

Dare County Arts Council Presents the 36th Annual New World Festival of the **Arts in Manteo, NC - Aug. 16-17, 2017**



New World Festival of the Arts on Manteo Waterfront. Photo courtesy of Tatum Clements.

Over 75 world-class artists will travel to Manteo, NC's waterfront for the 36th annual New World Festival of the Arts, held on Aug. 16-17, 2017.

From 10am-5pm on both days guests can peruse fine art, including painting, photography, printmaking, ceramics, sculpture, jewelry, wood design, leather works, and more.

"Tim and I look forward each year to participating in the New World Festival of the Arts," said pottery artist Janet Gaddy. "Chris Sawin and the crew at Dare County Arts Council do an outstanding job of gathering a phenomenal group of artists to create an amazing show.'

This free, outdoor festival has been a Manteo tradition for decades, providing awareness of current trends in the visual arts while acquainting visitors with the historic Town of Manteo.

"I am so glad to be participating in the 2017 New World Festival of the Arts," said jewelry artist Cammie Hall. "For the last six years I have been privileged enough to come along with other artists from College of the Albemarle. It is a great venue and I am excited to be juried on my own this year!"

Mixed media artist Lisa Beth Robinson will judge the show. Robinson makes artist books (letterpress, papermaking, printmaking) broadsides, fine art, curates exhibitions, and is an assistant professor at East Carolina University in Greenville, NC.

This year's Best in Show award recipient

will receive a cash prize of \$1,000. Second and third place will also receive cash prizes, and merit awards will be given as well.

On the first day of the show (Aug. 16), Dare County Arts Council will host an artist reception at 5pm at their Gallery in downtown Manteo. Guests attending the reception will also be able to view the "Ocean & Earth" Painting Exhibit by 2016 New World Festival of the Arts Best in Show 2D award recipient, Virginia Beach, VA, based acrylic painter Ed Obermeyer.

"I was completely overwhelmed with being chosen as Best in Show 2D last year considering the talent on display during the show," said artist Ed Obermeyer. "I love doing this show just so I can be in the charming atmosphere of Manteo. I am looking forward to this year!"

The New World Festival of the Arts brings an average of 5,000-6,000 attendees to the historic Town of Manteo each year. The festival is presented by PNC Bank, the events sponsor for the third year in a row. Thank you to corporate sponsor SAGA Construction & Development and event partner The Town of Manteo for supporting

This project was supported by the North Carolina Arts Council, a division of the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources. Dare County Arts Council is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit arts organization dedicated to supporting the arts in Dare County.

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For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, call the Council at 252/473-5558 or visit (DareArts.org).

Airlie Gardens in Wilmington, NC, Offers Works by Matthew J. Leavell

Airlie Gardens in Wilmington, NC, is presenting Imagine, a vibrant and whimsical display of sculptures created by Virginia artist, Matthew J. Leavell, on view through Sept. 30, 2017.

These large scale installments consisting of colorful florals and a variety of artistic creations will spark your curiosity and leave you feeling inspired.

Leavell is a self-taught Mobjack, VA, (Mathews County) based artist currently focusing on the creation of small and medium scale sculpture in steel, cast iron, wood and glass. He primarily utilizes salvaged and recycled materials, preferring raw materials that bring their own history, character, and soul to a new work of art. Born and raised in a small mid-western town, Matthew briefly attended college at Indiana Wesleyan University in Marion, IN, majoring in theology. Matthew spent his summers as a young man traveling in Latin America, volunteering with an NGO in the Darien Jungle region of Panama, Haiti, and the Dominican Repub-

He soon found himself disillusioned by his experiences with modern organized religion, left college, and embarked on a decade long journey of self discovery. Matthew struggled through his early adult years, seemingly unable to wring enough creativity out of any of the projects or career paths he applied himself to. Striving to find himself, he once restored and lived on a vintage sailboat, built a 2200 square foot custom home singlehanded, worked as an electrician, a handyman, and eventually owned and operated a small custom carpentry and fabrication business. All the continued above on next column to the right | while he created art in a myriad array of



Work by Matthew J. Leavell

mediums and scales, simply because he knew no other way to exist. Simple repairs often evolved into elaborate, detailed works of functional art.

The personal value of a project was not measured by its practical or financial significance, but by its potential for creative expression. This ramshackle assortment of life experience, work ethic, creative angst, experimentation, and exposure to a variety of trades, crafts, and art forms have culminated to create an emerging artist uncommonly capable of bringing artistic concepts on nearly any scale to fruition.

Matthew's pieces are often created using recycled, salvaged, and upcycled metal components from various sources. He sees a neglected, rusting pile of steel as a literal representation of someone's broken or abandoned dreams. Purchasing these materials and through hard work, inspiration, creativity, and persistence creating an entirely new and beautiful work of art, is not only a personally fulfilling process, but one that stands as an analogy of the nature of life in general.

Located two miles west of Wrightsville

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