

Caldwell Arts Council

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view from Aug. 1 - 29, 2014. A reception will be held on Aug. 1, from 5-7pm.

Figure paintings are works of fine art in any of the painting media with the primary subject being the human figure, whether clothed or nude. The human figure has been one of the constant subjects of art since the first Stone Age cave paintings, and has been reinterpreted in various styles throughout history.

Originally from Israel, Hagit Barkai received an MFA degree from Penn State University, a BA in Philosophy from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, and also studied at the Jerusalem Studio School. Barkai said she looks at "body languages of vulnerability, awkwardness and misfits as expressions that move between acceptance and resistance."

Barkai seeks to maintain balance between one's struggles to gain visibility and struggles to escape it. "I paint bodies for what they fail to be, for how they fail to settle in any image or concept that confine and regulate them, and for how they are never able to close the gap between appearance and experience," the artist explains. "I am painting in an attempt to capture this moment of losing and gaining respectability."

The Caldwell Arts Council presents monthly and quarterly exhibits, education and collection programs that foster



Work by Hagit Barkai

cultural arts in Caldwell County.

The Caldwell Arts Council's programs are supported by the North Carolina Arts Council, a division of the Department of Cultural Resources and by individual and corporate donors.

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

Asheville Art Museum in Asheville, NC, Features Works by Sharon Louden

The Asheville Art Museum in Asheville, NC, is thrilled to present the second work in the Museum's Artworks Project Space—artist Sharon Louden's innovative installation *Community*. This installation is a continued conversation based on a series of work that Louden started in 2013 that traces its path through installation, animation, painting and drawing. In each genre, her gestures create an implication of dance — movement and energy — transposed against the resistance of fixed squares and rectangles of color.

Earlier this year, the Museum released a call for local artists to be involved in this installation. After receiving more than 40 responses in one month, the Museum selected four women ranging in age from 19 to 53 years old, and representing three local Universities: UNC Asheville, Warren Wilson and Western Carolina University.

Installation apprentices Sarah Weaver and Crystal Moore of UNCA say they heard about the opportunity to work with Louden through their professors and a student organization called Art Front. When asked about the benefits of working with Louden, Weaver said, "I've been learning a lot about the process of 'selling yourself' and your art." Weaver is excited to have the opportunity to work with such a well-established artist and see "the aesthetic come to life."

Moore spoke about learning the importance of creating a network and database of people who are on a similar artistic "wavelength." She said this experience has helped her understand the importance of a crew of workers who can help you reach your goals. "The art is amazing and powerful," Moore said when asked what this specific installation meant to her. "Getting to work with Sharon has been great. In a way, creating this piece has made us part of each other." Moore said that through this opportunity, she has seen that her "aspirations can be huge."

Installation apprentices Tonya Anderson of Western Carolina University and Shannon Hubert Waldman of Warren Wilson also heard about this opportunity through their professors. Anderson said this experience has made her see how the artistic "community" is a national network of people. She referenced Louden traveling from New York to create this installation as an example of the spectrum of local, regional and national artists. Anderson said that one of the most important aspects



Detail of work by Sharon Louden

of this project to her career is the use of built connections as a resource.

For this project, Louden is working in raw aluminum. When asked why she chose this medium, Louden said she chose it for its reflective nature, manageability and also the beauty of the material. While discussing her apprentices, she said, "Oh, I love them." Louden noted how positive the conversation and sense of community has been during this installation. She said, "I love to communicate and share with everyone. At least for me, it takes a village for an artist to grow and succeed."

Social media has impacted the outreach of Louden's work in many ways, and viewers will be encouraged to share their interactions with the exhibition through the use of smartphone photography and specific hashtags.

Sharon M. Louden graduated with a BFA from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and an MFA from Yale University, School of Art. Her work has been exhibited in numerous venues, including the Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum, the Drawing Center, Carnegie Mellon University, Birmingham Museum of Art, Weatherspoon Art Museum and the Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art.

Louden's work is held in major public and private collections, including the Neuberger Museum of Art, Whitney Museum of American Art, National Gallery of Art, Arkansas Arts Center, Yale University Art Gallery and the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston.

Louden has taught for 20 years since graduating from Yale in 1991. Her teaching experience includes studio and professional practice classes for students of all levels in colleges and universities throughout the United States. Loudon is also the editor of a peer reviewed book published by Intellect Books and distributed by the University of Chicago Press entitled *Living and Sustaining a Creative*

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29TH ANNUAL SCULPTURE CELEBRATION

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 6

Competition • Show • Sale

Broyhill Walking Park
945 Lakewood Circle
Lenoir NC

9 am - 4 pm

Free Admission
Lakeside Garden Location
Over 150 Sculptures
Meet / Mingle with Sculptors
Live Music • Food Vendors

Caldwell Arts Council • www.caldwellarts.com • 828.754.2486

Life: Essays by 40 Working Artists.

The exhibition is sponsored by the John and Robyn Horn Foundation.

Founded by artists in 1948 in Asheville, the Asheville Art Museum annually presents an exciting, inviting and active schedule of exhibitions and public programs based on its permanent collection of 20th and 21st century American art. Any visit will also include experiences with works of significance to Western North Carolina's cultural heritage includ-

ing Studio Craft, Black Mountain College and Cherokee artists. Special exhibitions feature renowned regional and national artists and explore issues of enduring interest. The Museum also offers a wide array of innovative, inspiring and entertaining educational programs for people of all ages.

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, call the Museum at 828/253-3227 or at (www.ashevilleart.org).

Groewood Gallery in Asheville, NC, Celebrates Newest Addition to Gallery - Aug. 7, 2014

Join Groewood Gallery in Asheville, NC, as they raise a glass to celebrate the newest addition to their gallery: an exhibition space dedicated solely to fine wood art. "Wood & Wine" will take place Thursday, Aug. 7, 2014, from noon-6pm and features contemporary sculptural and functional wood art by some of the most highly respected national and international artists in the field. Groewood welcomes artists, collectors and casual shoppers alike to take part in this festive celebration.

Groewood's new exhibition space currently features more than 50 pieces ranging from unadorned functional forms to complex sculptural work. This rotating collection will feature works by different artists throughout the year. All of the items will be available for purchase.

Highlights to Groewood's collection include *The Dervish* by French artist Alain Mailland (who specializes in green wood hollowing techniques and produces unique sculptures known by their thinness) and *Black/White Pair* by John Jordan (whose turned and carved vessels are featured in the permanent collections of more than 25 museums, including the Renwick Gallery of the Smithsonian American Art Museum). Groewood also has new works on display by Texas-born artist Clay Foster,



Work by Alain Mailland

who was honored with the Merit Award at the American Association of Woodturners 28th Annual International Symposium in Phoenix, AZ, in June. The biennial Merit Award goes to individuals who have

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