

Sunset River Marketplace

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for her love of nature and gardening. Her acrylic piece *Imperial Iris* is another painstakingly rendered, larger-than-life floral painting, a standout in the collection.

Three watercolor artists are also in the mix. Freeman Beard grew up in the foothills of the NC mountains and studied at Ringling School of Art and Design in Sarasota, FL. He describes his style as realistic impressionism and uses the traditional technique of transparent watercolors, allowing the paper to be his whitest white. *Morning Sun* is his memorable Bearded Iris painting. The title refers to the optimum light requirement for the popular Spring staple.



Work by Linda Griffin

Linda Griffin began her art training in Europe, where she grew up as the daughter of an Army officer. It was there that her love of architecture and travel – which can still be observed in *Blue Bucket*, her watercolor painting in the Sunset River show – began to develop. A Washington, DC, native, Griffin achieved early success in oil painting, but upon discovering watercolor, she realized her true medium. She travels the country teaching workshops and has exhibited at prestigious venues nationwide. Her work is in many corporate collections, including 28 commissions for Marriott Corporation and 23 commissions for Tokyo's Industrial Research Corporation of Japan.

Judy O'Brien was raised in the northeast and attended Art Career School in New York City, after which she became a commercial artist with an advertising firm. She went on to freelance and later taught children's art before she headed south and

devoted herself to creating fine art. Included in this exhibition is her watercolor work, *Magnolia*.

Photographer Louis Aliotta, who is also the custom framer for Sunset River Marketplace, was originally from upstate New York where he owned his own gallery and framing business. Now living in Southport, NC, he combs the area waterfronts and local gardens searching for the perfect light and the perfect shot. *Purple Irises* is one of his popular garden pieces.

Robin Smith, also a photographer, was born in Louisville, KY, and spent his teenage years in Charleston, SC. He has owned a photography studio in Columbia, SC, for almost 40 years. The artist has a deep appreciation of the world around him, which gives his images a spiritual depth that illustrates every subject in a new and unique way, as evidenced in *Magnolia*. Smith's contribution to *Bring On Spring!* He has been published in several noteworthy publications and books including *Camden: Homes and Heritage*; *Robert Mills, Architect* and *G.W. Vanderbilt's Biltmore Estate*.

Printmaker Laurie Wright was a commercial artist for over 20 years and developed her focus on producing the perfect printed page. As a creative fine artist, she doesn't limit herself by planning her prints. According to the artist, she shuns predictability, instead treating each print as an experiment in shape and color. Included in the exhibition is Wright's serigraph *Blumin*, which is the German translation for "flower."

Shandi Berls is a prolific clay artist in Wilmington, NC. She met her studio partner (now husband) Casey McConnell while they were both attending the University of Nebraska. Berls is known for her distinctive floral motif clay vessels, jewelry and wall sculptures, several of which are included in the exhibition.

For further information check our NC Commercial Gallery listings, call the gallery at 910/575-5999 or visit (www.sunsetrivermarketplace.com).

Barton College in Wilson, NC, Features Exhibition of NC Pottery

Barton College in Wilson, NC, will present *Tradition and Intuition: Celebrating North Carolina Pottery*, an invitational exhibition on view in the Barton Art Galleries, from Mar. 17 through Apr. 11, 2013. A reception will be held on Mar. 17, from 4-6pm.

The exhibition will showcase North Carolina's rich diversity and history of pottery making, ranging from Native American pots, to the traditional utilitarian earthenware and stoneware of the Appalachian, piedmont and coastal plains. The exhibition will feature works by Cynthia Bringle, Dan Finch, Brown Holloman, Daniel Johnston, Senora Richardson Lynch, Ben Owen, Jane Peiser, Ronan Kyle Peterson, Hiroshi Sueyoshi, Gertrude "Gay" Smith, Liz Summerfield, and Julie Wiggins.

On Sunday evening, Mar. 17, at 5pm the Barton Art Galleries and the Barton College Friends of Visual Arts will welcome Friends of Visual Arts members for a wine and cheese reception in the Barton Art Galleries. At 5:45pm, Barton Art Galleries and the Barton College Friends of Visual Arts will host a Panel Presentation in the Lauren Kennedy and Alan Campbell Theatre, featuring Dan Finch, Brown Holloman, Daniel Johnston, and Ben Owen III. Dinner will immediately follow in the Bridgestone Americas Atrium of the Lauren Kennedy and Alan Campbell Theatre. The Barton College Friends of Visual Arts events are by invitation only to members. Membership levels start at \$25. To make reservations for the panel discussion and dinner or to receive additional information about the Barton College Friends of Visual Arts, please contact Frances Belcher at 252/399-6357 or e-mail (fbelcher@barton.edu).

Cynthia Bringle is a ceramic artist
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Works by Ben Owen III

who lives and works in Penland, NC. Her work represents more than 40 years of functional stoneware. She earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from Memphis Academy of Art and a Master of Fine Arts degree from Alfred University. Mudfire Clayworks of Georgia recently described Bringle as "one of America's preeminent potters and a legendary teacher whose sphere of influence stretches around the globe. She has been a role model for many aspiring ceramists, influencing the professional careers of countless American and international students. Her former students, many of whom have gone on to become noted potters themselves, describe Bringle's work at the wheel as "making the clay sing in a rhythm that is a dance between her hands and the clay." She is a fellow of the American Craft Council and a recipient of the North Carolina Award for Fine Art. Her work is in the collection of the Mint Museum of Craft and Design, Burlington Art Centre, and the High Museum of Art.

Dan Finch of Bailey, NC, is a master potter who produces unique rustic forms for his Toisnot Series from the local coastal plain's mineral and marine

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