

Upstairs Artspace in Tryon, NC, Offers Three New Exhibitions

Upstairs Artspace in Tryon, NC, is presenting three new exhibits including: *Drag*, prints by Hague Williams; *Original to Original: Artists Transforming Materials*, featuring 3-D works by Hague Williams, D.J. Gaskins, Janet Orselli, Lori Jusino, Michael Ziemer, Jen Bowen, and Maryann Pappano; and *Papering Surfaces*, collages by Lisa De Girolamo and Grant Penny. All three exhibits will be on view through Sept. 27, 2019.

"These exhibits at Upstairs Artspace will be especially diverse, interesting, and certainly creative," the contemporary gallery's Board President John Walters said. "*Drag* shows prints made by dragging printing plates behind a car – the scratches and dings resulting in dynamic images of motion. *Original to Original* is all about recycling and repurposing materials to create new art. And *Papering Surfaces* is about collage. I believe patrons will find the art insightful, revealing and thought-provoking."

Hague Williams is an art teacher at Landrum High School in South Carolina. He has multiple degrees in art and education, and has been exhibiting his work since 1992 in the South, Midwest, New England, the West Coast and various European countries. His *Drag* exhibit is a good example of his interest in experimentation.

"Transformation and the catalysts that precipitate change over time are primary sources of motivation for my work," Williams said. "As a printmaker and artist, I am predictably interested in such methods of change: Process is an integral part of my work. I am in search of the next translation, the next transformation as it is seen through the eyes of history, by the ones that make and experience or suffer that history." He also works in ceramics, photography, commercial art, drawings, and etchings.



Work by D, J, Gaskins

D.J. Gaskins, one of several *Original to Original* artists, lives in Saluda, NC, where she pursues many talents, one of which is creating 3-D art from discarded materials. "The pieces in this exhibit showcase my work in book arts, as well as assemblage," Gaskins said. "Themes in my work are often drawn from nature. I'm a hunter-gatherer, with boxes and jars of found objects – vintage hardware, keys and other metal objects; stones, twigs, feathers, even insect wings; and old bottles, boxes, texts, discarded jewelry and other baubles. I roam flea markets for anything I come across that has the slightest glimmer of promise for a new project."

Janet Orselli has an extensive art career with multiple grants, residencies, solo and group exhibitions, performances, teaching, and lecturing. She mainly works in sculpture, drawing, and site-specific installations. When dealing with constructions, she said: "The objects I use in my work are living entities to me. I select ones that are filled with a vital energetic quality and retain an intimate sense of human touch. I rescue many from trash piles or flea markets. I bring them home and watch how they communicate with other old things in my studio. Sometimes they laugh at each other, sometimes they scream at each other. But, ultimately, in some definitive, yet inexplicable way, certain of these particular old things request to be joined



Work by Janet Orselli

together. So I grant their request. It is a labor of love."

Collage artists Lisa De Girolamo and Grant Penny have come together for *Papering Surfaces*. Originally from New York City with a master's degree in art from Parsons School of Design, Girolamo now lives in Asheville. She worked for many years directly from nature, painting the landscapes of New York State and New Mexico. Currently, she is exploring concepts of abstraction, mainly through collage, monotype and watercolor. She has shown her work regionally and nationally.

Penny also lives in Asheville, and his primary medium is collage. A native of North Carolina, his work is represented by Mark Bettis Studio/Gallery in Asheville, and The Mahler Fine Art in Raleigh. "I've been working as a graphic designer for 18 years and showing my collage work since 2009," he said. "Over the years I've made an effort to have creative endeavors that are separate from my work as a graphic designer. Something hands on. A combination of these personal explorations evolved into the collage pieces seen in the Upstairs show."

Other artists in *Original to Original* also enjoy impressive careers. Jen Bowen, Lori Jusino, and Maryann Pappano live in Asheville where they explore the many possibilities of assemblage art. Michael Ziemer lives in Greenville, SC, where he experiments with incorporating elements from nature into his paintings.

Founded in 1978, Upstairs Artspace is a nonprofit contemporary art gallery in downtown Tryon on S. Trade Street. It exhibits two- and three-dimensional art and craft by leading artists of the Southeast, particularly in the Carolinas, as well as artists nationally and globally. It is supported by public and private donations, sales of art, grants, and fund-raising events. Upstairs Artspace is supported in part by the Polk County Community Foundation, the Mary F. Kessler Fund, and public and private donations.



Work by Lisa De Girolamo

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

Western Carolina University in Cullowhee, NC, Offers Exhibition Focused on the Use of Sound in Art

Western Carolina University in Cullowhee, NC, is presenting *Resounding Change: Sonic Art and the Environment*, on view at the Fine Art Museum at the John W. Bardo Fine and Performing Arts Center, through Dec. 6, 2019.

