

Bender Gallery in Asheville, NC

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assemblages exhibit balance, symmetry and harmony and pay homage to the deconstructed form. Architecture, symbolism, and Eastern philosophy are portrayed throughout the artist's work.

Aquamarine Triangulations is an "architecturally oriented study in tension and resolution". It is a deconstructed cube, reassembled with an optical wedge and other optical elements to form a compelling sculpture that spins on an anodized aluminum base. The striking aqua hue contrasts with the clear optical crystal and the interior graphics suggest fluidity in an otherwise angular piece. As in most of Sand's sculptures the piece is composed of both leaded and non-leaded glass, which allows for stunning reflection and refraction of the main inner core.

Weighing in at over 100 pounds, *Heliopolis* is one of the more impressive and visually striking pieces in the exhibition. The sculpture is essentially a cube halved at an angle and reassembled with a wedge of optical glass in between the two halves. Very architectural in nature, the sculpture is balanced on the points of each half. The entire piece spins to create the look of an external kaleidoscope, and the dichroic generated colors change as it moves. "The interior graphics are meant to compliment the shape" says Sand.



Work by Toland Sand

Sand is self-taught and has been professionally working with glass since 1977. His explorations in glass began when took over a friend's stained glass business. He has also blown glass and has worked in sandblasted architectural glass. Since 1984, Sand has been a glass sculptor discovering new horizons and pushing the limits of shape, color and technique. The artist was born in Berkeley, CA, and works out of his studio in rural New Hampshire.

For further information check our NC Commercial Gallery listings, call the gallery at 828/505-8341 or visit (www.bendergallery.com).

Asheville (NC) Chapter of Ikebana International (II) Hosts 17th North American Regional Conference of Ikebana International - May 18-22

The Asheville Chapter of Ikebana International (II) will host the 17th North American Regional Conference of Ikebana International (NARC 2014) at the Renais-Page 24 - Carolina Arts, April 2014 sance Asheville Hotel, in Asheville, NC, from May 18 - 22, 2014.

Throughout the conference, teachers and continued above on next column to the right

students from four of the most internationally well known schools of ikebana will be treated to special demonstrations and workshops: Ichiyo, Ikenobo, Ohara and Sogetsu. Ikebana is the Japanese art form of flower design and the Ikebana International Chapter in Asheville has over 50 members. Ikebana International participants from other cities will assist local II Chapter #74 of Asheville with aspects of the conference: North Carolina (Charlotte, Winston-Salem, Durham and Wilmington), Columbia, SC, Pittsburgh, PA, Naples, FL and Atlanta, GA.

Of special interest and open to the public will be an Ikebana exhibition by more than 100 designers from across the US to take place at the Renaissance Hotel, on Tuesday, May 20 and Wednesday, May 21 from 10:30am to 7pm. This highly anticipated event is usually held every five years in the US and includes a first hand look at both traditional and contemporary flower designs, some in containers by regional crafts persons.

Regional artists have taken special forms adapted specifically for ikebana use. Interest stems from the high demand for interesting containers by ikebana designers locally and around the world as well as the distinctive images created in ikebana through the partnership of flowers and containers. Participating ceramic artists showing their works at a Container Market (for conference participants only) will be: WNC artists Akira Satake, John Ransmeier, John Lawson, Steven Forbes de Soule, Tacy Apostolik, Nick Joerling, Matt Tommey, Joy Tanner, Will Baker, Sue Grier, Judith Duff and Kathie Kline. Guest ikebana basket artist Judy Charlick of Cleveland, OH, will also show her unique containers.

Sue Grier and Kathie Kline, local members of Ikebana International, are also practicing designers with practical knowledge of the relationship of Japanese flower design and their special containers. Ikebana containers will be available to the public at their studios and through the galleries that represent them. Satake, Joerling, Grier and Duff will also be on display at the Blue Spiral Gallery exhibition, *ZEN*, that coincides

with the NARC Conference and public exhibition.

Asheville was awarded the bid to host NARC 2014 by a vote of the delegates at the 16th North American Regional Conference held in Monterey Bay, CA, in May 2008 following the presentation of Asheville Ikebana International President Terri Ellis Todd. Selected for its crafts culture, passionate ikebana designers and container artists, and native plant life similar to that of Japan, Asheville won the recognition of their peers over larger chapters such as Naples, FL, and Dallas, TX. Previous North American Regional Conferences have been held in Chicago, Ottawa, Honolulu, Philadelphia and other cities throughout North America.

Special Guest and Headmaster of the Ichiyo School of Ikebana Akihiro Kasuya will travel from Tokyo, Japan, to give a large-scale stage demonstration at the Asheville Community Theatre located next door to the Renaissance on Wednesday of the Conference. Kasuya will be assisted by his son Iemoto Designate Naohiro Kasuya. Additional Wednesday demonstrations will be given by Jennie Sterling of Atlanta, GA, (Sogetsu School) and Emiko Suzuki of Hendersonville, NC, (Ikenobo School.)

A large-scale outdoor Sogetsu workshop will be presented by Ron Brown of San Francisco on Monday. Workshops on Tuesday and Thursday will be conducted by Sibbie Wilson of Franklin, NC (Ohara School), Iemoto (Headmaster) and Iemoto Designate Akihiro and Naohiro Kasuya (Ichiyo School), Emiko Suzuki (Ikenobo) and Jennie Sterling (Sogetsu).

Over 300 national and international Ikebana International members are anticipated for this five-day conference, which also includes special local tours reflecting our art and plant cultures. Visitors will be treated to an art exhibit and kimono show at Blue Spiral 1 Gallery from owners and Ichiyo Ikebana students John Cram of Blue Spiral 1 Gallery and Matt Chambers of Bellagio Art to Wear. In addition to tours to the Biltmore Estate, excursions of special interest with accomplished speakers include a visit to

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