

Appalachian State in Boone, NC, Features Works by Brad Thomas

Appalachian State University in Boone, NC, will present *Show Me the Way to Go Home: Brad Thomas*, on view in Gallery B, at the Turchin Center for the Visual Arts, from Apr. 1 through Aug. 6, 2016. A reception will be held on July 1, from 6-10pm and a lecture by the artist will be given at 4pm.

With his first major solo show since 2004, the renowned artist and curator Brad Thomas marks not only his return to his home state of North Carolina, but also a full-time return to making art. The thrilling new exhibition, a collection of more than 70 brand new mixed-media and collage works, arrives Apr. 1 at the Turchin Center for the Visual Arts.

A native of Mt. Airy, NC, and graduate of UNC-Charlotte, Thomas was a successful visual artist in his twenties who would quickly go on to also become one of the Charlotte area's most influential curators. But last summer, after 25-years that included positions as director and curator of the Van Every/Smith Galleries at Davidson College, curator of modern and contemporary art for the Mint Museum, and director of residencies and exhibitions at the McColl Center for Art and Innovation, Thomas left behind his high-powered career to move with his family to Minneapolis, his wife's hometown.

All the new works in this exciting exhibition, titled *Show Me the Way to Go Home*, are a continuation of the series Thomas started back in 1993, based on a single image of a clown, known only as *HE*.

According to Thomas, he gleaned this signature, recurring element in his art from a publicity still for the 1924 silent film *HE Who Gets Slapped*, which was based on the 1914 play of the same name by the 19th Century Russian playwright Leonid Andreyev.

"This clown's meaning - in all its manifestations - remains a mystery to me," Thomas adds. "At times *HE* is a self-portrait parading my darkest fears and deepest anxieties, but perhaps he is more a reflection of the human condition. The black eyes, comic attire, hunched posture, topped off by an expression that appears to be both laughing and crying, paint a portrait of a repressed and beleaguered protagonist futilely asking questions for which there are no answers."

According to Turchin Center Curator and Assistant Director Mary Anne Redding: "It is an honor for us to work closely with Brad for this groundbreaking installation. The exhibition includes mixed-media collage/paintings, and, what's really exciting, Brad's illustrations for one of his artist's books, *The Book of He*.



"Woman Floating", by Brad Thomas, 1999, Acrylic transfer, Plexiglas, burlap, silver leaf, aluminum, pressed tin on panel, 37 1/2 x 44 x 3 inches, Collection Andreas Bechtler

Redding continues: "The pages reveal the many facets of the artist's complicated and contradictory personality - some of those nuances are hidden, some more readily apparent. The way the pages are installed will reinforce the idea that we don't always reveal our true selves and that sometimes it is easier to show who we are through our creative efforts rather than the image we project in our day-to-day lives. Brad leads many lives, we invite you to enter into his mythos."

Thomas' works are featured in the collections of the Mint Museum, the Weatherspoon Art Museum and the Whitney Museum of American Art, among others.

Brad Thomas is a graduate of UNC Charlotte's Department of Art + Art History. In spring 2015 he was honored with the department's inaugural Distinguished Alumni Award. He has over 25 years experience as a professional artist, curator and administrator. He has served on the Arts & Science Council's Public Art Commission of Mecklenburg County and has had the honor of working alongside dedicated arts professionals and educators at Davidson College, The Mint Museum, and McColl Center for Art + Innovation to promote contemporary art and the artists who make it.

Thomas recently relocated to the Twin Cities with his family and in the process, has established Thomas Contemporary to support his studio, curatorial and art collections advisory practice. An artist projects space will periodically feature installations by emerging and established artists.

The Turchin Center for the Visual Arts presents exhibition, education and collection programs that support Appalachian State University's role as a key regional educational, cultural and economic resource.

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, call the Center at 828/262-3017 or visit (www.tcva.org).

Appalachian State in Boone Features Works by Marietta Patricia Leis and David Vogel

Appalachian State University in Boone, NC, will present *Melting: Marietta Patricia Leis & David Vogel*, on view in Gallery A at the Turchin Center for the Visual Arts, from Apr. 1 through Aug. 6, 2016. A reception will be held on July 1, from 6-10pm.

