, painting and architecture. A richly creative environment was the essential basis from which she developed an appreciation, respect, and love of art and her favorite period in art history - the abstract expressionist movement. From this foundation she has developed art work that transforms her personal vocabulary of form, color, line and texture into what are spirited, serious and elegant abstractions of the human form.

Prack began her formal fine art education at the University of Guelph, Ontario, Canada, continued at the Art Institute



Work by Mary-Ann Prack

of Fort Lauderdale and Florida Atlantic University where she studied both fine art and interior design. After working for a number of years as an interior designer Prack was eventually able to transition into creating art on a full time basis. For the past thirty years she has worked with clay as a pure sculpture medium. There is nothing traditional about her approach to or use of clay in terms of subject, design, scale or glazing techniques. She hand-builds using a slab method with specially formulated clay that has a stone-like hardness, strength and consistency suitable for large-scale clay constructions.

Prack continues to create sculpture and more recently paintings with an enthusiasm, focused energy and commitment to high quality that has been evident from the beginning. Prack has fully matured her artistic style into her own instantly recognizable abstract expressionism form that continues to garner awards and commendations from critics, collectors and fellow artists.

Wheeler Munroe is a multi-faceted maker with her hands in woodworking, upholstery, leather work and farming. She studied fine art at the UNC School of the Arts, and furniture making both at the College of the Redwoods Fine Woodworking School, and abroad at Capella Garden in Sweden. Today she produces carefully crafted leather tool belts, and farms maple syrup in the mountains of North Carolina.

Loretta Weaver, an Ashe County, NC, native, started painting with Florence Thomas. She was a homemaker with two children but still found time for her work. Now that her children are grown up and her husband has passed away she says she has "all the time in the world to paint". In addition to studying under Florence Thomas, Loretta also took workshops with John Sours and Joe Miller. Her interest in art began when she was a child and started

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THERE'S A FINE LINE BETWEEN PRICELESS AND WORTHLESS.



Artist Diane Falkenhagen's Texas studio - destroyed by flooding during Hurricane Ike, 2008

What would you do if you lost your work, your tools, your images, and a lot more to a flood? Metalsmith Diane Falkenhagen knows what five feet of contaminated saltwater can do to a jewelry studio. CERF+ can help you learn how to protect your career from crossing that fine line.



[CraftEmergency.org](http://CraftEmergency.org) + [StudioProtector.org](http://StudioProtector.org)

painting on her own. A longtime member of the Blue Ridge Art Clan, Loretta has been a part of many of the exhibits in the area.

Florence Young Thomas was a soft-spoken farm woman, was probably the greatest artist with many hundreds of paintings the High Country has ever produced and is known for her impressionistic style. Born in 1909 in Ashe County, NC, she lived nearby until her life ended peacefully on March 30, 2007, at age 98. Thomas began her formal training at the Philadelphia School of Design for Women, but had to return home due to illness, where she married Paul Thomas and settled on a large farm. She continued to receive professional instruction, traveling along the eastern seaboard from Maine to Florida and, at one point, studied with Carolyn Wyeth, sister of Andrew, in Chadds Ford, PA.

Thomas was a painting instructor for 20 years, helped form the Blue Ridge Art Clan, and had a dream of starting an art school in Ashe County. Upon her passing, Florence provided the means to establish a non-profit art school in Ashe County, thus continuing her legacy of providing quality instruction in the arts. In 2008, Thomas' dream was realized when the school held its first workshops. With continued growth and support, the spirit and lessons of her presence will continue to inspire students well into the future.

The Florence Thomas Art School is located at 10 S. Jefferson Ave. in W. Jefferson, NC, 28694. For further information call 336/846-3827 or visit ([www.FlorenceArtSchool.org](http://www.FlorenceArtSchool.org)). The Prack Studio / Sculpture Garden is located at 431 Sunnyside Park Road, Jefferson, NC. 28640. For further information call 828/406-7046 or visit ([www.prackart.com](http://www.prackart.com)).

## Caldwell Arts Council in Lenoir, NC, Features Two New Exhibits

The Caldwell Arts Council in Lenoir, NC, will present two new exhibits including: *Thinking Inside the Box*, featuring works by Jane Wells Harrison and Bob Ebendorf and *Sculpt Mettle: Redux!*, a retrospective of works by Henry G. Michaux, on view from Aug. 5 through Oct. 1, 2016. A reception will be held on Aug. 5, from 5-7pm.

This multi-venue retrospective showcases sculpture, ceramic, and graphic works created by Henry G. Michaux between the years of 1967-1997. Dr. Michaux, a native of Morganton, NC, (now a resident of Lenoir, NC) is a graduate of Texas Southern University where he studied with noted artists and educators Dr. John Biggers and Professor Carroll Simms. Michaux is also a graduate of Penn State University, where he studied and earned Master's and Doctorate degrees during the seminal period that shaped Art Education reform and served as the foundation for the discipline-based arts education movement. During a



Work by Jane Wells Harrison

career that spans nearly forty-five years, Dr. Michaux has crafted a solid record of excellence in art production and arts instruction.

Exhibition curator, Dr. Terry K. Hunter, continued on Page 20