

Sunset River Marketplace in Calabash, NC, Celebrates 10 Year Anniversary

Sunset River Marketplace in Calabash, NC, will host a month-long celebration that includes free drawings for gift certificates, original paintings, prints, pottery, hand-blown glass, jewelry and other items; artist demonstrations, live music and more, June 1 to 30, 2012.



Work by Brian Evans. Photo credit: Louis Aliotta.

On June 1 Sunset River Marketplace art gallery will mark ten years of operation at the same location in the historic fishing village of Calabash. The 10,000 square-foot gallery is well known for its eclectic mix of fine art and crafts from the Carolinas.

From day one, Sunset River Marketplace has defied the stereotype of a "stuffy art gallery," offering visitors a rich combination of whimsical and serious art in a wide range of styles and media. Wandering through the roomy space, one finds breathtaking seascapes, sleek turned wood vessels, and high-style blown glass. They share wall space comfortably with humor-driven ceramics, outsider art, metal works and more.

Gallery owner Ginny Lassiter said, "We'll be celebrating all month long with special events giveaways and a very special art show. It's our way of saying thank you to our artists, our surrounding communities and the thousands of visitors we've welcomed since opening our doors in 2002. We hope our friends and neighbors will come and help us celebrate."

Several of the gallery's artists have exhibited with Sunset River since 2002 and their works will be featured throughout the month in a special *Tenth Anniversary Exhibition*. The featured artists will be Jill Hope, Elaine Bigelow, Ramona B. Bendin, Brian Evans, Ardie Praetorius, Sue Coley, Susan Dade, Ortrud Tyler, Scott Summerfield, Two Visions Pottery, Judy O'Brien, Mark Hilliard, Betty Bee and the late Victor Gerloven.

Other events include a series of free artist demonstrations onsite at the Calabash gallery. Lassiter herself will kick off the celebration with an acrylics demo from 2 to 4pm on June 1. A list of demos to be offered can be found below.

A free performance by singer/songwriter Calabash Flash is scheduled for Saturday, June 9 from 2 to 3pm. A Creative After Hours class with jewelry designer Beth Wicker will take place on Wednesday, June



Work by Elaine Bigelow

13, from 6 to 8pm (\$35 fee). From Monday, June 25 to Friday, June 29, the gallery is hosting a five-day Abstract Acrylics Workshop with nationally known artist Sterling Edwards (Class is full. Call for waiting list and fee.)

Celebrations also include free daily drawings for an assortment of gift certificates, original art, limited edition prints, pottery, hand-blown glass, artisan-crafted jewelry, custom-designed pillows and more. The public is encouraged to enter multiple times, but no more than once each day. Entry forms are at the gallery. In a related Facebook promotion, the gallery will award a free gift certificate to someone selected at random on the Sunset River Marketplace Art Gallery Facebook page. Participants simply "like" the page to be included.

The schedule of demos and events include:
Friday, June 1, 2-4pm – Ginny Lassiter, Acrylics
Tuesday, June 5, 11am-2pm – Jane Staszak, Pastel
Wednesday, June 6, noon - 3pm – Joe Jeffcoat, Pottery Wheel
Thursday, June 7, 11am - 2pm – Janette Montgomery, Jewelry
Saturday, June 9, noon - 2pm – Babs Ludwig, Collage, also from 2 - 3pm, Performance – Calabash Flash. Join us for live music, refreshments, and our Saturday prize drawing.

Tuesday, June 12, noon - 3pm – Marie Kasper, Acrylics
Wednesday, June 13, 11am - 2pm – Ardie Praetorius, Carving & Hand-Building Pottery
Wednesday, June 13, 6 - 8pm – Beth Wicker Jewelry Making (Ring). Call for info and fee.
Thursday, June 14, noon - 3pm – Pat Smelkoff, Zhostovo (Russian Stroke Painting)
Friday, June 15, 11am - 2pm - Jamie Futero, Pottery
Tuesday, June 19, 11am - 2pm – Melanie Walter, Clay & Pine Needle Basket and from 1-4pm – Janette Montgomery, Block Print
Wednesday, June 20, 11am - 2pm - Jim Downey, Flamework (Glass blowing)
Thursday, June 21, 11am - 2pm – Liz Roberts, Acrylics
Friday, June 22, 11am - 2pm - Susan Dade, Watercolor
Saturday, June 23, 11am - 2pm - Betsy Parker, Hand-Building Clay Animal Figurines
Wednesday, June 27, 11am - 2pm - Jane Staszak, Pastel

For further information check our NC Commercial Gallery listings, call the gallery at 910/575-5999 or visit www.sunsetrivermarketplace.com.

These artists find their inspiration in western North Carolina. Elksnin creates paintings by layering watercolor and gouache and then further building color and texture using colored pencils. She cites Romare Bearden and "outsider" artists as influences, and her work for this exhibit includes fanciful pictures of moun-

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Robin Cheers



Mom's Helper

Vignettes

Small works by Robin Cheers

June 15 - July 14, 2012

Opening Reception

Friday, June 15th, 5 - 8 pm



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tain beasts and insects and Moon people over a tree farm.

Trettin creates cut-paper collages of handmade, handpainted, and commercial paper. She also adds collage to shaped, painted wooden forms. For this exhibit, she portrays popular regional characters such as Spearfinger (a Cherokee witch), an eccentric mountain hermit, a winged mountain cavalier, and ghostly moonshiners of the past.



Work by Lillian Trettin

Piracci uses the medium of clay to express mountain heritage and the natural world. His interest started with face jugs and a desire to express not just the faces but also the emotion projected by Native Americans dealing with the demise of their tribes and heritage. His work for this exhibit includes face jugs and other functional vessels, influenced by the practice of wood kiln firing.



Work by Remo Piracci

All three of these artists have made career changes in recent years and value the fresh outlook transition brings to their work. After earning fine art degrees, both Elksnin and Trettin pursued PhDs and worked in higher education until retiring recently to pursue art full time. Piracci, a master woodworker for 30 years, has been a potter for the past seven years and has learned the techniques of Thai potters for building large, functional storage vessels. Both Piracci and Trettin have studied at Penland School of Crafts in Penland, NC, with local and nationally known instructors.

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, call the Council at 828/733-0054 or visit www.averycountyartscouncil.org.

Avery County Arts Council in Linville, NC, Features Works by Linda Elksnin, Lillian Trettin, and Remo Piracci

The Avery County Arts Council in Linville, NC, will present the exhibit, *Mountains, Legends, and Lore*, featuring works by Linda Elksnin (painting), Lillian Trettin (collage), and Remo Piracci (pottery), on view in the Avery Gallery through July 1, 2012. There will be a free public reception featuring artists' demonstrations on June 23, from 6 to 8pm.

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Caldwell Arts Council in Lenoir, NC, Offers An Exhibition of Ceramics

The Caldwell Arts Council in Lenoir, NC, will present the exhibit, *Dynamic Ceramics*, featuring works by Pam Brewer (Newland, NC), Hank Burris (Concord, NC), Mark Gordon (Wilson NC) and Ashley York (Lincolnton NC), on view from June 1 - 29, 2012. A reception will be held on June 1, from 5-7:30pm, hosted by the Lenoir Woman's Club.

Ceramicist/Sculptor Pam Brewer says "I am drawn to the softness and primal quality of the red earthenware and the

receptive finish of the terra sigillata. I am attracted to the most primitive materials, techniques, and finishes; while always looking for an original and pure expression. The mythical animal forms are my reflection of natural elements."

Hank Burris' earliest memories are of playing in the creek behind his house and watching television. Animals and plants became specimens and toys to collect. The collections ranged from plants found

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