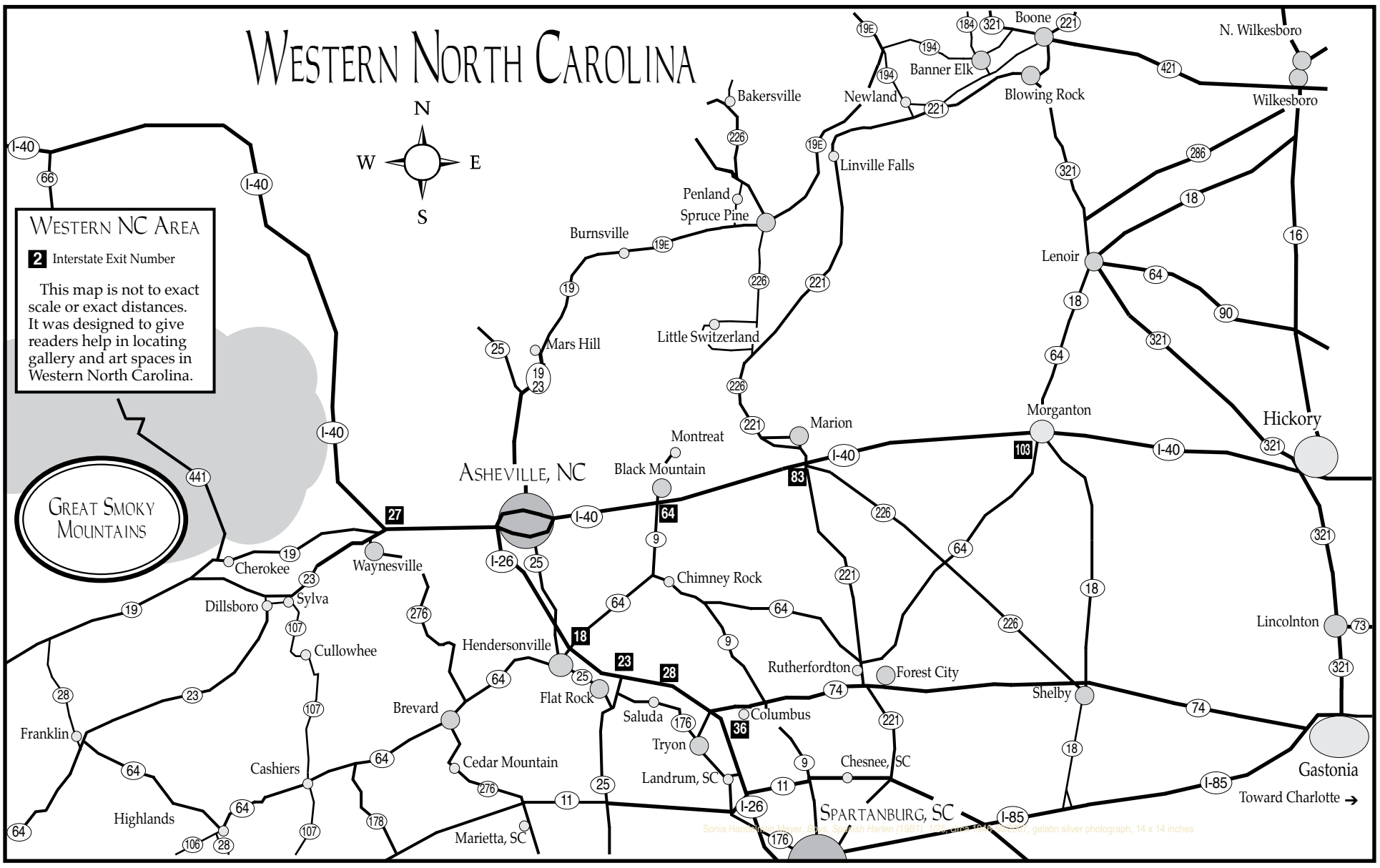

Art Cellar Gallery

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structures, still lifes and figurative works in oil, walnut ink and graphite.

In 1970, at the young age of 11, Griffin embarked on an artistic journey to Florence, Italy and it changed his life. While attending the American International School of Florence, he lived and apprenticed with fresco artist Ben Long. Griffin's early artistic training was heavily influenced by Italian Renaissance masters.

Griffin attended the North Carolina School of the Arts and the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Art. His work has evolved from a deep-rooted understanding and appreciation of the academic approach to a more personal and direct interpretation of his experiences and surroundings. Griffin is a perceptual painter; his work is based on observation and direct response. While he remains faithful to the principles and ideals of his classical training, his work has developed into a looser, more confident voice - a testament not only to his skill, but to his personal vision.

Work by Tony Griffin

The Art Cellar Gallery focuses on North Carolina artists while including select artists from across the Southeast, showing work from large scale canvases to smaller works on paper as well as sculpture, glass and clay. A High Country arts destination celebrating 25 seasons.

