

Artspace in Raleigh, NC

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sewing and building. While in Madison she began an apprenticeship with a traditional European style upholstery shop, The Straight Thread. There she learned to build forms and do upholstery. She has been making work and delving into the connection between decorative interiors, sexuality, gender, and architecture for the past ten years.

As a child Sharron Parker “chased butterflies, scrambled over rocks, and read romantic tales of faraway places.” Years later, she has studied butterflies and rocks, and traveled to many of the places – the Amazon rain forest, craggy cliffs with castle ruins, remote island beaches – never losing the wonder of them. For Parker, exotic beauty can be found everywhere.

Using the ancient technique of feltmaking, Parker does not capture exactly what she has seen, but rather, through her work she aims to create something new. The simplicity of the technique – combing, layering, and working dyed un-spun wool in hot water until the fibers lock – allows the artist to work spontaneously, and often experimentally. Parker notes, “The shape of a piece might come from a bird’s wing, the color from crystals under a microscope, and the texture from the bark of a birch tree. I wish to celebrate nature, not to mirror it.”



Work by Sharron Parker

Looking Back: 25 Years at Artspace includes works Parker created throughout the 25 years she has maintained a studio at Artspace. In addition to the works on view in the Upfront Gallery, the exhibition continues in Artspace Studio 217.

Parker received an undergraduate degree from Duke University and a master’s degree from UNC-Greensboro, studying education, art, and interior design. She continued her study in textiles with classes at Penland School of Crafts and Arrowmont School of Arts and Crafts, where she has returned to teach workshops in felting. Parker’s work has been exhibited throughout the US, and through the Art in Embassies program, in Turkmenistan and Armenia. She has been a feltmaker for 30 years.

Stone Works presents an exhibition of award winning sculptures carved by Paris Alexander. He has brought together a collection of his works that have been among those chosen for numerous honorariums and awards throughout the Southeast.

Alexander was born and raised in New York City where he began studying art during early childhood. He has had solo exhibitions at The Museum of World Cultures, UNC at Wilmington, Duke University, and the Fayetteville Museum of Art, among other locations. His work is included in the collections of Saks Fifth Avenue, SAS Institute, Bill Clinton, Bob Dole, and many others. Alexander maintains a studio at Artspace.

Artspace, a thriving visual art center located in downtown Raleigh, brings the creative process to life through inspiring and engaging education and community outreach programming, a dynamic environment of over 30 professional artists studios, and nationally acclaimed exhibitions. Approximately 95 artists hold professional memberships in the Artspace Artists Association. Thirty-five of these artists have studios located at Artspace.

Artspace is located in Historic City Market in Raleigh at the corner of Blount and Davie Streets.

Artspace is supported by the North Carolina Arts Council, the United Arts Council of Raleigh and Wake County, the Raleigh Arts Commission, individuals, corporations, and private foundations.

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, call the center at 919/821-2787 or visit (www.artspace.org).

ArtSource Fine Art Gallery in Raleigh, NC, Offers Works by Margaret Hill and Rebecca Patman Chandler

ArtSource Fine Art Gallery in Raleigh, NC, will present the exhibit, *Envision*, featuring works by Margaret Hill and Rebecca Patman Chandler, on view from May 18 through June 16, 2012. A reception will be held on May 18, from 7-9pm.

The exhibition brings together two artists who love experimenting with oil and watercolor. Both Margaret Hill and Rebecca Patman Chandler are North Carolina natives who love creating landscapes and still lifes. Hill has received recognition for her paintings in oil, watercolor, and acrylic. Chandler has also received awards for her work in oil, pastel, and watercolor. Both artists take pleasure in teaching workshops in the Raleigh area.

ArtSource maintains an inventory of over 3,000 works of original art at our Raleigh, North Carolina fine art gallery including works on canvas (oils and acrylics); works on paper (watercolors, pastels, mixed media, collage); sculpture (pedestal scale, large scale, mobiles); and prints (lithographs, limited editions, posters). We custom frame the fine art we sell (as well as our customers’ own treasured pieces) and are available to deliver and install it for you.

For further information check our NC Commercial Gallery listings, call the gallery at 919/787-9533 or visit (www.artsource-raleigh.com).

Flood Gallery Fine Arts Center in Asheville, NC, Offers Works by Olivia de Soria

The Flood Gallery Fine Arts Center in Asheville, NC, will present the exhibit, *Olivia de Soria: Art-Wear*, on view in the Pump Gallery from May 5 - 28, 2012. A reception will be held on May 5, from 6-9pm.

