

Jerald Melberg Gallery in Charlotte

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Francisco Art Institute. She constructs abstract paintings that are expressive and intelligent. Incorporating a mix of materials, Boxall's canvases exude conviction, energy, and knowledgeable composition.

In writing about her work, Jennifer Sudul Edwards, Chief Curator and Curator of Contemporary Art at The Mint Museum, states, "Katherine Boxall explores this possibility of transferring the unconscious onto her canvases through a more automatic practice, trying to loosen her conscious control of her arm as she draws her compositions onto her canvases. Modulating and modifying those initial marks, she reworks them into complicated compositions that balance the intuitive and the intentional, until she achieves mélangé of the two concepts."

Boxall has received numerous awards and honors, including the Elizabeth Greenshields Foundation Artist Grant and The San Francisco Art Institute MFA Presidential Fellowship. Her work has



Work by Katherine Boxall

been exhibited across Canada, Australia, and the United States, including a solo exhibition at the Mint Museum of Art.

Jerald Melberg Gallery is located on South Sharon Amity Road.

For further information check our NC Commercial Gallery listings, call the gallery at 704/365-3000. To view works online, visit the gallery website at (www.jeraldmelberg.com).

Carolina Renaissance Festival in Charlotte, NC, Announces New Ticket Program

Tickets for the 29th annual Carolina Renaissance Festival in Charlotte, NC, went on sale in early August kicking off the start of several new changes Festival organizers have planned for the upcoming season.

Recently, the Festival announced a list of changes planned to improve traffic conditions for the 2022 event season that include a major revision of how festival admission tickets will be made available. Tickets are now event date specific, limited in availability per each event date, and sold online at the Festival website at (Carolina.RenFestInfo.com) while each event day ticket supply lasts. General admission tickets valid any of the event dates are no longer available at retail locations statewide as in the past.



Two guys just jousting around

"This is the most significant operational change in the Festival's nearly three-decade history. We encourage visitors to reserve their date and purchase tickets in advance online while they last. Tickets will be offered at the Festival on-site box office only on event days not sold out in advance," stated Matt Siegel, the Festival's Director of Marketing.

The Festival is open rain or shine. Ticket holders will receive a refund should the Festival not open on an event date due to extreme unsafe weather conditions, a very rare occurrence according to Festival organizers. Additionally, the Festival's online ticket provider works with FanShield ticket protection to present purchasers an option to buy, at a modest additional fee, an insur-



Scene from the Don Juan & Miguel show

ance policy that guarantees a refund if the purchased tickets were to be unused, under the policy's terms and conditions.

Last year's reopening of the Renaissance Festival came with the impact of additional weekend traffic on an adjacent road system increasingly burdened with new residential and commercial developments now surrounding the Festival's once rural location near the Town of Huntersville in North Mecklenburg County.

2022 plans for the fairgrounds include a revised Traffic Management Plan for nearby roadways and improved parking, staffing, and signage to expedite arriving and departing event traffic. Festival hours are also revised to open 30 minutes earlier at 9:30am and remain open until 5:30pm. Parking remains free courtesy of Harris Teeter.

Celebrating 29 Years of Cheers, the annual Carolina Renaissance Festival returns Saturdays and Sundays for eight consecutive weekends, from Oct. 1st through Nov. 20th. In addition to all the returning popular jousting, jesting, and juggling favorites, the Festival will be hosting several new food and entertainment offerings.

The Festival occurs on a 250-acre farm located north of Charlotte, between Concord and Huntersville, at the junction of NC 73 and Poplar Tent Road. Tickets will be available online only at (Carolina.RenFestInfo.com).

For further information visit (www.carolina.renfestinfo.com).

Cleveland County Arts Council in Shelby, NC, Shows Works by Grant Recipients

The Cleveland County Arts Council in Shelby, NC, is presenting *Local Currents: Ebb & Flow of Ideas - Local Artist Support Grant Recipients Exhibit*, on view through Sept. 29, 2022.

