



Asheville Art Museum

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powerful history of modernism unique to the region of southern Appalachia - akin to the innovations of Black Mountain College here in Western North Carolina," says Alexis Meldrum, curatorial assistant at the Asheville Art Museum. "The artists operating during the sessions of the Mountain Lake Workshop conducted boundary-pushing explorations in art, equally informed by collaborative dialogues as by the rural respite in which they found themselves. It's quite exciting to present this wide range of conceptual artwork to our visitors, including several visually impactful large-scale installations that have not often been exhibited."

Highlights include composer and conceptual artist John Cage's *New River Rocks and Washes* (1990). A significant late-career work by Cage, this rarely exhibited watercolor extends nearly 30 feet in length, produced using methods of chance to trace stones gathered from the workshop's natural surroundings.

Rural Avant-Garde: The Mountain Lake Experience features Mountain Lake Workshop artists: Stephen Addiss (born New York, NY, 1935); Steve Bickley (born Lebanon, VA, 1953); John Cage (Los Angeles, CA, 1912–1992 New York, NY); Merce Cunningham (Centralia, WA, 1919–2009 New York, NY); James

De La Vega (born East Harlem, NY, 1968); Howard Finster (Valley Head, AL, 1918–2001 Rome, GA); Joe Kelley; Jiro Okura (1943–2014); Liz Liguori (born circa 1979); Sally Mann (born Lexington, VA, 1951); Mary C. Richards (Weiser, ID, 1916–1999 Kimberton, PA); Cy Twombly (Lexington, VA, 1928–2011 Rome, Italy); and founder Ray Kass (born Rockville Centre, NY, 1944) himself, whose individual workshops have provided an interface between the concepts and specific creative activities of many of the various workshops.

The exhibition and accompanying catalogue (published by Longwood University in association with the University of Virginia Press) provide an important record of Mountain Lake Workshop within the context of contemporary creative practice.

This exhibition was organized by the Longwood Center for the Visual Arts at Longwood University. Generous funding was provided in part by the National Endowment for the Arts.

The Asheville Art Museum's galleries, the Museum Store, and Perspective Café are open with limited capacity.

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings or visit (ashevilleart.org).

Asheville Gallery of Art in Asheville, NC, Features a Group Exhibition

The Asheville Gallery of Art in Asheville, NC, will present *The Nature of Summer*, a group show featuring 21 of the gallery artists, on view from Aug. 1 - 31, 2021. A reception will be held on Aug. 6, from 5-8pm.

Summer brings the spirit of adventure, bright colors, landscapes bursting with life, and extra time for travel, friends, and family. The sights and sounds of the Blue Ridge Mountains beckon tourists and locals alike, inviting discovery and exploration. In *The Nature of Summer*, AGA artists share the unique energy this season brings to them and their artwork.

The warm weather and lush foliage create the perfect opportunity for painters to embrace plein-air studies to capture light and color for their studio work.



Work by Terrilyn Dubreuil

Karen Keil Brown shares the inspiration behind her oil painting *A Summer Morning Hike*: "For me an early morning trek in the Blue Ridge Mountains is the perfect outdoor activity. The cool air and

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the morning's misty light create a beautiful vista for me to enjoy and paint."

Terrilyn Dubreuil embraces experimentation in her *Hay Barn* piece, a soft pastel on heavily textured pumiced board. While barns are a familiar subject for landscape painters, Dubreuil takes it a step further with her vivid choices of color and unconventional mark-making, bringing energy to what can be an otherwise sedate subject matter.

Gallery artist Chris Bell invokes a sense of personal nostalgia for her contribution to the show. Bell says, "Growing up with no air conditioning, summer in WNC often meant middle-of-the-day escapades to escape the heat." These journeys led her to many hidden gems in the mountains, including a meadow swaying with crimson flowers, as depicted in her mixed-media painting *Summertime Poppies*.

For a more domestic floral scene, viewers can admire the realism of Bill George's watercolor *Antique Vase*, a delicate representation of roses from his previous New York garden arranged in his wife's treasured vase. The play of live roses against the roses painted upon the vessel makes an intriguing composition that fully captures the beauty of these



Work by Bill George

classic summer blooms.

And what is summer without a trip to the beach? Claire Simpson-Jones' watercolor painting *Kiawah Island Sunrise* beckons the viewer's eyes down a rustic boardwalk and towards the peaceful surf at daybreak. Simpson-Jones reflects on her idea of the nature of summer: "It begins with a warm glow as it brings to mind the soothing sound of ocean waves and spectacular sunrises."

Visitors to Asheville Gallery of Art can see these paintings and over a dozen more for the entirety of August.

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, call the gallery at 828/251-5796 or visit (www.ashevillegallery-of-art.com).

American Folk Art in Asheville, NC, Offers Works by James "Buddy" Snipe

American Folk Art in Asheville, NC, will present *Alabama Visionary Folk Artist: James "Buddy" Snipe*, on view from Aug. 5 - 19, 2021.

During the month of August, American Folk Art will be alive with the artwork of renowned Alabama Folk Artist James "Buddy" Snipe. Snipe has been creating since he was a little boy; his first creations were toys that his 11 siblings played with. These toys were made of twigs, bits of cloth, springs, broken plates & mirrors... whatever they could scrounge, and of course, Snipe's ingenious imagination.

Eventually these "toys" grew into more sculptural forms. Beginning in the late 1970's, his colorful yard ornamentation attracted the attention of folklorists and documentarians who were recognizing the important contributions Southern Folk Artists were making to American Culture. Snipe gained wide recognition.

Now 77, he is no longer making, but occasionally invites Betsey-Rose Weiss, the owner of American Folk Art, to visit and select an assortment of his art. This



Work by James "Buddy" Snipe

show is a result of her most recent visit.

Snipe didn't attend school long enough to learn to read or write, yet his awareness of the world, amazing imagination and his love of "making" serve as a scrap-book for his memories and the events of his life.

For further information check our NC Commercial Gallery listings, call the gallery at 828/281-2134 or visit (www.amerifolk.com).