Local artist Olivia de Soria was born in Virginia but spent her formative years in the Midwest where ingenuity, resourcefulness and creativity helped keep her entertained in the flatlands of Iowa. It Page 50 - Carolina Arts, May 2012

was there that she first picked up a pair of pliers and started bending and hammering at bottle caps and old scraps of wire to make wearable art. At sixteen she returned to Virginia where she received a bachelor’s degree of fine arts with a focus in metalwork at Virginia Commonwealth University.

de Soria’s design process has been influenced by many cultural traditions

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Work by Olivia de Soria

from the Middle East to Central and South America. She has researched, studied and experienced these cultures and their traditional adornments in order to understand and work upon the age long tradition of bodily adornment. At 22, she traveled to Qatar, where she conducted a six-month field research project on the history of pearl diving in the Persian Gulf. Her initial intent was to gain a true understanding of history’s most mysterious and perplex-

ing jewel: the pearl. Nowhere does its history speak volumes than in the Persian Gulf. de Soria’s experience as a field researcher in Qatar provided a newfound respect and awe for the pearl, and took her creativity to an entirely new level.

de Soria’s creative process takes objects that exist in the world and assembles them through the imagination to present them as wearable art. She extracts sensual shapes and patterns from ordinary structures and life forms that surround her, and reconstitutes them to adorn and accentuate the female figure. The design process is complete when the audience wears de Soria’s jewelry and contributes their own individual interpretation of it, partaking in the cyclical life and experience of the work.

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

Kenilworth Art Studio Tour Takes Place in Asheville, NC - May 26 & 27, 2012

This year’s Kenilworth Art Studio Tour in Asheville, NC, promises to delight serious art buyers as well as families enjoying a holiday outing. The free, self-guided tour will be held Saturday, May 26, and Sunday, May 27, 2012, from 10am to 5pm each day.



Work by Ann and Sandy Batton

Since its inception in 2008, the Kenilworth Artists Association tours have brought thousands of art lovers to the historic neighborhood located just five minutes southeast of downtown Asheville. This year, twenty-two artists will exhibit their artwork at eleven locations throughout the neighborhood.

Participating artists include: Ann & Sandy Batton, Edward Bent & Diane Box, Christie Calaycay, Diana Gillispie, Robin Kirby, Kathie Kline, Robert Kline, Michael J. Koza, Joanna Long, Angela Maddix, Olivia Maddix, Paul Moberg, Miller Moore, Chris Perryman, Michael Robinson, Janice Mancinelli Sapp, Emma Sarver, Tracey Schmidt, Mary Webster, and Cliff Yudell.

The Tour includes artists working in a wide range of media, including five painters offering works in oil, watercolor and acrylic. Other media featured are jewelry, pottery, ceramic tile, glass beads, furniture, mixed-media, photography, paper, turned wooden bowls, wooden flutes, and collage. Artists’ ages range from 14 to 92.

This year’s Tour features four artist husband-and-wife couples, including two who collaborate with each other to create their art.

Edward Bent, also known as Red Ute, was born on the Southern Ute Indian Reservation of Colorado. His interest in flutes began at age 7 or 8 when he was drawn to the captivating sound of the instruments that were being made by the Elders in his tribe. Now 92, he divides his time between making flutes and getting kidney dialysis treatments several times each week. He courted now-wife Diane Box in 1990, who still remembers the first time Red Ute played the flute for her at a celebration at Ute Park in Ignacio, Colorado. “All of the folding chairs had been taken away except the one I was sitting on. Red Ute came over and played his flute just for me. A Ute woman walked by and remarked, ‘Eddie is trying to get himself a wife!’” It worked, and now Diane’s elaborate Plains Indian-style beadwork is often included

on Edward’s flutes.

Ann and Sandy Batton are another husband-and-wife team, operating a busy pottery business out of their home while raising two small children. Being lovers of nature, the Battons produce forms that are based on the organic shapes that surround them. Customers, friends and art lovers alike frequently comment on the “Dr. Seuss” or “Alice in Wonderland” aspect of their work. When asked, they say that it was not intentional, but they do live their lives with a sense of spontaneity and whimsy. Other neighborhood artist couples are Diana Gillispie [ceramic tiles] and Michael Robinson [oil paintings] at Asheville Tileworks and Kathie [pottery] and Robert Kline [turned wooden bowls] at Centerpoint Studios.

Each year, the Kenilworth Art Studio Tour is planned by participating artists and sponsored by local businesses. For the first time, three visiting artists have been invited to share studio exhibition space with Kenilworth artists: potter Robin Kirby of Saluda; jeweler Christie Calaycay, of West Asheville; and photographer/poet Tracey Schmidt of Weaverville.



Works by Kathie Kline

Visitors to the Studio Tour may also want to stop for lunch at the Art Café at the Kenilworth Presbyterian Church from noon through 3pm each day, where residents snacks and lunches will be offered. Proceeds will benefit the Kenilworth Residents Association. Also featured at the Art Café will be examples of artist’s work and tour brochures. Café menus will be available at each artist studio.

Studio maps are available at area art galleries, retail stores, hotels, and tourist information sites.

Now a tradition with Kenilworth Artists, each artist will donate 5% of sales to Loving Foods Resources, the Kenilworth-based charity that provides basic necessities to people living with HIV/AIDS.

Additional information, photos, and a tour map can be found by visiting (www.kenilworthartists.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 May 24th for the June 2012 issue and June 24 for the July 2012 issue. After that, it’s too late unless your exhibit runs into the next month.

Don’t be late - send your info well before the deadline.