The exhibition features artwork by the following Cleveland County Regional Artists Grant Recipients: Regina Bos, David Caldwell, Beth Coiner, Matthew Duffus, Darrin Griggs, Allegra Klett-Wilson, Doug Knotts, Ron Philbeck, and Chrys Riviere-Blalock.

The Artist Support Grant, funded by the NC Arts Council, provides the opportunity for regional consortia of local arts councils

to award project grants to artists in their regions. These grants support professional artists in any discipline and at any stage in their careers to pursue projects that further their artistic and professional development. Join us to celebrate these artists.

Regina Bos is a graphic designer, painter, and small business owner. A graduate of Monmouth University, she earned her bachelor's degree in Fine Arts in Computer Graphics and Design. Bos has always been creative with exploring artistic mediums, and began focusing her work within the Encaustic Medium in 2014. Mainly self-

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taught, she has also attended numerous workshops around the country. In 2018, the Encaustic Museum of Art in Santa Fe, NM, added her art to their Permanent Collection.

Bos was a featured artist at the Propeller Art Gallery in Toronto during the *International Layers of Meaning Encaustic Exhibition* and received an award in the *Annual Visual Harvest Exhibition* with the Gaston Art Guild in the Rauch Gallery at Gaston College. Most recently, Bos was a grant recipient from the North Carolina Art Council, Mecklenburg Arts & Science Council and the Cleveland County Arts Council.

Studio woodcarver and sculptor since 1994, David Caldwell's experience includes carving for the Shelby Carousel restoration, Cornel Zimmer Organ Builders, and Bob Trotman Studios. His work can be seen in churches from New York to San Francisco. He is a three time recipient of the NC Regional Artist Grant. Exhibitions include: Green Hill Center (NC), Gardner Webb University (NC), Tryon Fine Arts Center (NC), and Lauren Rogers Museum of Art (MS). Teaching experience include: Penland, Arrowmont, and at the Cleveland County Arts Council.

Beth Coiner offered the following, "I'm a modern dancer turned jeweler. I approach each design much like a piece of choreography, drawing from the inherent movement found in natural and architectural landscapes. My tiny sculpture designs are textured and intimate, creating wearable urban and rural vistas. I find specimens in the natural world and transform them into wearable art."

"My bespoke jewelry process refers back to an old style of jewelry making," adds Coiner. "It's an intimate, tailor-made process of repurposing under-worn, or family heirloom jewelry into a re-imagined design for my clients. Each project has their own unique stories and little memories that remain after the sentimental materials have undergone their transformation into a new design. I'd like to think there are similar parallels along the idea of intimacy with both my dances and jewelry for my collections and bespoke projects. When choreographing a solo or duet, instead of a large group, the dance is scaled down to focus on gestures and an unspoken narrative to tell a story. With my jewelry, the dance piece is present on a very macro scale. It reveals itself in the curvature of a tiny shell, or the repetition of shapes and textures, as well as how each piece relates to the body. In my creative process, the jewelry is the solo dancer and the wearer is the stage. When I'm not at my workbench making jewelry, I'm usually dancing."

Matthew Duffus is the author of the novel "Swapping Purples for Yellows", the collection "Dunbar's Folly and Other Stories", and the poetry chapbook "Problems of the Soul and Otherwise". He was born in Pennsylvania and spent time living in Maryland, Indiana, Mississippi, Minnesota, and Tennessee, before finally settling in North Carolina, where he has lived for the past fifteen years.

Along the way, Duffus received graduate degrees in English and creative writing from the University of Mississippi and the University of Minnesota and worked as a graduate instructor and research assistant, apartment caretaker, bookseller, concessions supervisor, and residence hall director. He currently teaches and directs the writing center at Gardner-Webb University, in Boiling Springs, NC.

Darrin Griggs, 55, is a printmaker producing primarily woodcuts but also lino prints. All his prints are from his own original drawings, mostly of his environment on the family farm in Grover, where he is at least the fifth generation to live on the same property in Cleveland County.

Griggs moved back to NC in 2019 after 24 years in Oslo, Norway, where he worked as journalist for a global business newspaper, while traveling Europe, Asia and the Mideast as a specialist in the sector for offshore oil and gas.

