

# STARworks Center for Creative Enterprise in Star, NC, Features Two Big Events in May

STARworks Center for Creative Enterprise in Star, NC, will be offering two major events this May including: STARworks Craft Invitational, on May 3, from 9am-4pm, with a preview reception on May 2, from 6-8pm, and Sustain: Woodfire NC 2025, an international wood firing conference, held on May 22 - 25, 2025.



View from a previous Craft Invitational

STARworks' 2nd Annual Craft Invitational will feature work for sale by some of the most talented artists in ceramic, glass, wood, metal, and fiber with an emphasis on functional craft of the highest quality. Meet outstanding artists and find one-of-a-kind pieces at this exhibition-style sale.



View from a previous Craft Invitational

Participating artists include: Jack Barnes, Christina Bendo, Cara Bevan, Dahlia Bushwick, Sandi Carter, Hannah Cupp, Kirk Fry, John Geci, Rose Hardesty, Marie & Walter Haulenbeek (Pekin Pottery), Hannah Holden (Walking Apron), Stillman Browning-Howe, Jennie Lorette Keatts, Katherine Maloney, Ron Philbeck, Jackie Polofka, Galen Sedberry, Ian Thomsen, Eric Warren, Hayden Wilson, and Katherine Zeilman.

The main event tickets are \$5, and the preview reception tickets are \$25.

The Sustain: Woodfire NC 2025, an international wood firing conference, takes place from May 22 - 25, 2025.

Join the global conversation on wood fired ceramics and immerse yourself in one of the most vibrant and unique pottery communities in the US.

What new insights could you gain from North Carolina's renowned wood firing tradition? How can the ancient techniques and modern practices of this craft continue to evolve? Don't miss the chance to hear from international experts who are shaping the future of wood firing.

This immersive event will unite pro-



View of previous Woodfire conference, photo by Michael Mahan

fessional artists, students, and ceramic enthusiasts from more than eight countries to explore every facet of wood firing, examining its cultural, environmental, ethical, and aesthetic dimensions. This year's focus is on what sustains and nourishes the wood-firing community - examining the practices, traditions, and values that keep this art form alive in a rapidly changing world.

With more than 30 wood kilns, the Seagrove area of North Carolina is home to one of the largest concentrations of wood-fired kilns and artists in the country. This rich history and deep-rooted tradition make it the perfect setting for a conference dedicated to the evolution of this craft.

At Sustain: Woodfire NC 2025, you'll engage with a dynamic mix of panel discussions, live firings, hands-on demonstrations, and plenary talks. Topics will range from sustainability in the craft, kiln design and firing techniques, to glazing, clay, and community-building. We'll also explore the growing intersection between wood-fired ceramics and food culture, considering how this ancient craft can nourish both body and soul.

Whether you're a seasoned artist or a curious newcomer, the conference offers an opportunity to connect, collaborate, and grow within an inspiring and supportive community. You'll leave with fresh perspectives on the role of wood-fired ceramics in today's world and a renewed sense of purpose in your own practice.

Register before May 22-25, 2025, and join us in Star, NC, for an unforgettable experience at Sustain: Woodfire NC 2025. Together, we'll explore how this timeless craft can continue to thrive, inspire, and evolve for generations to come.

For registration and conference fees visit ([starworksnc.org/woodfirenc](http://starworksnc.org/woodfirenc)).

Starworks is a 501(c)(3) not for profit organization and is located at 100 Russell Drive, Star, NC, 27356

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings or contact Claire Sellers, Starworks Communications Coordinator by e-mail at ([claire@starworksnc.org](mailto:claire@starworksnc.org)).

# Artworks Gallery in Winston-Salem, NC, Features Works by Karen Moran Kopf and Steve Mizel

Artworks Gallery in Winston Salem, NC, will present *People, Places and Other Curiosities*, featuring works by Karen Moran Kopf and Steve Mizel, on view from May 7 through June 1, 2025. A reception will be held on May 18, from 2-4pm, with a Gallery Talk at 2:30pm. An Art Crush will be held on May 16, from 7-9pm.

Karen Moran Kopf uses gold, silver and copper leaf with complicated textures to depict the inspirations from her life. Simple plant forms are transformed from weeds into intricate tapestry-like paintings. Couples are wrapped in mesmerising robes of gold, silver and copper leaf in windswept coastal settings. Flamenco dancers and to-readors swirl around raging bulls and silver trumpets inspired by a jazz album.

Kopf uses leafing to create ethereal beings against a stunning light blue violet sky.



Work by Karen Moran Kopf

In contrast there is a desolated scene after war with the only winner the sky, which remains a beautiful blue.

After studying painting in Austria, Kopf established a studio in Marbella, Spain on continued above on next column to the right

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the Costa del Sol. There the bright Spanish sun and range of experiences and exhibitions influenced her professional artist career.

Upon returning to the US, Kopf painted in upstate New York, and was resident director of Guy Park State Historic Site. She later moved to Winston-Salem where she earned a Master's degree from Salem College. She worked for twenty years as a teacher while she and her husband raised two sons. She currently exhibits at Artworks Gallery in Winston-Salem, NC.

Steve Mizel's art is a reflection of the varied paths along which his life has taken. Although his professional career was in biomedical research and education, he always carved out significant time for artistic endeavors that span from art-making to creating a modern dance on the immune system.

Mizel's artworks touch on themes of time, memory, and emotion, striving to make sure that each work has two fundamental characteristics: spirit and movement. Each work tells an interesting story, but not



Work by Steve Mizel

the entire story. If the work is successful, it engages the viewer - who then completes the story or invents their own as they respond in an ongoing nonverbal conversation continued on Page 31