For more info check our NC Commercial Gallery listings, call the gallery at 828/898-5175 or visit (www.artcellaronline.com).

TRAC Galleries in Spruce Pine and Burnsville, NC, Offers *Toe River Valley* Exhibitions

It's about place. It's about the destination. It's about the art we find when we arrive. And it arrives on Aug. 19 in Burnsville and Aug. 26 in Spruce Pine, NC, when the Toe River Arts Council hosts two community wide exhibitions. *Toe River Valley* that will run through Sept. 23, 2017, at both galleries, is a unique look at the Toe River and its surrounding countryside from the viewpoint of painters, photographers, and 3-dimensional artists. Even children will have their hand at painting what they see on their rides home from school each afternoon. Receptions will be held in Spruce Pine on Aug. 25, from 5 to 7pm and Burnsville on Sept. 22, from 5 to 7pm.

Work by Jennifer Bueno

Roan Mountain range marks the northern point of the region with its windswept, forested paths crossing over the Appalachian Trail to the ridge. Mt. Mitchell marks the south, the highest point this side of the Mississippi River with centuries of awe-inspiring views. And meandering between and predating these 400 million plus-year old peaks is the Toe River, one of the oldest rivers in the world. Along that river, along its many tributaries, live the artists who chose to make this place their homes, to value the land on which they create, to protect the waterways that flow beside. The Toe River is what makes our community so precious, so necessary to preserve. This exhibition will highlight the river, the creeks and valleys, a tangible appreciation for and the guardianship of our watershed by highlighting the art of its artists.

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These concordant shows will showcase interpretive photography by Doug Sudduth and paintings from Blue Ridge Fine Arts Guild artists. Their work will document life along the river in pencil, paint and digital imagery - a watershed of arctic blues and greens, rusts, clouds of snow along the banks - seemingly endless, ever moving, meandering, cutting through the land like a warm knife through butter. And for that one early fall month, Mitchell and Yancey will applaud the work of the Toe River Valley Watershed, an organization dedicated to creating solutions that will help the local economy grow without compromising one of our most important assets - natural resources. Noted geologist Alex Glover will speak at both galleries. Kids will paint rocks as they learn about the fragility of our ecosystem. They will dip their "Toes in the Toe," and create murals that will be displayed in both counties. Even Hellbender Rocky will slither out of the mud to watch a drones-eye-view of the Valley.

With over 400 artists living and working in the two-county area, Mitchell and Yancey have become a destination for the intrepid traveler, seeker of art and the journey. Spend the day; come for a weekend or a week. Experience the beauty of the Toe River through the eyes of its artists in these two collaborative exhibitions in both Burnsville and Spruce Pine.

Toe River Arts Council is a non-profit organization established in 1976 to connect the arts and the community. It is supported by other organizations, individuals, and businesses that understand the benefit of arts to a thriving region.

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, call the Council at 828/682-7215 or visit (www.toeriverarts.org).

Upstairs Artspace in Tryon, NC, Offers Exhibits of Glass, Clay, and Altered Photographs

Upstairs Artspace in Tryon, NC, will present three new exhibits featuring works in glass, clay and altered photographs, on view from Aug. 12 through Sept. 22, 2017, a Walk & Talk will be offered on Aug. 12, at 5pm, with a reception held from 6-7:30pm.

Vitreous Vessels showcases cast glass-and-steel work by Hayden Wilson, a second-generation glassmaker and native North Carolinian, now residing in Asheville. Wilson's sculptural pieces convey an aesthetic of clean lines inspired by modern utilitarian design. He exhibits widely, including the prestigious Blue Spiral 1, and is in many private collections.

American on Edge features haunting mixed media pieces by Sandee Johnson of Asheville. The work embodies paintings, monotypes, photographs and collages, much of which depicts the artist's angst about America's current political and cultural climate. Interpreting through her art, Johnson addresses topics like religion, race and greed. She has an impressive career of exhibiting nationally and internationally. This is her first Upstairs show.

Tides, Totems and Teapots presents well-established artists Diane Hopkins-Hughs, Greenville SC, and Gary Huntoon, Travelers Rest, SC. Hopkins-Hughs's current work reflects her concern about the environment, especially the global water crisis. Often starting with her photographs, she transforms them through processes like gelatin silver print, hand-colored gelatin print or pigmented ink jet print, resulting in beautiful, provocative wall pieces. Hopkins-Hughs has enjoyed more than 200 solo and group exhibits.

Work by Sandee Johnson

Huntoon is a well-rounded potter who does not limit himself to a single clay material, firing, glaze or decorating style. His totems and teapots are more sculptural than functional, and are seen frequently in regional fine craft shows. He is a dedicated teacher on many levels, including instructing at Tryon Arts and Crafts. Huntoon and Hopkins-Hughs, along with Wilson, have exhibited previously at the Upstairs.

For more info check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, call the gallery at 828/859-2828 or visit (www.upstairsartspace.org).

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