Inspired by a life-altering trip to Antarctica, the environmentalist husband-and-wife artists Marietta Patricia Leis and David E. Vogel responded by creating a seamlessly collaborative, dreamlike installation of painting, photography, and sculptural forms they call "Melting".

"Marietta Patricia Leis and David Vogel are quietly eloquent activists," says Turchin Center Curator and Assistant Director, Mary Anne Redding. "They recently traveled to the Antarctica aboard a Russian research icebreaker under strict conservation guidelines that allowed visitors to observe but not disturb the pristine wilderness. The artists hope that if people are drawn to the beauty of their art from the expedition they will become acutely aware of the fragile future of Antarctica and its natural inhabitants around us."

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Work by David Vogel

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Leis stated, "My career as a visual artist runs more than 30 years—yikes! Albuquerque, NM, is where I live and work and where I renovated a mid-century house with my husband and built a studio. I received my MFA from the University of New

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THERE'S A FINE LINE BETWEEN PRICELESS AND WORTHLESS.



Artist Diane Falkenhagen's Texas studio — destroyed by flooding during Hurricane Ike, 2008

What would you do if you lost your work, your tools, your images, and a lot more to a flood? Metalsmith Diane Falkenhagen knows what five feet of contaminated saltwater can do to a jewelry studio. CERF+ can help you learn how to protect your career from crossing that fine line.



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Mexico. My resume is a long one that tells you of grants, honors and exhibitions. I Think about our world a lot so my reductive paintings are inspired by water, sky, forests, food, air—the intangibles, the vulnerable, the beautiful. Color is a theme in my work. We're all impacted by the colors of our environments."

Vogel stated, "I have been photographing for over 50 years starting with a borrowed camera to shoot family road trips and camping adventures. In 1970 I chose to live in New Mexico, first Taos, then Santa Fe and now Albuquerque, because I was drawn to the spirit of the place and its geography which evoked meaningful memories of my recent experiences in the Atlas Mountains

of Morocco. Over the course of years, my photographic focus has evolved from travelogue to documentary to fine art & abstract non-figurative work that continues to be influenced by my wife & soul mate Marietta Patricia Leis. I am privileged to collaborate with her in this exhibit as we have several times in the past."

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Appalachian Pastel Society Holds Member Exhibit in Mills River, NC

The Appalachian Pastel Society is presenting *The Dance of Pastel*, on view in the Grace Gallery in Grace Community Church in Mills River, NC, through May 13, 2016. A reception will be held on May 1, beginning at 10am. Church members, family members, local art league members, and educators are invited to meet the artists and hear about historical influences and the practice of pastel painting today.

The Appalachian Pastel Society was

formed in 2006 to promote an understanding of pastel painting throughout the Appalachian region. Member shows are one way the organization fosters development in the arts.

The Grace Community Church is located at 495 Cardinal Road in Mills River, NC 28759.

For further information or directions to Grace Church visit the APS website at (www.appalachianpastelsociety.org).

ART Works Brevard NC to Open in Brevard, NC - April 8, 2016

ART Works Brevard NC owners Deborah Kidwell and Lee Abell, sponsored by the Brevard Chamber of Commerce, announce the ribbon cutting and reception from 4-6pm, on Friday, Apr. 8, 2016, in Brevard, NC. The public is cordially invited. This new working studio/gallery of fine art at 27 S. Broad Street is in a beautiful light-filled space in the restored historic Aethelwold Hotel building.

Deborah Kidwell, originator of the idea of the working studio/gallery in Brevard,

grew up in Boston in a family of artists. As a child, she was greatly influenced by American Impressionism of the Boston School Tradition through visits to art museums and galleries in the area. Her exposure to Impressionism, coupled with love of the outdoors gained in her mother's gardens and childhood summers in Maine, inspire her pastel paintings notable for tender renderings of birds and strong quiet mountain scenes.

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