



## Asheville Art Museum in Asheville, NC, Has Reopened With Lots to See

Following Governor Roy Cooper's Phase 2.5 announcement allowing museums to open at up to 50% capacity, the Asheville Art Museum has reopened. The Museum has instituted health and safety precautions including required face coverings, and timed tickets are required for entry which are available at ([ashevilleart.org](http://ashevilleart.org)).

The Museum's galleries, the Museum Store, and Perspective Café have also reopen with limited capacity. Art PLAYce, our intergenerational makerspace, and the Frances Mulhall Achilles Art Research Library remain temporarily closed.

"Six months have passed since the Museum temporarily closed its doors in March with the COVID-19 Stay Home, Stay Safe order and safety concerns," says Asheville Art Museum Executive Director Pamela L. Myers. "During this time, we've worked creatively and collaboratively to continue our mission of offering innovative experiences for learning, enjoyment, and interpretation of art. It's been a time of intense review, planning, and learning that will impact all areas of operation - analog and virtual - going forward. The dedication of Museum staff, trustees, volunteers, Members, and supporters from here in WNC and across the country has made it possible to retain staff, deliver virtual programs, safely and securely manage the facility, and protect our Collection and works on loan to us. The Museum is a center of community, a place for engaging dialogue and discourse. We can't wait to welcome visitors in to explore the richness of the Museum Collection and exhibitions in person."

Current exhibitions include: *A Telling In-*



View inside the Asheville Art Museum

*stinct: John James Audubon & Contemporary Art, Dancing Atoms: Barbara Morgan Photographs, Andy Warhol: Silver Clouds, Reverberations: Exploring Movement in the Collection, Muddying the Waters: Traditions in North Carolina Clay, 50 Years of Western North Carolina Glass, Intersections in American Art, and Many Become One.*

Since 1948, the Museum has welcomed visitors to explore American art of the 20th and 21st centuries. As we navigate the realities of life during this challenging time, we believe that art is more important than ever; it offers hope, comfort, and a window into other worlds. We look forward to welcoming visitors back to the Museum and have taken all steps necessary to ensure a safe and enjoyable visit.

Frequent updates will be available at ([ashevilleart.org](http://ashevilleart.org)), and also on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter. Become a member now at ([ashevilleart.org/membership/](http://ashevilleart.org/membership/)).

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, call the Museum at 828/253-3227 or visit ([ashevilleart.org](http://ashevilleart.org)).

## The Folk Art Center in Asheville, NC, Offers a SHCG Member Collaborations

The Folk Art Center in Asheville, NC, is presenting *Inspiration*, featuring collaborative works by members of the Southern Highland Craft Guild, on view on the second floor, Main Gallery, through Jan. 17, 2021.

The exhibition features 22 collaborative objects by 43 makers of the Southern Highland Craft Guild who specialize in different media.

Fiber forces collide with the handwoven *Fit and Flare Coat* on display by artists Liz Spear and Karen Swing, both known for

their distinctive apparel designs. "Working collaboratively has been a primary inspiration for my garment work for 25 years, ranking right up there with Color and Tactility," says Spear. "Karen Swing taught me her 'Inspired by Boro' stitching at the [John C. Campbell] Folk School, and I'm honored that she enjoys stitching on my work. Creating a total piece that is greater than the sum of its various pieces/parts that is lacking only the final piece: the wearer... THIS, this is why I make stuff with my hands and

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heart."

Wood artist Valerie Berlage and jewelry artist Linda Azar combined their culture and skill-sets to craft the four-piece wall hanging, *Embrace*. "Embrace is inspired by, and celebrates, heritage. The four squares are representative of a quilt, and just as a quilt literally wraps around or embraces someone, this one embraces the heritage of both Azar's Iranian ancestry and traditional southern craft," says Berlage. "The metalwork was influenced by Iranian mosaic tile work, a prominent decorative art form in Iran. Each piece is embellished with and suspended from delicate embroidery thread; a reminder of the importance needlework traditionally held in southern craft. Each quilt square is completed with a wooden frame, painted to mimic the weave and pattern of fabric, gently worn down as would be a much-used coverlet."



"Fit & Flare Coat" by Liz Spear & Karen Swing - Photo by Diana Gates Photography

The most relevant piece on display showcases the sights of our current times - *Handcrafted Caring - Face Masks*. Five mannequin heads each sport their own handwoven and decorated face mask made from silk & cotton, displaying a variety of techniques: marbling, batik, printing, surface design, and embroidery. The project is the work of ten Guild Members: Liz Spear, Neal Howard, Zan Barnes, Connie Brown, Betty Hilton-Nash, Peggy DeBell, Teresa Hays, Karen Swing, and Laura Sims (posthumously). "At this time, during a world-wide pandemic caused by a deadly virus, making masks has grounded me and given me purpose," states Hays.



"Parasols on Parade" by Karen Donde & Barb Butler - Photo by Diana Gates Photography

"I was honored to join this collaborative exhibition with other SHCG fiber artists. Beginning with Neal Howard's dyed silk weavings, we virtually joined together to each create masks. I felt that Neal's weavings often stood on their own as masks and needed no embellishment from me. I did print dragonflies, a symbol of change, transformation, and adaptability, on several of the pieces before sewing them into masks. As I travel with you through this period of great change, I am using my hands and my skills to create masks in hopes of helping slow the spread of Covid-19. With each mask, I send out my wishes for our collective safety, strength, and healing as we all adapt and travel forward into the world that awaits us post pandemic."

All products are available for purchase, online and in the gallery. Shop online with the link (<https://www.southernhighlandguild.org/product-category/exhibits/main/>).

The Southern Highland Craft Guild is a non-profit, educational organization established in 1930 to cultivate the crafts and makers of the Southern Highlands for the purpose of shared resources, education, marketing and conservation. The Southern Highland Craft Guild is an authorized concessioner of the National Park Service, Department of the Interior. The Folk Art Center is located at Milepost 382 of the Blue Ridge Parkway, just north of the Highway 70 entrance in east Asheville, NC.

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

The deadline each month to submit articles, photos and ads is the 24th of the month prior to the next issue. This will be October 24th for the November 2020 issue and November 24th for the December 2020 issue.

After that, it's too late unless your exhibit runs into the next month.

But don't wait for the last minute - send your info now.

And where do you send that info?

E-mail to ([info@carolinaarts.com](mailto:info@carolinaarts.com)).