

Southern Highland Craft Guild in Asheville Offers Clay Fest - June 10, 2017

For six hours on Saturday, June 10, 2017, the hill behind the Folk Art Center on the Blue Ridge Parkway, in Asheville, NC, will be filled with more than twenty potters selling ceramic wares for both décor and function. Clay Fest is an annual Southern Highland Craft Guild event that celebrates the varied craft processes and techniques used with clay. The Guild's makers are adding new elements to enhance the twenty plus-year-old event into a festival with exhibitor booths. Alongside the sixteen Guild potters will be a handful of invited guest potters from across the country.

"Despite our membership requirements having physical boundaries that require residence in one of 293 counties, we strongly believe in building a creative community beyond our region," says potter Joe Frank McKee. "Having invited potters is a fantastic way to share more techniques and methods, as well as build a deeper appreciation for the craft."

A range of styles and techniques will be showcased by the following craft vendors: Jim Whalen, Marti Mocahbee, Amy Goldstein-Rice, Travis Berning, Brant Barnes, Joe Frank McKee, Paven "Beer" Chunhaswasdikul, Larry Allen, Steve Loucks & Lynnette Hesser, Bill Lee, Freeman & Maggie Jones, Sarah Wells Rolland of The Village Potters, Zan Barnes, Fred & Rose Pinkul and invited guests Alysha Baier, Susan Coe, Rob Withrow, Rusty Owens, and Justin Allman.



Works by Zan Barnes

In addition to being able to shop on the hill, visitors will be able to watch the first annual Clay Olympics. Each exhibiting potter is invited to compete in two events, throwing the tallest vessel and throwing the widest bowl. Contestants are given a five-pound wedge of clay and five minutes. Prizes are given to the top three competitors with gift certificates to Highwater Clays, Southern Highland Craft Guild merchandise, and other local goods.

American Folk Art in Asheville, NC, Offers Exhibit Focused on the Night

The American Folk Art in Asheville, NC, will present *2017 Night Visions*, on view from June 1 - 20, 2017. A reception will be held on June 2, from 5-8pm.

When darkness falls and the quiet of evening arrives, mysteries and magic often emerge. Be it through observation, dreams states, or quiet contemplation, many artists find the secluded hours between nightfall and sunrise especially inspiring and productive. American Folk Art has selected a series of nine artist's whose works are an interpretation of the meaning of "Night Visions".

Ellie Ali's paintings, awash in moody passions, resonate with late night jazz happenings and soulful midnight conversations. Handmade paper, paint, ink, and water combine to create soft contemplative works that draw in the viewer and leave them in a thoughtful, rhythmic state of mind.

North Carolina's own Liz Sullivan and well known Georgia folk artist Combread, find nature's nocturnal happenings especially gratifying to witness and take inspiration from. The creatures who inhabit the night both fowl and fur are pure inspiration for these painters.

Michael Gates is a North Carolina potter who brings a real freshness in his approach to creating his otherwise traditional functional ceramic ware. Gates delicately applies slip trail decoration to large functional jugs, using the night sky and its constel-



Work by Sarah Rolland

Attendees are invited to participate from 10am - 4pm in various activities. For a chance to get behind a wheel, makers from local education center, Odyssey Center for Ceramic Arts, will be assisting attendees with throwing on pottery wheels.

Raku potters Lynn Jenkins, Gary Clontz, John Turner, Tina Curry and Steven Forbes-deSoule will be assisting visitors wanting to make their own raku pot. This ceramic firing process uses flames and smoke to create unique patterns and designs. Pots will be available for purchase for \$10 and participants can glaze a pot and then watch it be fired.

With the Folk Art Center located on the Blue Ridge Parkway, visitors and locals have the opportunity to visit the craft shop, as well as three exhibition galleries. Outside are hiking trails, picnic tables and grassy areas for relaxing. There is plenty of parking. Clay Fest is a free event.

The Southern Highland Craft Guild is a non-profit, educational organization established in 1930 to bring together the crafts and craftspeople of the Southern Highlands for the benefit of shared resources, education, marketing and conservation. The Southern Highland Craft Guild is an authorized concessioner of the National Park Service, Department of Interior.

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, call the Guild at 828/298-7928 or visit (www.craftguild.org).



Work by Kent Amblor

lations as inspiration. The results are an evocative mix of old and new.

Night Visions will undoubtedly inspire all of us to notice the special musings of
continued above on next column to the right

Turtle Island Pottery



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warm summer evenings, the stars above, and the wonderful creatures that are awake and active while most rest.

For further information check our NC Commercial Gallery listings or visit (www.amerifolk.com).

Asheville Gallery of Art in Asheville, NC, Features Works by Bill Cole

The Asheville Gallery of Art in Asheville, NC, will present *Taking the Ordinary to Extraordinary*, featuring works by Bill Cole, on view from June 1 - 30, 2017. A reception will be held on June 2, from 5-8pm.

Cole's colorful shapes, lines, and angles of everyday objects exemplify how the ordinary becomes extraordinary through the eyes of an artist.

Primarily a self-taught artist, Cole studied watercolor for a short period in Paris while living there in 1996. He has worked in watercolor, oil, acrylics, linocuts, and monotypes. His latest series of paintings are of buildings rendered in oil and acrylic, which he describes as, "leaning more toward minimalism than photographic realism." In this series, he uses the lines and shapes of buildings as the format for exploring the interplay of shapes, colors, and textures.

A native of Arden, NC, Cole began painting after retiring from the Air Force. His other interests include playing mandolin in a small band called Blackberry Jam and hiking. He lives in Waynesville, NC, with his wife, Jane, an active art quilter, and their Airedale, Ollie, an expert at catching and fetching turtles.



Work by Bill Cole

Cole's work, as well as the paintings of the other 30 gallery members will be on display and for sale through the month of June.

For further information check our NC Commercial Gallery listings, call the gallery at 828/251-5796 or visit (www.ashevillegallery-of-art.com), or go to the gallery Facebook page.

Caldwell Arts Council in Lenoir, NC, Offers Annual Visual Artists Competition

The Caldwell Arts Council in Lenoir, NC, will present the *41st Annual Caldwell Visual Artists Competition Exhibit*, on view from June 2 through July 29, 2017. A reception and awards ceremony will be held on June 2, from 5-7pm.

Asheville artist Sondra Dorn will judge the competition and \$1,150 in cash prizes will be awarded during the opening reception, hosted by the Lenoir Service League, with live music featuring pianist Richard Pinson.

About 40 artists' work, representing paintings, pottery, jewelry, fiber arts and more will be on display!

The Caldwell Arts Council's mission is to establish and maintain an awareness and appreciation of cultural arts in Caldwell County, to encourage participation in art events, and to offer various educational opportunities and administrative services in support of artists, arts agencies, and audi-



Work by Mary Dobbin

ences.

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, call the Council at 828/754-2486 or visit (www.caldwellarts.com).

Toe River Arts Council in Burnsville, NC, Features Works by Bonnie Cooper

The Toe River Arts Council in Burnsville, NC, will present *The Interbeing Project, the Interface of Women and Nature*, featuring the photography of Bonnie Cooper, on view in the Burnsville TRAC Gallery, from June 24 through Aug. 5, 2017.

A reception will be held on June 24, from 5-7pm.

Twenty-one pieces, each depicting an image composed of a nude figure or figures, photographed in a studio and superim-