A graduate of Shelby High School, Griggs began drawing well before grade school and has continued all his life. He originally started his studies at Western Carolina University as a drawing student for several years before focusing on creative writing. After earning his Bachelor of Arts degree in English, writing and editing, at WCU, graduating summa cum laude, Dar-

rin went on to earn a Master of Fine Arts degree in creative writing at UNCG.

After 31 years as a journalist, Griggs is now spending his time switching back and forth between his twin loves of writing and drawing, by working on a novel, drawing, and producing art prints.

Allegra Klett-Wilson was born and raised in the suburbs of Vancouver, BC, Canada, "I made my way south via Seattle WA. I have been designing & crafting jewelry for over 20 years and officially established Allegra Nichole Designs in 2014 in the historic town of Kings Mountain, NC. with a studio in Shelby, NC. In the fall of 2021, I moved my studio and home to Union Grove, NC, where I am surrounded by 6 acres of woods. The area I now call home is rich in culture, history, and is so peaceful and inspiring. Thanks to the support of my husband and children, I turned my hobby into a business."

"Inspired by my love of history, the serenity of country living, Southern folklore and traditions, Allegra Nichole Design embodies a unique and eclectic collection of jewelry combining silversmithing with natural stones. Self-taught and not liking to follow the rules, I create intuitively, letting my materials do the talking. I love and appreciate the inherent beauty and the unique characteristics of the natural stones that I use," added Klett-Wilson.

"Having previously won support from the Regional Artists Project Grant, I was afforded the opportunity to purchase a hydraulic press that changed how I create my designs. I discovered the long lost art of Die Struck Jewelry and am now able to create timeless and modern heirlooms to be passed on for generations. My designs combine natural gemstones, pearls, Czech glass, and die struck impressions in sterling silver."

Klett-Wilson adds, "You can find my creations at Buffalo Creek Gallery in Shelby, NC, and Southern Arts Society in Kings Mountain, NC."

Doug Knotts has been making pottery since 1972. When he was a sophomore in college, his major was English. "I decided to switch to an Art major after a couple of ceramic courses," he said. After graduation, Knotts worked as a park potter in Alabama. It was production, but he was able to teach children that came through the park.

Knotts then worked at Toe Rivers Art Council in Mitchell County, NC, and after that he joined the NC Visiting Artist Association. He was placed at a Community College and worked at different schools in that area teaching and producing. Eventually he became known for his bird pots. Knotts got the idea of birds from his Grandfather. "He worked at a hospital and he would carve birds out of wood and give them to the sick children in the hospital. I make bird pots because of those experiences; also to continue to sell pots I needed something different." Today, he is Associate Professor of Art at Gardner-Webb University.

Ron Philbeck is a potter specializing in wheel thrown, sodium vapor glazed pottery. The limited production and one of a kind pots are created at his studio in Shelby, NC. Philbeck believes that pots should be well made, pleasant to look at, and easy to use. His work can be found in collections and kitchens around the world.

Painter Chrys Riviere-Blalock studied at Meredith College, Parsons The New School for Design, and Appalachian State University. She has taught studio and art history classes in colleges and universities for over 25 years, served as an exhibition juror and visiting artist at colleges in North and South Carolina, and led undergraduate art travel/study programs in France.

Riviere-Blalock is a 2011 and 2014 recipient of the NC Regional Artist Project Grant from the NC Arts Council. Her work was selected for a solo exhibit on view 24/7 at the Hearst Tower Plaza during the 2012 Democratic National Convention, and has been shown in NY at Artists Space and the Prince Street Gallery, in MS at the Lauren Rodgers Museum of Art, in NC at Green Hill Center, the Bascom, the Hickory Museum of Art, & by the Chapel Hill Public Arts Commission. Artist residencies include: Mountain Gateway Museum and the Hambidge Center for the Creative Arts and Sciences, where she was a 2014 Hambidge Fellow.

In 2020, Riviere-Blalock was invited by

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