

# Upstairs Artspace in Tryon, NC

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a playful and piquant look at male bonding and everyday rituals; the animation serves as a conceptual and physical springboard for her paintings and sculptures. Unspecified male figures with “heads” resembling football helmets and trucker caps cavort in beer-soaked revelry under cover of the night. The lushly painted surfaces and extra saturated lighting set the stage for these humorously discomfoting theatrics.



Work by Vivian Liddell

Phillips has two series in the show: oil paintings of suburban nightscapes bathed in artificial light and collages of churches lit against black vinyl foreboding skies. Hidden narratives lurk in the shadows of these figureless spaces. The church facades glower out and force their presences in not necessarily welcome ways.

The night watch was a medieval civilian defense militia, sentries of protection, and is also the colloquial title for one of Rembrandt’s most famous paintings. The work in this show captures the paranoia of our own watched moment when emblems of power are exposed and where futures are concealed in the dusk.

On view in Upstairs Artspace’s Small Gallery, will be *BEGAT*, featuring works by Warren Hicks,

“Writing in the great traditions of Kurt Schwitters, William Burroughs and *Mad Magazine* (not to mention *Mad Libs*), Warren Hicks’ *BEGAT* is an affectionate, irreverent, unapologetically juvenile, textual desecration designed for maximum enjoyment,” said Amy White.

Using humor to address his frustration with religious hypocrisy, Hicks removed all religious references from the Gospel of Matthew from the Christian Bible. Through 191 illustrations and the extremely redacted text, Hicks revealed a world filled with elves, cannibalism, UFOs, talking fruit, explosions, and more. The exhibition includes prints and 2-D paper sculptures based on his book.

Downstairs at Upstairs Artspace will be a display of works generated during the Upstairs’ *Drawing Marathon IV*. This invitation-only event brings artists together in the gallery’s lower level for two days to draw. The synergy of shared space and creative focus always fuels exciting new work.

Upstairs Artspace is a nonprofit contemporary art gallery in downtown Tryon, NC. It is supported by public and private donations, sales of art, grants, and fund-



Work by Jeremy Phillips

raising events. It is supported in part by the Polk County Community Foundation, the Mary F. Kessler Fund, and public and private donations.

Founded in 1978, Upstairs Artspace is Tryon’s oldest fine art gallery and is operated by its Board of Directors, members, and volunteers. It exhibits 10 to 15 shows annually that are generally conceived around themes or genres.

Upstairs Artspace maintains three gallery spaces totaling approximately 3000 square feet and rotates fine art exhibitions every six weeks that are selected by committee and independent curators. These exhibits include most forms of art media including painting, sculpture, mixed media, works on paper, prints, photography, digital media, videography and installations. The artists are selected for their abilities and reputations, and while most are from our region, we also feature work from other parts of the country.



Work by Warren Hicks

Upstairs Artspace is known throughout the region as a gallery featuring art that is contemporary and avant-garde. Artists are selected by qualified exhibits committee members. While most of the art in an exhibition is available for purchase, Upstairs Artspace is not a retail gallery and does not maintain a permanent collection.

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

## Asheville Art Museum in Asheville, NC, Features Annual Scholastic Art Awards

Asheville Art Museum in Asheville, NC, will present the *2023 WNC Regional Scholastic Art Awards*, on view in the Museum’s Multipurpose Space, from Jan. 25 through Mar. 6, 2023.

The Museum, with the assistance of its volunteer docents and support from the Asheville Area Section of the American Institute of Architects, is proud to be a regional affiliate partner hosting the *WNC Regional Scholastic Art Awards* each year. Students in grades 7–12 from all across Western North Carolina are invited to submit work for this special juried competi-

tion. The Museum works with the Alliance for Young Artists & Writers to facilitate regional judging of student artwork and to recognize our community’s burgeoning artistic talent.

Each year, award winners are featured in an exhibition and are honored at a ceremony. Regional Gold Key recipients’ work is sent to the national *Scholastic Art & Writing Awards* competition hosted by the Alliance for Young Artists & Writers.

The Asheville Art Museum, the hub for 20th- and 21st-century American art in

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