

# Folk Art Center in Asheville, NC

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post 382 on the Blue Ridge Parkway in east Asheville. It is the headquarters for the Southern Highland Craft Guild, an educational non-profit organization founded in 1930. The Guild's mission is "to bring together the crafts and craftspeople of the Southern Highlands for the benefit of shared resources, education, marketing and con-

servation." The Southern Highland Craft Guild is an authorized concessioner of the National Park Service, Department of the Interior.

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, call the Center at 828/298-7928 or visit ([www.craftguild.org](http://www.craftguild.org)).

## Center for Craft, Creativity & Design in Asheville, NC, Features Exhibition Focused on Craft Studios in WNC

Center for Craft, Creativity & Design in Asheville, NC, is presenting *Made in WNC*, the first exhibition to examine how studios in Western North Carolina are participating in the international designer-maker movement, on view in the Benchspace Gallery & Workshop, through Jan. 9, 2016.

The exhibition was curated and organized by The Center for Craft, Creativity & Design's Assistant Director Marilyn Zapf. The exhibition features work by twenty-four regional textile, ceramic, and furniture studios and four regional artists.

Since 2008, the designer-maker movement has established itself as new form of creative entrepreneurship defined by small-batch or limited-run scale of production, combining craft-based practice with new technology, and marketing to a design-based consumer. The studios and artists included in *Made in WNC* exemplify how designer-makers in this region are not only participating in this movement but at the forefront of innovation in new business models combining craft, design, and industry.

The included studios offer some of the trendiest and most desirable textiles, ceramics, and furniture for young consumers locally, nationally, and world-wide. Through lifestyle marketing strategies made possible by the Internet and social media, these regional designer-makers are able to reach a much wider audience than ever before.

For example, outdoor furniture company Blue Ridge Chair Works sells to markets in Japan, South Korea, Taiwan and the Netherlands. Asheville-based leather artisan and jeweler Billy Moore's label Cause & Effect can be found through vendors such as Jack Spade and Club Monaco. Alex Matisse of East Fork Pottery recently collaborated with Calvin Klein Home on a series of large ceramic vessels.

"The rise of entrepreneurial studios run by designer-makers conjures a rarely-told story about craft's role in the region. These studios are intelligently engaging with the craft and industrial legacies of the state to forge fresh creative businesses," says CCCD Executive Director Stephanie Moore.

*Made in WNC* considers how the region's legacy of craft and industrialization informs an international movement on a local level. While most designer-makers are educated first in design and acquire making skills in order to develop and produce their products, the studios in this region often start with a making background and cultivate design and business skills to compete in a design-based market.

While locals may be familiar with some of the studios included in the show, this exhibition offers the opportunity to reflect on how the practices that are developing fit into a wider context. "We are in a unique moment in history where the effects of deindustrialization combined with the rise of the



7 Ton Design and Letterpress Co.

Maker movement puts craft in the distinct position to readdress some of the longstanding craft-based binaries such as craft versus industry," says exhibition curator Marilyn Zapf. "The rich history of this region in both craft and industry has created an ideal incubator for designer-maker studios to speak to this machine versus the hand paradigm, and re-envision how the two could relate in the future."

The exhibition will also feature a series of rotating installations commissioned from North Carolina-based artists Libby O'Bryan, Daniel Johnston, Nava Lubelski, and Tom Shields. Like the studios, each artist has a unique and intimate connection to local industry. These installations provide critical context for understanding the themes of the exhibition and the connection between craft and industry more broadly.

Participating studios include: Appalach (Weaverville, NC), Blue Ridge Chair Works (Asheville, NC), Bow + Arrow (Asheville, NC), Cause and Effect (Asheville, NC), The Circle A Brand Mfg. Co. (Asheville, NC), Claire Minihan Woodworks (Asheville, NC), East Fork Pottery (Marshall, NC), Element Clay Studio (Asheville, NC), FEHLÖ (Asheville, NC), Hudson's Hill (Greensboro, NC), Iron & Ash (Asheville, NC), Lighthouse Gear (Arden, NC), A Little Weather (Leicester, NC), Melissa Weiss Pottery (Asheville, NC), Mudtools (Bat Cave, NC), New Colony Furniture (Bakersville, NC), Nick Moen (Asheville, NC), The Old Wood Co. (Asheville, NC), OUTRA (Asheville, NC), Overlap Sewing Studio (Asheville, NC), Raleigh Denim Workshop (Raleigh, NC), Shelter Collective (Asheville, NC), Sketchbook Crafts (Marshall, NC), and TSUGA (Boone, NC).

