

# Flood Gallery Fine Arts Center

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at," says Curtis.

Curtis has been exhibiting her work for more than 20 years in places like the P.O.W. in New York City, the Nexus Contemporary Art Gallery in Atlanta, the Newhouse Center for Contemporary Art on Staten Island, the Zolla/Lieberman Gallery in Chicago, and the Brooklyn Museum of Art.

Jerry Saltz, from *Art in America* has

this to say, "Margaret Curtis' paintings proved you can have your cake and eat it too. Inherently political, yet frivolously beautiful, these drifting gossamer images told tales of the difficult lives of girls and women."

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, call the Center at 828/255-0066 or visit ([www.philmechanicstudios.com](http://www.philmechanicstudios.com)).

## The Bender Gallery in Asheville, NC, Features Works by Lesley C S Nolan, Mathieu Grodet and Anna Boothe

The Bender Gallery in Asheville, NC, is presenting *Narratives*, a three person exhibition featuring the work of glass artists Lesley C S Nolan, Mathieu Grodet and Anna Boothe, on view from Apr. 5 through May 31, 2013. A reception will be held on Apr. 5 from 5-8pm. The reception is being held in conjunction with Asheville's initial First Friday art walk of the season. *Narratives* examines the art of storytelling and social commentary via works of sculptural glass.



Work by Anna Boothe

Tallahassee, FL, artist, Lesley C S Nolan records stories of family dynamics and human interaction through fabulous panels of vibrant fused glass. Traditions of quilting and textiles held by the women in her family are evident in her use of color, shape and pattern. The stories Nolan's work tell conveys our common need for nostalgia, comfort and halcyon days.



Work by Lesley C S Nolan

Mathieu Grodet is a French born artist living in Quebec. He takes the goblet, an object which has been in existence since antiquity, and transforms it into the fantastic by bending it and adding additional feet and cups. He blows these delicate goblets as a blank canvas on which to



Work by Mathieu Grodet

engrave pictorial images and commentary on social issues. Mathieu's work can be seen at the Corning Museum of Glass, the Art Institute of Chicago and the Museum of Fine Art in Quebec.

Hailing from Pennsylvania, artist Anna Boothe creates luminous translucent goblets of kiln cast glass. Boothe's goblets are far from ordinary employing unexpected items such as birds, hands and seed pods to convey themes that recur in our daily lives. The result is an allegory about how we approach drinking rituals, whether they are for purposes of celebration, inebriation or escapism. Boothe's past experience as a pastry chef influences her use of color and highlights the similarity of the light transmitting properties of sugar and glass.

The Bender Gallery is located on Lexington Avenue in Asheville, next door to the French Broad Chocolate Lounge. There is a new parking garage on S. Lexington Avenue behind the Aloft hotel as well as a garage on nearby Biltmore Avenue.

For further information check our NC Commercial Gallery listings, call the gallery at 828/505-8341 or visit ([www.thebendergallery.com](http://www.thebendergallery.com)).

## The Black Mountain (NC) Center for the Arts Offers Works by Stephanie Wilds

The Black Mountain Center for the Arts in Black Mountain, NC, will collaborate with the Swannanoa Valley Museum for its 2013 opening with an exhibit of art quilts by Stephanie Wilds, on view in the Center's Upper Gallery from Apr. 13 - 26, 2013.

The Swannanoa Valley Museum opens for the season on Saturday, Apr. 13 at 10am with several new exhibits, including "Music, Song, and Dance: Origins and Traditions in Western North Carolina," the 2013 theme for WNC's Museums In Partnership. The exhibit will feature the history of music in the Swannanoa Valley, including information on notable local musicians, a display of vintage instruments, and several listening stations for historic recordings. Admission to the Museum is free on opening day.

Stephanie Wilds offers the following about her quilts, "I never saw an art quilt before I made one. My first quilt came out of a particular need: I had a big wall space that needed filling, I needed something that could mitigate sound, and I was skilled with needle and thread. Through that quilt (Musical Mountains) I discovered art quilting and the quilt-oriented shops, books, classes, and exhibits that are abundant in this area."

Since catching the quilting bug in 2005, Wilds has followed her passions, but not necessarily the rules. While traditional pattern quilting has a strong ethos with regard to materials and techniques, art quilting is a relatively new and unrestrained area, combining a wide range of needle arts, as well as paint, ink, new fabric materials, and computer-generated graphics. "A quilting friend once told me that there are no rules, that I could do what I want, and I've taken her at her word," says Wilds.

Wild's passions are broad, but tend to focus on music, landscapes, and animals. Though some of her imagery is purely creative, she mostly enjoys working from photographs. "I love the challenge of taking reality and turning it into two-dimensional fabric. If someone shows me a wonderful photograph, of a scene view, or a dog at play, my first thought is, how would I make a quilt out of that? Of course, printing the image on fabric would be the easy way, but, what I do is much harder and so much more fun." She has recently extended her interests to interpreting vintage photography, including the "Swannanoa String Band 1895" photo that is the basis of the current exhibit at the neighboring Swannanoa Valley Museum.

Besides the obvious palette of colors and patterns available in quilt fabrics, Wilds relies on a variety of techniques to articulate her subjects, including embroidery, appliqué, pen-and-ink, and free-form quilting. She does almost everything by hand, limiting machine-work to background piecing, borders, and small amounts of appliqué machine 'thread-painting.' Each piece usually takes from two to six months to complete, limiting



Work by Stephanie Wilds

her production to a maximum of three or four quilts per year. "I love doing hand-work; it gives me time to think about what I'm doing, and lends itself to a certain intimacy with each piece." For photographic images of people, however, she relies on a technique she learned from fiber artist Marilyn Wall at John C. Campbell Folk School, which involves some digital photo editing, four shades of fabric, fusible material, and some very sharp scissors.

Blessed with a grandmother and a mother who taught her to sew, Wilds has already enjoyed a lifetime of various needlecrafts. Though she comes from a family of professional artists, she turned to science and nature for her first career, as a landscaper and later as an environmental consultant in land management. Hailing originally from the Sandhills region of South Carolina, she has called Black Mountain her home for the past fifteen years. Along with her husband Tom Fellenbaum, she owns and manages Acoustic Corner, a stringed instrument Mecca for Black Mountain, where she also restores and repairs violins.

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, call the Center at 828/669-0930 or visit ([www.blackmountainarts.org](http://www.blackmountainarts.org)).

The deadline each month to submit articles, photos and ads is the 24th of the month prior to the next issue. This will be Apr. 24th for the May 2013 issue and May 24 for the June 2013 issue. Don't wait, don't be late, send us your info now. Right now!  
To ([info@carolinaarts.com](mailto:info@carolinaarts.com)).



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