

Claymakers in Durham, NC

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NC, where he has taught in the Department of Art since 1999. He has held numerous art residencies across the nation as well as in Caracas, Venezuela; Cairo, Egypt; Madrid, Spain; Jerusalem, Israel; and La Romana, Dominican Republic. Gordon was a Fulbright Lecturer at the Facultad de Artes, Universidad Nacional in Obera, Argentina, in 1991.

From 1980 to 1983, Gordon taught at Altos de Chavón in La Romana, Dominican Republic, creating a vocational workshop for local youth. Next, for 18 months, he traveled throughout the Mediterranean, observing and documenting traditional pottery and brickmaking. Gordon had the opportunity to return to the Dominican Republic in the fall of 2006, invited by the Igneri Foundation to jury the *Third International Elit-Tile Ceramics Triennial*.

Gordon's undergraduate studies included Bachelor of Arts degrees in both philosophy and physical education at Oberlin College in Ohio, and his graduate studies culminated in a Master of Fine Arts degree from Ohio State.

Claymakers is a non-profit educational



Work by Mark Gordon

arts organization that promotes the joy of working with clay; sustains a thriving community of artists, students, and teachers; and fosters enthusiasm for the ceramic arts through classes, workshops, exhibits, special events, and access to facilities and materials.

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, contact Analia Howard by e-mail at (info@claymakers.org), call 919/530-8355 or visit (www.claymakers.org).

North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences in Raleigh, NC, Features Works by Karen Bell

The North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences in Raleigh, NC, is presenting *Stilled Life*, featuring photography by Karen Bell, on view in the Nature Art Gallery, through Apr. 30, 2017. A reception will be held on Apr. 1, from 2-4pm.

Bell has been exploring natural curiosities – dead birds, feathers, insects, reeds, twisted vines, shards of ice – for years. She says she either discovered and photographed during her many wanderings, or gathered and brought objects back to her studio where specimens got incorporated into her life and often into images.

“When I first encountered a Red-bellied woodpecker lying in a pile of bamboo branches, I decided to use the situation as a chance to take a closer look at a creature I would never have been able to investigate while it was alive,” says Bell. “I experienced both thrill and sorrow as I proceeded to photograph and scan this beautiful bird. When I realized I could do no more, I placed the bird outside; it was gone in the morning. Not a trace of its existence – except for my photographs. The circle of life: one creature dies so another can thrive.”

Bell aspires to freeze time as objects

reveal themselves in their (frequently) decaying splendor and says she is constantly aware of the fleeting nature of existence and its depth of beauty and mystery.

Bell received her Master of Fine Arts in Photography from Rhode Island School of Design (RISD) and her photographs and artist books have been exhibited widely including at The Brooklyn Museum; Ellis Island Immigration Museum, White Columns, NYC; The Alliance Gallery, Narrowsburg, NY; Davis/Orton Gallery, Hudson, NY; Alex Ferrone Photography Gallery, Cutchogue, NY; Griffin Museum of Photography, Winchester, MA; Artspace, Raleigh, NC; Auvillar, France; and Phillips Exeter Academy, NH.

Bell teaches at The Brooklyn Botanic Garden in New York City and offers private workshops. She also co-directs a summer art retreat in Northern Portugal.

The Nature Art Gallery is located on the top floor of the Museum Store (1st floor, main building). All exhibited art is for sale.

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings or call the gallery at 919/707-9854.

Hillsborough Gallery of Arts in Hillsborough, NC, Offers Works by Ellie Reinhold, Jason Smith, & Evelyn Ward

Hillsborough Gallery of Arts in Hillsborough, NC, will present *Parallel Play*, featuring works by Ellie Reinhold, Jason Smith, and Evelyn Ward, on view from Apr. 24 through May 21, 2017. A reception will be held on Apr. 28, from 6-9pm.

The Hillsborough Gallery of Arts continues its Featured Artist series this year with new works by Ellie Reinhold, Jason Smith, and Evelyn Ward: a painter, a sculptor, and a potter play side by side.

Sculptor Jason Smith says of his work “In my pursuit of artistic expression, sculpture has always been my primary concern. I have worked in many mediums but metal has remained best suited for my work because of its strength, malleability and inherent beauty. My sculpture is abstract. The abstract manipulation of form in space to create visual balance, using rhythm, action and movement, combine to create compositions that convey the implied energy found in my work.”

Evelyn Ward intends to make “good, useful pots that someone will enjoy using every day,” but her process for creating them is far from simple. Each piece passes



Work by Ellie Reinhold

through a labor-intensive salt firing, and then a second electric kiln firing, which fastens ceramic decals of delicate plant drawings or photographs into place resulting in sepia-toned studies of seed pods or leaves contrasted against the rich, salt-glazed background.

Ward creates all of the images for the decals, which are made from her photo-

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graphs and drawings of botanical subjects. “During the last several years my painting has been much more process-oriented than my previous figurative work. These newer pieces grow out of experimentation with the raw elements of painting—texture, mark, form. More and more, I seek my way to the finished work through mark rather than image. The final paintings are records of this process. What I find compelling is the archeology of them, the way previous surfaces inform and affect later ones.”

Ellie Reinhold describes her current work this way, “Several years ago I inadvertently fell in love with deploying grids of geometric form, loose structural elements, like a spray of circles or a grid of rectangles, to both break up and hold together my images. I fell in love with the balance these paintings struck between landscape and abstraction. And how, in lucky moments, the representation that remained was somehow stronger once it had been pulled away from convention.”

“While my work is informed by nature and includes representational elements from the natural world, (tree forms in particular), my process pulls it away from simple landscape into a different arena altogether,” adds Reinhold.

“There's a lot of play in this” says Reinhold, “It's not an exacting process. In fact, much of the time it demands a playful, risk-taking, even destructive, approach. A constant willingness to let go of things I love-- to destroy what's on the canvas in order to find the path to a better painting.”

While considering a title for this three person show, Smith, Ward and Reinhold



Work by Evelyn Ward

sifted through lots of words in an effort to evoke their creative commonalities. Many came from geometry – intersection, structure, converge, planes, parallels, perspective – which crops up in all of their work. And then there were the words evoking the element of play... natural, spontaneous, essential.

In the end, each is focused on some essential geometric and process-oriented dialogue within their work, and they are definitely running and playing with it!

The Hillsborough Gallery of Arts (HGA) is owned and operated by 22 local artists and represents these established artists exhibiting contemporary fine art and fine craft. HGA's offerings include acrylic and oil paintings, sculpture, ceramics, photography, textiles, jewelry, glass, metals, encaustic, enamel, and wood.

For further information check our NC Commercial Gallery listings, call the gallery at 919/732-5001 or visit (www.HillsboroughGallery.com).

You can learn all about Carolina Arts on our website (www.carolinaarts.com) - I'm talking advertising, deadlines, how to write a press release, and back issues. .

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 2017 issue and May 24 for the June 2017 issue.

After that, it's too late unless your exhibit runs into the next month. But don't wait for the last minute - send your info now.

And where do you send that info?

E-mail to (info@carolinaarts.com).