

# Toe River Arts Council-Burnsville

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was in Celo, an artist community nestled in the North Carolina mountains, when the sisters were six years old, and Yater was enrolled as a beginning student in photography at Penland School of Crafts. Through the years, Yater has continued documenting moments in the lives of Hannah and Molly and has compiled an historic exhibition from this collection. The study incorporates the sisters' evolution, Yater's own photographic growth, and the transition from film to digital.

In describing her journey of self discovery, Yater says, "While studying education, I exchanged the confines of graduate school for the classroom of the world. During my travels, I experienced an epiphany in the Australian Outback at Uluru, Ayers Rock. After a brief rain, the evening light burst through gray clouds striking the rock. The sacred monolith was set ablaze into a fiery red display, and a double rainbow poured over Uluru. In that moment, it was revealed - there was an artist within, and I must pursue the study of photography." This mission led Yater to North Carolina, to Penland, to Hannah and Molly, and to the unfolding of this story.

Yater specializes in storytelling images of women and children in organic and natural settings. It is her love for, and understanding of people, that is both enthusiastically and brilliantly exhibited in her photographs.

Yater has photographed *Good Morning America's* Love at Times Square, and her work appears on national and international book jackets, magazine covers, in inter-



Work by Marthanna Yater

national magazines, advertising and print work illustrations, and in galleries and fine art exhibitions. Yater's work has received numerous national and international awards.

TRAC is a non-profit organization founded in 1976 to promote the arts in Mitchell and Yancey Counties.

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, call the Council at 828/682-7215 or visit ([www.toeriverarts.org](http://www.toeriverarts.org)).

## Blowing Rock Art & History Museum in Blowing Rock, NC, Offers Works by Elizabeth Bradford

Blowing Rock Art & History Museum in Blowing Rock, NC, will present *Elizabeth Bradford: Time + Terrain*, curated by Carla Hanzal, on view from Aug. 13 through Nov. 19, 2016. A reception will be held on Sept. 1, from 5:30-7:30pm.

"What an honor to be hosting the paintings of Elizabeth Bradford," states Lee Carol Giduz, Executive Director at the Museum. "Viewing her work is a conversation with nature. At a distance, the scene appears before you as through an open window and draws you in, while up close, you experience the intricate details, dramatic colors, and the many qualities of brushstrokes. What unfolds are stories of the layered and delicate beauty of our natural world."

Bradford gleans images from the rural landscape surrounding her family's ancestral farm in northern Mecklenburg County, where she lives. The expanded scope of her artwork also includes impressions of countries she explores, as well as the wilderness where she kayaks, hikes, and camps. "Slowly, over time, my attention turned to wild places," explains Bradford. "I found myself breathing deep sighs of relief when I stepped out of civilization and into the forest ... I have come to believe that I am now painting the permanent - that wildness will never be fully controlled."

Hanzal adds, "While the natural terrain is mutable - affected by seasons, weather conditions, and light - human interventions also significantly impact its evolution as global temperatures rise and untrammled habitat is developed. Bradford's paintings both eulogize what is being lost, and offer glimpses of the untamable existing beyond control." Bradford constructs complex compositions, utilizing precise layers of color and dynamic mark-making to evoke form, light, and shadow. Bradford compares her paintings to the tessera in a mosaic or the pixels of a photograph, fracturing the image into its component parts, which then coalesce into a whole. Her paintings invite contemplation of the familiar and the lovely within a natural setting, but the uncanny of the unknown and the mysterious also beckon.



Work by Elizabeth Bradford

*Elizabeth Bradford: Time + Terrain* invites the viewer to study the natural world, to explore it deeply. The exhibition includes 40 paintings of various scale—some large and encompassing, and others that are more intimately scaled, all reflecting her naturalist's sensibilities. Revealing her recent investigations with sites in the Southeast, several paintings are borrowed from museums within North Carolina, where her paintings have been selected for permanent collections. The exhibit explores, in part, the historical continuum of the region's natural environment serving as an essential source of inspiration. Bradford's eloquent writings chronicling her various insights and observations are incorporated into the exhibition and accompanying hardcover catalogue. The full-color, 64-page catalogue features an interview between Bradford and the curator, Carla Hanzal.

Bradford studied art at Randolph Macon Woman's College, the University of North Carolina, and at Davidson College, and recently completed a residency at the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts and at Skopart on the Greek island of Skopelos. She is represented in numerous corporate and private collections, and was included in the United States' State Department's Art in Embassies Program, which places representative work by American artists in embassies around the world.

In 2006, Bradford was chosen as the featured artist for North Carolina's first statewide Women's Conference. She has had many solo exhibitions, including

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## 31st ANNUAL SCULPTURE CELEBRATION



SCULPTURE  
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Caldwell Arts Council

September 9, 2016  
Sculptor Welcome Dinner 7pm  
\$20/person advanced sales only

September 10, 2016  
Exhibition / Competition 9am-4pm  
Free to the public—live music,  
children's art activities; free shuttles  
to area parking and  
Beautiful sculptures for sale!

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shows at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, Davidson College, and Hood College.

Bradford's work explores intricate formal patterns found in nature and reveals a personal experience of color. Though representational, there is a connection with the traditions of abstract art, as well as the Pattern and Decoration movement and Pop Art. Bradford's paintings investigate landscape and the power of place, with special affection for the Southeast.

*Elizabeth Bradford: Time + Terrain* is

## Toe River Arts Council in Spruce Pine, NC, Offers Works by Robin Martindale

The Toe River Arts Council in Spruce Pine, NC, will present *My Other Self*, a one-woman exhibition by Robin Martindale, on view in the Spruce Pine Gallery, from Aug. 20 through Sept. 17, 2016. A reception will be held on Aug. 26, from 5-7pm.

Martindale's work is sculptural in design, experientially meditative in perception and as colorful as a box of crayons. Her pieces vary in size from a little over 12 inches that might sit on a pedestal, to ones that stand six feet off the floor. She works predominately in wood, but doesn't limit herself, often creating with metals and clay.

After over two decades as a professor in the Department of Art, Martindale retired from Appalachian State University in Boone, NC. Formally trained as a sculptor, she has taught graphic design and its history, illustration, product and chair design, drawing, and several different categories of sculpture.

Creating, for Martindale is "a way of communicating that is as visceral as music but much more subtle, particularly when it is non-representational or abstracted."

With her work, Martindale's interest lies in expanding one's visual awareness.

"As I see it, art making is a meditative process. When I work, I learn who I am...I'm interested in color, media, form, and process when I start a piece, but when



Work by Robin Martindale

the work is complete, and I have a chance to live with it, I begin to learn what the