This exhibition highlights contemporary artists who use sound to engage with environmental issues. Co-curated by Carolyn Grosch, Curator of Collections & Exhibitions at the WCU Fine Art Museum, and Tyler Kinnear, Adjunct Instructor in the WCU School of Music, the exhibition features sound-based artwork that encourages visitors to listen more closely to the natural world and to think about how sound is being used in a time of environmental crisis.

The works in the exhibition, which range from a large-scale video installation to more intimate encounters with sound, ask us to consider humanity's place in the natural world, aspects of environmental change, and the current conditions that shape our planet. Featured artists include Cheryl Leonard, Raven Chacon, Andrea Polli, Lee Weisert, Matthew Burtner, and others.

One notable work in the exhibition is a three-channel video installation entitled *Gauge*. Created by Raven Chacon, a Navajo Nation artist, and six other collaborators, *Gauge* is an immersive gallery experience that combines sound and image. The time-lapse video component of *Gauge* captures dramatic imagery of an ice mural, created by the artists on Baffin Island, as it rises and falls with the tide. Paired with Chacon's field recordings of crunching snow, human tools, wind, and wildlife in the Canadian Arctic landscape, this multisensory experience prompts reflection on human presence



Alexa Hatanaka, Patrick Thompson, Raven Chacon, Danny Osbourne, Sarah McNair-Landry, Eric McNair-Landry, and Erik Boomer, "Gauge", 2013-2015, three-channel sound and video installation

in the landscape, the cycles of nature, issues of climate change, and notions of geologic time.

Raven Chacon will visit Western Carolina University on Sept. 5 for a visiting artist reception and gallery talk from 5-7pm. A special day-time drum performance across campus is currently in development, more details about the exhibition and associated events at (arts.wcu.edu/sonicart).

The WCU Fine Art Museum has a long history of collaboration and continues to serve as a site for interdisciplinary exchange. This exhibition is an interdisciplinary collaboration between the WCU Fine Art Museum and School of Music. This exhibition is part of a series of WCU events and programs that dovetail with the University's 2019-2020 campus theme "Environment and Sustainability." Exhibitions, receptions, and associated programming at the Museum are free and open to the public.

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings or visit (bardoartscenter.wcu.edu).

Art Cellar Gallery in Banner Elk, NC, Offers Work by Noyes Capehart

The Art Cellar Gallery in Banner Elk, NC, is presenting *Visual Reflections*, featuring works by Noyes Capehart, on view through Sept. 7, 2019.

This show will feature the artist's newest works as well as a glimpse into his past through imagery and the written word. Throughout our lives there are certain thoughts, images and ideas that seem to follow us. This is common place for most people, unlike most people however, artists think to record these images and ideas that keep worming their way into everyday thoughts. Capehart paints and writes his recollections, creating a visual catalog of imagery and thoughts that span decades.

Born in a small town outside of Nashville, TN, Capehart grew up listening to the radio, creating images in his head to go along with the stories. Throughout the years he dabbled in drawing and letters and while a senior in high school he was hired by the Coca Cola Bottling Company to paint signs in Nashville. Subsequently Capehart started college at The University of the South (Seawanee), then transferred to Auburn to study the arts. Following a redirection in life and being taught and molded by great teachers Capehart graduated from Auburn in 1958 and moved to New York City where he found himself working as a security guard at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. He remained with the museum until mid-December of 1960 when an unexpected temporary teaching offer from Auburn prompted his return to the South.

Appalachian State University lured Capehart to Boone, NC, with a teaching position in 1969, and he remained with the



Work by Noyes Capehart

university until his retirement in 1997. He served as the chairman of the Art Department from 1976 to 1979, the Assistant Dean of the College of Fine & Applied Art and Dean of the College of Fine & Applied Arts throughout the 1980's Capehart is a credit to the success of the ASU Art Department and the temperament of the current art world of the High Country and surrounding areas. In addition to his professional involvement in art, he is also deeply involved with writing and has, since the early '70's, completed numerous short stories, four novels and a novella.

The Art Cellar Gallery focuses on regional 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 further information check our NC Commercial Gallery listings, call the gallery at 828/898-5175 or visit (www.artcellaronline.com).

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Every once in a while I feel like just filling one of these spaces with a kind of nothingness. You know as if nobody reads what's in these spaces anyway. So if one time I said something like the first person to read this and send me an e-mail to (info@carolinaarts.com) during the month of September, they'll get a free 1/4 page ad in our October 2019 issue or the month that is most useful for them. But who reads these space fillers anyway? Not many I bet.