

NC Arboretum in Asheville, NC, Offers Citizen Photography Project

The North Carolina Arboretum in Asheville, NC, invites viewers to deepen their connections to the natural world with its upcoming exhibit *The Enveloping Landscape: A Contemplative Photographic Journey*, on view in the Baker Exhibit Center Gallery, from Jan. 16 through May 2, 2021.

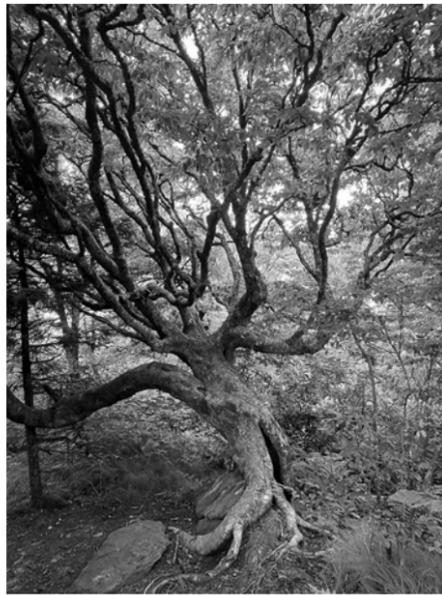
What began as an individual documentary photography project has turned into a unique collaboration between the Arboretum, an environmental artist, and members of the local community that encourages meaningful dialogue, and most importantly, inspires an increased commitment to caring for our planet.

The Enveloping Landscape started as a project launched by documentary photographer Susan Patrice in 2016. Using contemplative photography practices and hand-built cameras designed to produce round images, Patrice captured the same three square-miles of forest for two years, both in and around the Arboretum. Her intimate photographs, which have been exhibited nationally, use the power of art and love to instill environmental stewardship. Patrice believes that now more than ever we need to fall in love with the natural world. "To do so, wholeheartedly, would change everything," she says. "Our actions would spring from reverence and would be informed by our deep interconnectedness with the natural world."



Work by Susan Patrice

Earlier this year, the Arboretum partnered with Patrice for what was supposed to be a year-round workshop in tandem with her documentary photography project. Unfortunately, those plans took a turn due to the COVID-19 pandemic. What originated as an in-person, onsite



Work by Jennifer Powell

program developed into a virtual citizen photography workshop where participants joined Patrice online, turning their cameras toward their most familiar surroundings. The resulting photographs were so moving in their honesty, vulnerability, and subtle beauty that Exhibit Curator, Ashlee Lanier, designed an exhibition in celebration of the collective work.

"I rediscovered a part of my garden with a bench that had been ignored and was overgrown," says workshop participant Jennifer Powell. "I sat there each day and photographed the peonies in bloom. It was an entirely new vantage point, one that created connection to my home, a balm during a time of isolation."

The Enveloping Landscape shows Patrice's photographs alongside those of the workshop participants. This stunning and expansive exhibition demonstrates the rich biodiversity of Southern Appalachia through the eyes and hearts of 25 regional photographers.

"Just as Susan Patrice's beautiful photographs resonated with me when I first saw them and planted the seed for this project," says Adult Education Manager Rebecca Caldwell, "I anticipate ways for the Arboretum to continue as a source for creative inspiration and to nurture earth-based mindfulness practice through our educational programs."

Each year more than 500,000 visitors experience the Arboretum's gardens,

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trails, exhibits and plant shows, educational programs and lectures. The Arboretum's ability to meet its mission and enrich the visitor experience is made possible by a community of supporting resources – from members, volunteers and staff to state and local funds, special events, tribute gifts, grants and community partners.

The central mission of The North Carolina Arboretum, an affiliate institu-

tion of the 17-campus University of North Carolina System, is to cultivate connections among people, plants and places. A standard \$14 per vehicle parking fee is required for non-members. Special events and after-hours activities may require additional fees.

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, call 828/665-2492 or visit (www.ncarboretum.org).

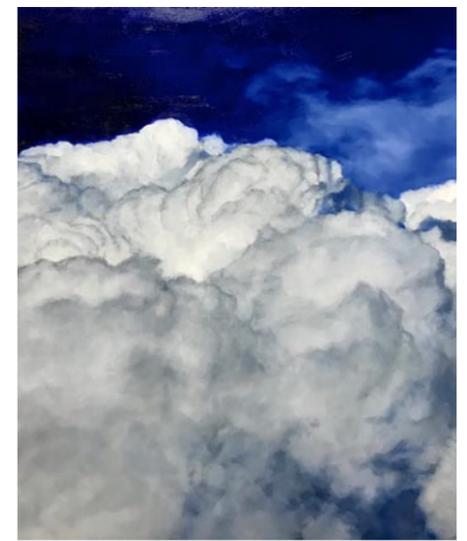
River Arts District in Asheville, NC, Offers Second Saturday - Jan. 9, 2021

On the Second Saturday of each month, Asheville, NC's River Arts District holds gallery walks with demonstrations, workshops, live music, wine tastings, delicious food, and more. Visitors meander the mile-long district and discover all that the "RAD" has to offer. There are more than 200 artists in the 22 buildings throughout the district. Many of them open during this monthly event to describe or show their techniques and share their inspirations. Join them on Jan. 9, 2021.

There will be no trolley service on Second Saturdays for the time being, due to coronavirus concerns. Ample free parking is available in the district and walkability is increasing every week with the greenway expansion underway.

Both in person and virtual events are happening for Second Saturday. Events are available online at (<https://www.riverartsdistrict.com/temporary-hours-by-day/>).

As always, we invite everyone to peruse our website, (riverartsdistrict.com) to have a virtual visit, which is a great jumping off point to explore Asheville's art community, whether for educational purposes, entertainment, or if you're looking for a great piece of art for your home or business.



Work by Peter Roux

Many studios and galleries are open and welcoming visitors throughout the month, following county and state guidelines. We have a new page on our website for a quick glance at some of the artist's open hours at (<https://www.riverartsdistrict.com/temporary-hours-by-day/>).

For further information contact Rachel Roux, River Arts District Coordinator, by e-mail at (info@riverartsdistrict.com) or visit (www.riverartsdistrict.com).

Carolina Arts is now on Twitter!

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twitter.com/carolinaarts