

Theatre Art Galleries

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father was of German descent. Her early paintings, which she began producing in the late 1960s, depicted scenes from her childhood. She pursued her art more seriously after her mother's death in 1978.

By that time Cher Shaffer had moved to southeastern Ohio, where her three children were born. A health emergency she suffered in 1985 led her to reevaluate her life, and her art subsequently took a turn toward more expressive, primal imagery. Her work began to reach a national audience in 1989, when she was among the artists featured in the book *O, Appalachia: Artists of the Southern Mountains*, by Ramona and Millard Lampell, and a related traveling exhibition. She moved to rural Ashe County, NC, in 2004.



Work by Cher Shaffer

Gabriel Shaffer grew up watching his mother make art and interact with art dealers, collectors and other artists. The oldest of her three children, he apparently inherited her talent, and he maintained a casual drawing practice throughout his childhood. He also excelled early on at writing, which he pursued more seriously. After he finished high school, and following his parents' divorce, he took a job with the produce distribution company his father managed in Columbus, OH.

Over the next few years Gabriel underwent an identity crisis that manifested in reckless drug experimentation, suicidal behavior and temporary hospitalization. He survived the worst of it to spend most of his twenties writing, doing performance poetry and singing in modestly successful rock bands. At 27 he belatedly tried his hand at painting and realized he wanted to pursue it more seriously. After a brief residency in Wilmington, NC, he moved to Chicago, where he worked as a waiter and used his spare time to paint, visit art galleries and museums and learn what he could about art history.

Encouraged by his mother, Gabriel began showing his work to collectors



Work by Gabriel Shaffer, cropped

and had a show of his paintings in New York in 2004. Later that year he moved to Asheville, NC, where he has continued to develop his work. His paintings and collaged drawings, increasingly layered in their treatment of personal and cultural themes, suggest compacted excerpts from an open-ended narrative involving a panoply of familiar and unfamiliar characters.

Gallery B will host *The Chair as Art Form*, an exhibition in collaboration with members of the American Society of Furniture Designers and the Bienstock Furniture Library. There are many talented, professional photographers in the area that work in the furniture and decor industry. Some of the best were invited to select one of the featured chairs from the exhibit and express themselves creatively using the chair as the subject of their photograph, but capturing something unexpected and familiar. Taking the subject out of its usual domestic setting and truly treating the "chair as art form".

The Hallway Gallery will feature *Works from the 512 Collective*. The 512 Collective is an artist collective and gallery in High Point that hopes to bring the growing local art community together to create a culture of locally supported artists and makers. The 512 Collective is located at 512 E Washington Street.

And once again, the Kaleidoscope Youth Gallery will host the *Annual TAG Lower School Art Exhibition*. Participating schools include Florence Elementary, High Point Christian Academy, Johnson Street Elementary, Montlieu Academy, Northern Elementary, Parkview Elementary, Pilot Elementary, Southwest Elementary, Union Hill Elementary, and Wesleyan Academy.

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, call TAG at 336/887-2137 or visit (www.tagart.org).

SECCA in Winston-Salem, NC, Features Works by Nicola L

The Southeastern Center for Contemporary Art in Winston-Salem, NC, will present *Nicola L: Exquisite Corpus*, featuring a solo exhibition of works by Nicola L, a multi-faceted artist whose corporeal sculptures, assemblages, and performances have circulated internationally since the late 1960s, on view on the Potter Gallery, from Dec. 16 through Mar. 10, 2015. An opening performance of her iconic "Blue Cape" will take place on Dec. 16, from 6-8pm, with live music and a reception to follow.

Nicola L's far-ranging artistry encompasses performance art, wearable sculpture, design, and painting. In each area of her work, the body is the central subject and the site of transformation and collective participation.

The exhibition *Exquisite Corpus* focuses on her object-mediated performance art. It connects earlier, Surrealist-inspired body sculptures to later action-oriented



Work by Nicola L, Blue Cape, Beijing China social sculptures. In particular, it follows the journey of the "Blue Cape", a multi-hooded vibrant cape that embodies twelve
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people at once. This nomadic 'living sculpture' has been performed at global landmarks and institutions including the Great Wall of China and the EU Parliament. The show at SECCA now adds Winston-Salem to its list of cultural sites.

"Nicola L is an artist of the world, and now our city is invited to partake in a performance art experience with an expansive social imagination," says Cora Fisher, Curator of Contemporary Art at SECCA.

The exhibition's title, *Exquisite Corpus* takes inspiration from the language of European Surrealism that has informed Nicola L's body-centric art. Specifically, the "exquisite corpse" (Fr., cadavre exquis) is the Surrealist game of collectively authoring poetry or image. Here the titles shifts "corpse" to "corpus" to indicate her body of work made over forty years (her corpus), and to suggest performance art as a domain of co-authorship and group participation, much like the Surrealist game.

Nicola L: Exquisite Corpus is paired with the forthcoming Main Gallery exhibition, *collective actions!*, a group show inviting the public to co-create sculptures with women artists who are rethinking so-

cial action, opening Jan. 22, and continuing through Mar. 22, 2015, with participatory events through Mar. 22.

Nicola L. (born in Morocco) studied art at the Académie Julian in Paris, followed by the École des Beaux-Arts in Paris at the atelier of painter Jean Souverbie. She has exhibited her work internationally since 1969 in Biennials such as the 2014 Liverpool Biennial and the 2002 Havana Biennial; at venues including, Centre Pompidou (Paris), the Nice Museum of Contemporary Art, Gallery Twentieth (Los Angeles), MUKHA (Antwerp); and at art fairs, including FIAC and Frieze London. She has staged impromptu street performances beginning with "Red Coat Same Skin For Everyone" (1969), originally conceived as a performance to accompany musicians Gilberto Gil and Caetano Veloso at the Isle of Wight music festival. Her work has been the subject of catalogues and received coverage in *Art in America*, *Le Monde*, *Guernica*, *The New York Times*, and *Vogue Magazine*.

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

Greenhill in Greensboro, NC, Offers 35th Fundraiser Exhibition

Greenhill in Greensboro, NC, will present its 35th *Winter Show*, curated by Edie Carpenter, on view from Dec. 7 through Jan. 11, 2015. A Collector's Choice evening will take place on Dec. 6, from 7-11pm.

The *Winter Show* brings together over 120 artists each year from across North Carolina. A comprehensive survey of the finest art and crafts, the show represents a mix of mediums including painting, sculpture, photography, ceramic, jewelry, woodwork, and fiber works, all within a harmonious installation. Artists showing work in the exhibition vary not only by mediums, but also by experience, background and perspective.

To commemorate Greenhill's 40th



Work by Bryan Holsenbeck

anniversary, Greenhill will present works from 40 new artists, 40 artists who have been in *Winter Show* in the past 10 years, and 40 artists from the first 30 years.

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