

Ikebana International Asheville

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the NC Arboretum and Bonsai exhibit with Curator Arthur Joura, a tour of Private Gardens with Susan Roderick, retired Director of Asheville Green Works and a Wildflower Scavenger Hunt in the Dupont State Forest. More information about the tours may be found at (http://www.ikebanaasheville.org/yahoo_site_admin/assets/docs/Activities-Form.10294723.pdf).

Distinguished visitors traveling from Japan for the North American Regional Conference in Asheville include current president of Ikebana International Nobuko Usui, Lily Zhang of Shanghai, immediate past president of II as well as other former presidents of Ikebana International. The

newly appointed Consul General of Japan Kazuo Sunago and his wife Yukari Sunago (an honorary member of the Atlanta Chapter of Ikebana International) will also attend.

Special local Appalachian entertainment including musicians Al Petteway and Amy White as well as singer and story teller Sheila Kay Adams are lined up to give the visitors a taste of the rich history and culture of the Blue Ridge mountains.

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, call Louise Glickman, Publicity Chariman 828/273-8783 or visit (http://www.ikebanaasheville.org/north_american_regional_conference_2014/program_schedule).

Asheville Art Museum in Asheville, NC, Features Works by Ralph Burns

Asheville Art Museum in Asheville, NC, is presenting *Ralph Burns: A Persistence of Vision — Photographs 1972-2013*, on view in the East Wing, Upstairs Gallery, through July 20, 2014.

Ralph Burns has long been recognized as a documentary photographer whose images have captured the diverse and enigmatic nature of ritual and religion, and who has explored the subjective and often defining nature of belief, worship and culture. Like his predecessors - such as Walker Evans, Diane Arbus, Mary Ellen Mark and Robert Frank - Burns uses his cameras to probe a constantly shifting human landscape and to document the public and private aspects of culture and religion in transition, often working at the unclear and overlapping intersection of both.

Throughout his career Burns has displayed a continuous and persistent interest in the motivations for worship and ritual while maintaining a compassionate and non-judgmental intimacy with his subjects. He has photographed both collective and individualized manifestations of what he sees as a seemingly irrepressible human need to ritualize loss, love and death, and to formally externalize and codify hope and the desire for transcendence.

The photographs in *A Persistence of Vision* illuminate Burns's concerns and interactions: an Elvis fan seemingly keeping vigil over a blanket-covered, bed-ridden Elvis icon in Memphis; a penitent in Mexico carrying the statue of Our Lady of Guadalupe, strapped awkwardly to his back; a man staring hard into the distance while being prayed over for healing at a Marion apparition site in Georgia; a woman in agonized ecstasy struggling with being baptized in the Jordan River in Israel.

A native of Louisiana and a resident of Asheville since 1975, Burns has travelled great distances to photograph a specific event or religious festival. He has photographed in New Orleans, Asheville and Western North Carolina, the American South, Mexico, Cuba, Israel, England, Thailand, Nepal, Afghanistan and Europe.

Burns is recognized both nationally and internationally, exhibiting his photographs in museums worldwide. In her curator's statement for *Heaven*, a group exhibition



Ralph Burns *Festividad de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe #1*, Gelatin silver selenium toned FB print, 14 x 11 inches. Courtesy of the artist.

that included a number of Burns's photographs and exhibited at Kunsthalle Düsseldorf in Germany and Tate Liverpool in England, the German/Israeli curator Doreet Levitte Hartten wrote: "(His) insights into the religious character ... makes Burns's work, apart from their aesthetic qualities, into documents of anthropological significance."

This is Burns's second solo exhibition at the Asheville Art Museum, his first being in 1990. His work has also been included in a number of group exhibitions at the Museum and is included in the Museum's Permanent Collection. *Ralph Burns: A Persistence of Vision — Photographs 1972-2013* is a broader and more extensive survey of Burns's work over the past 40 years and, although centered on his images of religion, ritual and belief, is not limited to those subjects.

Founded by artists in 1948 in Asheville, NC, the Asheville Art Museum annually presents an exciting, inviting and active schedule of exhibitions and public programs based on its permanent collection of 20th and 21st century American art. Any visit will also include experiences with works of significance to Western North Carolina's cultural heritage including Studio Craft, Black Mountain College and Cherokee artists. Special exhibitions feature renowned regional and national artists and explore issues of enduring interest. The Museum also offers a wide array of innovative, inspiring and entertaining educational programs for people of all ages.

For more info check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, call 828/253-3227 or visit (www.ashevilleart.org).

Mica Gallery in Bakersville, NC, Opens Doors for the New Season

It's spring! Mica Gallery in Bakersville, NC, will greet the new season with a gala opening party on Apr. 5 from 5-8pm, featuring new pieces by 14 of the most accomplished craftspeople in our region working in clay, wood, glass, and metal.

Come up the mountain to enjoy a refreshing collection of handmade objects from charming dinnerware to outdoor metal sculpture, from clay candelabra to mosaic mirrors to whimsical wood and metal animals.

To heighten your evening's experience, Bakersville Art and Dine (BAD) will be having its first gallery stroll the same evening. Galleries and restaurants will be open for your viewing and dining pleasure from



Work by Jacque Allen

5-8pm.

For further information check our NC Commercial Gallery listings, call the gallery at 828/688-6422 or visit (www.micagal-lerync.com).

Snake handlers, train hoppers, avenging angels and more are freed from the margins at



PHOTO BY RENATO ROTOLO

18 WAYS TO SEE Selected Bold Life Artists

Anthony Bellemare | Bobbie Polizzi | Brigid Burns | Carol Bomer | Gabriel Shaffer
Heidi Hayes | James Flames | Karin Eberle | Maureen Robinson | Philip DeAngelo
Renato Rotolo | Robert Asman | Robert Seven | Rowan Farrell | Taiyo la Paix
Virginia Derryberry | Werner Haker | William Thomas Thompson

Plus **FIG MILK** and **SWEET VERMOUTH**
Collages by Richard Russell

March 21 — May 3

upstairs [artspace]

49 South Trade Street, Tryon, NC 28782
828-859-2828 | www.upstairsartspace.org

www.theartistindex.com

featuring guest blogger:

TERRY JARRARD-DIMOND

* * *

*Christina Laurel:
She Lives and Breathes Art*

"...WHEN I DISCOVERED THE JAPANESE EDO PERIOD (1600-1850s) IN THE 1980s, THE ARTISTIC EXPRESSION RESONATED WITH ME, AS WELL AS THE MOTIFS OF KIMONO, GINGKO LEAF, FAN, AND PARASOL. BUT THESE TEMPLATES ARE ONLY STARTING POINTS FOR THE LAYERING OF PAPER (FOUND, PREPARED, JAPANESE, POLYMER BLEND) TO CREATE TEXTURAL SURFACES THAT INVITE THE "EYE TO TOUCH..."

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