



## Pink Dog Creative in Asheville, NC, Features Works by Paul Saenger

Pink Dog Creative in Asheville, NC, will present *People, Politics and the Pandemic*, featuring works by Paul Saenger, on view in the Pink Dog Gallery, from July 21 through Aug. 20, 2023. A reception will be held on July 21, from 5-7pm.

Paul Saenger of Asheville retired from a career as an orthopedic surgeon in 2019. Having taken a few drawing and painting classes in preparation for something to do, the world then shut down. Equipped with these fundamentals, he pursued a creative opportunity here represented in *People, Politics and the Pandemic*.



Work by Paul Saenger

Saenger offers the following statement, "I had no intentional theme, just a desire to develop skills to express reflections on what I saw of the world around me. Some are of a political nature, some of the pandemic which dominated everyone's life until recently. Initially, there was an element of



Work by Paul Saenger

whimsy, but increasingly, with disappointment and concern over the lack of effective leadership and the failure of public recognition and acceptance of the realities of the crisis, I increasingly drifted to creating portraits, a Pygmalion-like effort, perhaps, to populate my life with the many people I no longer saw since retiring and then complicated by the pandemic shut down."

For further information check our NC Commercial Gallery listings or visit ([pinkdog-creative.com](http://pinkdog-creative.com)).

## Penland School of Crafts in Penland, NC, Offers Look at Different Views of Natural World

The Penland School of Crafts in Penland, NC, is presenting *wild and precious life*, featuring works by Lisa A. Frank, Kim Cridler, and Nancy Blum, who reimagine the natural world and our relationships with it through sculpture, photography, and drawing, on view in the Penland Gallery, through Sept. 2, 2023.

It's likely that every visitor to the gallery will be intrigued by Lisa A. Frank's photographs from her series titled "Captive Splendor." These images are digitally-rendered collages that place wild animals into beautiful rooms representing historic architectural styles. The animals were

photographed by the artist in zoos around the country. The rooms are photographs of astonishing miniatures, like exquisitely detailed dollhouses, that are part of the Thorne Rooms Collection at the Art Institute of Chicago. Frank has carefully combined the two sets of images to create impossible dioramas.

Kim Cridler makes metal sculptures that she describes as "inspired by the patterns of nature and the way objects can record and extend our lives." Many of them are based on the forms of trees and vessels, often in combination. Her process involves joining

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together hundreds of small pieces of metal to create larger forms in the same way that many lines can make a drawing. "I work to create a sense of movement within still objects," she explains.

Brooklyn-based artist Nancy Blum creates drawings, sculptures, and public art commissions. Her large-scale drawings in this show are based on sixteenth- and seventeenth-century botanical images. She creates intricate compositions that put together species that would not coexist in nature and also combine different drawing styles. Within a single image, some flowers are fully rendered in color, some are line drawings, and others are used as background patterns reminiscent of wallpaper.

By placing the work of these three artists in the same space, the Penland Gallery invites the viewer to explore worlds within worlds.

Also on view is a smaller exhibition of pieces made collaboratively by Swedish artist Tobias Birgersson and Asheville artist Andrew Hayes. The pieces combine forged and fabricated steel, paper, and books by Swedish authors. They are the result of an ongoing, long-distance friendship and artistic dialogue.

Newly installed outside the gallery are two brightly-colored, billboard-sized murals based on paper collages by artist Anne Lemanski.

The Penland Gallery also includes a sales gallery with work in many media by artists associated with Penland School of Craft and a room dedicated to the school's history and programs. It's the first building on your right as you enter the Penland School campus, which is located on Conley Ridge Road just off of Penland Road in Mitchell

## Blowing Rock Art and History Museum in Blowing Rock, NC, Offers Exhibition Focused on Poultry Depicted in Clay

Blowing Rock Art and History Museum in Blowing Rock, NC, is presenting *Earth & Fowl: Chickens and Other Poultry in Clay*, on view in the Schaefer Gallery, through Aug. 6, 2023.

The ceramic objects found in this exhibition are obviously of a kind. Birds have long been a common subject for sculptural objects meant for the home. In particular, domestic poultry - ducks, geese, guineas, pigeons, and turkeys, with chickens chief among them - are animals that have been deeply integrated into our visual culture. They are signs and symbols of prosperity,



Work by Kim Cridler  
 County, NC.

The Penland School of Craft is a national center for craft education dedicated to the creative life. Located in Western North Carolina, Penland offers workshops in books and paper, clay, drawing and painting, glass, iron, metals, printmaking and letterpress, photography, textiles, and wood. The school also provides artists' residencies, an outreach program, and a gallery and visitors center. Penland is a nonprofit, tax-exempt institution that receives support from the North Carolina Arts Council, a division of the Department of Natural & Cultural Resource.

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, call the gallery at 828/765-6211 or visit ([penland.org/gallery](http://penland.org/gallery)).

familial health and wealth, and avatars in children's stories and more recently of agricultural independence. Their likeness can be found on wallpaper and china patterns, decorative hand towels, mass-produced porcelain figurines, and nearly any other decorative object we might associate with the home. They are also a perennial subject in North Carolina's rich pottery tradition.

These are animals that are often quite literally rooting in the earth in search of sustenance and who maintain a profound

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