

Asheville Gallery of Art in Asheville, NC, Features Works by Joyce Schlapkohl

Asheville Gallery of Art in Asheville, NC, will present *Paintings as Pathways: Enjoying Nature Through Art*, featuring works by Joyce Schlapkohl, on view from July 1 - 31, 2021. A "Meet the Artist" event will be offered on July 2, from 5pm-8pm.

Visitors to the gallery will have the entire month to view Schlapkohl's landscape and floral oil paintings, all done in a style she describes as "painterly realism."

Schlapkohl's paintings focus on the beauty of nature and the special effects of light and shadow. She is continuously inspired by the natural offerings of Western North Carolina and paints the various native flora and fauna to delight both herself and the viewer. Schlapkohl's paintings dance between realism and artful interpretation, demonstrating clear colors and composition but maintaining a painterly stroke.

One of her oils, titled *Boating Party*, depicts a collection of canoes resting in a lazy river, the sun beaming through the canopy of leafy trees to create clear contrast of light and dark, the water is peaceful and reflects a portion of clear blue sky overhead. The mood is decidedly serene, evoking a warm, bright summer day. Other works, such as *Rick's Roses*, showcase Schlapkohl's love of color and texture, as the still life bursts with vivid roses in various shades of pink, all contained in a reflective glass vase.

Schlapkohl received a Master's Degree in Business from the University of North



Work by Joyce Schlapkohl

Carolina and only started her art career after a back injury. She had always loved painting and enrolled in Florida Atlantic University to further her art education. Since then, she has continually taken workshops with nationally-known artists and pursued her passion for painting as a full-time artist.

Schlapkohl says, "One wonderful part of painting is that you never stop learning and developing your eye for seeing." She has taught watercolor classes over the years and was selected as a Signature Member of the Watercolor Society of North Carolina. Since then, she has transitioned to painting in oils to better capture her style with added freedom and texture.

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, call the gallery at 828/251-5796 or visit (www.ashevillegalery-of-art.com).

Mark Bettis Studio & Gallery at Wedge Studios in Asheville, NC, Features Works by David Sheldon

The Mark Bettis Studio & Gallery at Wedge Studios in Asheville, NC, will present *Finding the Light*, featuring works by David Sheldon, on view from July 10 - 24, 2021. A reception will be held on July 10, from 4-6:30pm.

In difficult times *Finding the Light* can be a challenge. For painter David Sheldon, looking to nature during pandemic times has been his source for not only inspiration, but a means to connect with something greater. Without the sun's life-giving rays of light there would be no life on Earth as we know it. With that in mind, Sheldon seeks out moments in nature that are charged with light, sometimes directly, sometimes subtly - but it is always there in some capacity. Painting ecstatic moments in nature is his way of expressing something eternal and lasting and hopefully transmitting something of real substance to the viewer.

"As far as I'm concerned, there's really no way to 'depict' the sublime reality of nature with a traditional painting, so I don't even try," said Sheldon. "But one can create a painting that is an equally compelling experience by allowing the paint to have its own voice and presence



Work by David Sheldon

that expresses the artist's direct experience of nature, and that's what I try to do."

Mark Bettis Studio & Gallery, opened in 2013, showcases Mark Bettis's diverse works along with five other notable artists. Featuring works in paintings, sculptures and glass Mark Bettis Studio & Gallery is a must-see gallery to visit in Asheville.

For further information check our NC Commercial Gallery listings, call the gallery at 941/587-9502 or visit (<https://www.markbettisgallery.com/>).

Bender Gallery in Asheville, NC, Features Works by Tom Pazderka

Bender Gallery in Asheville, NC, will present *One Day I Will Disappear*, a solo exhibition of current paintings by Czech American artist Tom Pazderka, on view from July 3 through Aug. 31, 2021. A reception will be held on July 3, from 6-9pm by RSVP only.

Pazderka's captivating work is deeply personal and is an elegant metaphor for life's darker side: of landscape, of nature, of memory.

Pazderka is a painter, an installation artist, an intellectual, and a writer who spent his undergraduate years in the Asheville area. He was born near Prague in 1981 during the waning of the Communist era in Czechoslovakia. He lived in a panelák, a Soviet-style concrete apartment block, until emigrating to the US in 1994



Work by Tom Pazderka

at the age of twelve. Contrary to what we may envision in America, Pazderka has fond memories of his time there. Although life was basic and creativity was not encouraged, his family was never in need

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