Collaborating studios include: Bernhardt Design & Bernhardt Textiles (Lenoir, NC), Capricorn Bicycles (Marshall, NC)

Artist Installation include: Libby O'Bryan (Asheville, NC), *What is it Worth?*, Sept. 4-26, 2015; Daniel Johnston (Seagrove, NC), *783-804*, Oct. 1 - 29, 2015; Nava Lubelski (Asheville, NC), *Emblematic*, Nov. 5 - 28, 2015; Tom Shields (Penland, NC), and *Parts and Pieces*, Dec. 4, 2015 - Jan. 9, 2016

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, call the Center at 828/785-1357 or visit ([www.craftcreativitydesign.org/made-in-wnc](http://www.craftcreativitydesign.org/made-in-wnc)).

in the Humanities Lecture Hall on campus.

"This exhibition of beautiful paintings, and two related lectures will bring to light some of the aesthetic liberties taken by writers, biblical illustrators and others, and how this reflects the culture of their audiences," said Richard Chess, director of the Center for Jewish Studies and professor of

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# The Craft FAIR

of the SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS

## OCTOBER 15-18

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SOUTHERN HIGHLAND CRAFT GUILD

literature at UNC Asheville.

Nevins has worked as a graphic designer, illustrator and fine artist. His work has been featured in *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, and *Hi-Fructose* magazine. He created the paintings for this exhibition for *With a Mighty Hand: The Story in the Torah* (Candlewick, 2013), a retelling by Amy Ehrlich.

These events are cosponsored by UNC Asheville's Center for Jewish Studies, the Department of Art and Art History, and OLLI at UNC Asheville.

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listing or call 828/232-5027.

Want to be in the next issue? You can contact us by calling 843/825-3408 or by e-mail at - [info@carolinaarts.com](mailto:info@carolinaarts.com) but do it before Oct. 24th or you might be left out and you don't want that to happen.



"Burning Bush," by Daniel Nevins

## Asheville Gallery of Art in Asheville, NC, Features Works by Judy Rentner

The Asheville Gallery of Art in Asheville, NC, will present *Fall Light*, featuring landscapes in oil using a palette knife by Judy Rentner, on view from Oct. 1 - 31, 2015. A reception will be held on Oct. 2, 5-8pm.

Rentner's paintings are saturated with color and texture. "This exhibit reflects my excitement in painting the beauty of North Carolina, and I hope, through these creations, one can glimpse the Creator Himself," she says.

The artist claims she had an insightful leap a few years ago that gave her a new perspective, a new way of seeing and doing things. "I began experimenting with the palette knife in my landscape paintings, and discovered it gave me a freedom of expression that was more spontaneous and passionate. It allowed for a purity of color, as well as more depth and contrast than I could ever achieve with a brush," Rentner says.

Rentner has lived in Western North Carolina for 16 years. She has painted in watercolors, acrylics, and oils, and has



Work by Judy Rentner

given workshops and demos in all those media. Over the years she has been an active member in several art organizations and has exhibited her work in shows and galleries. Currently, the artist is a member of the Asheville Gallery of Art and also shows her work at the Twigs & Leaves Art Gallery in Waynesville, NC.

For more info check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, call 828/251-5796, or visit ([www.ashevillegallery-of-art.com](http://www.ashevillegallery-of-art.com)).

## UNC Asheville in Asheville, NC, Offers Exhibition Focused on the Hebrew Bible

UNC Asheville in Asheville, NC, is presenting an exhibition of paintings, *With a Mighty Hand: Torah Paintings + Abstraction* by Daniel Nevins, and a lecture examining how the Hebrew Bible is depicted in art and literature. The exhibition will be on view in the S. Tucker Cooke Gallery, through Oct. 30, 2015. Nevins presents an artist lecture at 6pm on Thursday, Oct. 22,