



UNC-Asheville - Skip Rohde

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said Rohde. "But they lived in areas where the Taliban held sway. We did not control most of the district I was in. The fact that they came to the regular meetings with Afghan district government officials meant that they had the tacit approval of the Taliban. They were elders who were highly respected across the district and they could work back and forth."

Rohde earned a degree in engineering, served many years in the Navy, and earned a bachelor of fine arts degree from UNC Asheville in 2003. He says his military and engineering background gave him the clarity of approach needed to work well with the military in Afghanistan; his fine art and humanities background gave him a sensitivity to the cultural and political complexities and ambiguities there.

Rohde says he is happy to be back in Asheville and has no plans to deploy again. He is seeking opportunities to use his professional skills and experience "to make a positive difference here." He is also planning to set up a studio for his



Skip Rohde in transit in Afghanistan

passionate avocation, his art. His exhibit opening, bringing together his professional experience and his artistic life, marks his reentry to stateside life.

A video interview with Rohde by the US Embassy in Kabul is online at (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IWjY9FlnJ8I>).

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, call 828/251-6559 or visit (<http://art.unca.edu/>).

and art for her customers to enjoy and appreciate. She continues to represent two artists, Warren Dennis and Debbie Arnold who exhibited in her first gallery – Woven Works, also on NC Hwy 105. Long standing gallery artists include Vae Hamilton, Andrew Braitman, John Littleton and Kate Vogel, Bobby Phillips, Egi Antonaccio, Laura Fly, Kate Worm, Roy Nichols and Freeman Beard.

Artistic talent runs in the Carlton family, as Toni Carlton's grandmother and aunts were known weavers in the area and she was taught to weave at a young age. Her first gallery - Woven Works - was devoted to weaving landscape tapestries and wearable art, along with contemporary wall pieces and sculptural basketry.

Carlton earned degrees from Appalachian State University where she double majored in Industrial Arts, concentrating on woodworking, clay, jewelry and architectural drafting and Art Marketing with a minor in Business. She utilized the skills learned from her father to build a loom in one of her college woodworking classes. Upon graduating from college, her grandmother gave her another small loom which began her search for space to house the looms and find a studio. She found just such a place in her first studio and gallery - Woven Works, where she used that very first loom she'd created in college.

Carlton has a physical and spiritual Native American connection. Her mother's grandmother was Cherokee. She enjoys time with her Cherokee friends at retreats. She also is inspired by Eastern philosophies which she incorporates in her mixed media work, along with travels to experience different cultures, including trips to Europe, Peru, Mexico, Belize and India.

"Looking back over my work throughout my creative expressions, it is interesting that I work in a series of colors for a period of a year or so. Recently I worked in various shades of blues...and before in warm autumn colors combined with teals. On my trip to India I noticed there was a color for each day. The women dressed daily in relation to the colors of specific gemstones, reflecting the healing properties of the earth. I have found that I create my art in certain colors in relation to the energy I want to offer at the time. Turquoise is my favorite color which to me means communicating through an open heart."

Carlton's art has evolved over the years - from landscape tapestries, large sculptural 3-dimensional basketry, traditional patterns woven with linen to creating fine art, drawing, and painting in oils. Her



Work by Toni Carlton

current contemporary paintings are mixed media utilizing many different techniques and textures. Carlton says, "My hope is that my original creations open our hearts and touch our souls to inspire and lift our spirits. I will continue along a theme that speaks to people's hearts and touches them in ways that are healing and helpful in developing an understanding of our interconnectedness."

In recent compositions called "Art Blessings," Carlton combined calligraphic and Asian symbols through layers of collage including hand-woven fibers, painting and transfer images as she revisited her spiritual journey as an artist throughout the years. She says, "It has been over 20 years since I have used weaving as an art form so to actually weave each thread as a prayer knowing it will become an integral part of a larger mixed media painting on canvas is coming full circle to connect me to my heritage."

Carlton Gallery, one of the most established fine art galleries in NC celebrating over 30 years in business is known for its spirited collections and diversity in artwork. Creations from traditional to contemporary feature a wide variety of fine art and upscale handmade crafts by over 200 local, regional and national artisans.

Carlton extends an invitation to visit Carlton Gallery where the ambience is informal and inviting. Visitors notice at once they are in a special place filled with community spirit, creative artists and good friends. To inspire creativity within the community painting workshops conducted by gallery artists are open to beginning or advanced artists and are held each week beginning in May and running through

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Carlton Art Gallery near Linville, NC, Offers Exhibits for 30th Anniversary Celebration

The Carlton Art Gallery near Linville, NC, is celebrating its 30th anniversary with several special exhibitions including: *Autumn Group Exhibition*, on view through Nov. 15, 2012; *Warren Dennis: 2012 Figurative Abstractions*, on view through Nov. 18, 2012; and *Winter Group Exhibition*, on view from Nov. 23 through Mar. 15, 2013. A Holiday Open House will be offered on Nov. 23 & 24, 2012.

Boone, NC, native and artist, Toni Carlton, has spent over 30 years as owner/curator of her fine art gallery. She has undergone changes in names, venues and artists, but the overall objective to promote the work of local, regional and national artists, as well as market her own fine art has not changed.

For 21 years Carlton Gallery was located in the Creekside Building, which in the 70's was formally known as the Kiln Room located 10 miles south of Boone, NC. In 2008, Carlton Gallery moved across Hwy. 105 into the former Antonac-



Work by Toni Carlton

cio Fine Art Gallery where its original energy and spirit remains.

Carlton Gallery is filled with art in all mediums - paintings, glass, sculpture, wood, clay, wearable art and jewelry. Carlton states she enjoys finding artists

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