

16th Annual Spruce Pine Potters Market Takes Place in Spruce Pine, NC - Oct. 12 & 13, 2024

The 16th Annual Spruce Pine Potters Market (SPPM) takes place Oct. 12 and 13, from 9am-5pm, 2024, at the Cross Street Building, 31 Cross Street, Spruce Pine, NC 28777. The show features works by over thirty potters from Mitchell and Yancey counties. Admission is free.

In the beautiful western NC mountains, scattered in Mitchell and Yancey counties, live and work some of the finest nationally and internationally known clay artists in the field today. SPPM is an annual weekend gathering, organized collaboratively by clay artists, that always takes place on the second weekend in October. Clay enthusiasts will experience a unique opportunity to see a wide variety of new clay work and visit with exceptional artists in one convenient and convivial spot.

SPPM's beautiful venue, a former textile factory with large windows, high ceilings, wooden beams and floors emphasizes the open, informal displays of artwork and encourages interaction. Artists and enthusiasts look forward to lively visits and conversations that strengthen relationships between makers and collectors. Participating artists look forward as well to visiting with each other and seeing the freshest new work of their colleagues.

This year, Spruce Pine Potters are delighted to welcome exciting, new artist members: Andy Palmer, Daniel Garver, Julie Wiggins, Kurt Anderson, and Stormie Burns bring fresh perspectives and work.

Andy Palmer grew up in upstate NY; he's taught ceramics for over 23 years. Palmer's work encompasses a wide range of techniques including pit-fired, low fire oxidation, and high temperature wood and soda firing. His forms are figuratively inspired and tactilely appealing. "Because my main love is with experimentation and clay/ firing/ process testing, I have got to be the most inconsistent ceramicist I know. But I wouldn't change it for anything." Palmer and his wife, Silvia are co-owners of In Tandem Gallery in Bakersville, and Palmer speaks of living in this unique community, "Everyone supports and helps whenever and wherever they can. And that's not something I see in many areas of my life, but among ceramicists it's truly the norm."

Daniel Garver, originally from Wisconsin, moved to Mitchell county, NC, attracted by opportunities to work with local potters, including SPPM member Courtney Martin. At the moment, Garver says, "My favorite things to make are large slip cast vessels. My process is heavy on the front end of drafting out ideas, and breaking those drawings down into components that I then form into interchangeable plaster mold parts. The casting system I created allows me many variations that keep my mind curious and sharp while working." Garver looks forward to joining SPPM, "I am very excited the SPPM group is open to include artists such as myself that are working on the edges of traditional North Carolina pottery. I believe in this community; the ability to work alongside and together with one another has created an atmosphere that is thriving."

Julie Wiggins grew up in Jacksonville NC, and began her clay journey in 1997. Mentored by SPPM member Suze Lindsay, Wiggins received a BFA from East Carolina University in 2001 and an honorary degree from the Jingdezhen Ceramic Institute in China. After a successful time as a potter, teacher, and studio manager in Charlotte, she moved to the Penland School neighborhood "in the sweetest community of potters."

The support of each other is what makes our community of makers so unique." Wiggins forms her elegant utilitarian pieces from porcelain clay using a combination of wheel thrown and hand built techniques, and fires in an electric kiln. Known for her unique hand drawn floral and geometric designs. She describes her work as "mindfully handmade pots and wares for the home, inviting touch and curiosity."

"In a world with so many distractions I'm pushed to make work that makes you pause and connects to your heart space." In



Works you can find on the tour

2022, Wiggins received "Best in Show" at the Mint Museum's Potters Market.

Kurt Anderson's unique ceramic pieces are primarily made from mid range red clay, covered with white slip, decorated with underglazes, finished with clear glaze, and fired in an electric kiln. Originally from California, he attended the University of Wyoming, Louisiana State University, and was a resident at Archie Bray Foundation in Helena, MT.

Anderson reflects, "Invent a universe. Give it its own rules, it's own logic. Break the rules, bend the logic. Fill it with beauty and terror. Laughter and joy and misery and sorrow. Don't leave anything out. The breadth and width of human emotions. It's all valid." Anderson's experiences include visiting artist, adjunct professor, studio technician, resident artist.

On living and working in Spruce Pine, he says, "What I love most about living in this area is the knowledge that when I'm in my studio grinding away to meet a deadline, dozens of other artists are in their studios grinding away to meet deadlines. It makes me feel as if we are all silently encouraging each other." Anderson says joining SPPM is "an unparalleled opportunity to be a part of one of the most dynamic ceramic communities in the country."

Stormie Burns completed her Penland Core Fellowship in 2019, and held short term residencies at Haystack School, Deer Isle, Maine and at Penland School Craft. Through the processes of mold-making and slip casting, she creates colored porcelain vessels with a focus on double walled/hollowed forms.

Burns says, "By drawing from my personal vocabulary of form and shape, my work often holds a softness and sharpness at the same time." Burns speaks engagingly about her community here and of SPPM, "I'm thrilled to be a part of this stellar group of artists and work together to organize and execute such a highly anticipated event. It's something truly special to live and work in a community that appreciates and supports ceramic arts." When not in her studio creating exquisite porcelain vessels, Burns can be found in her garden where she cultivates flowers for bouquets and arrangements.

SPPM artists practice a wide variety of techniques and processes, aesthetics and styles. On exhibit are: sculpture, functional pottery, large to small scale work, work suitable for everything from kitchen cabinets and tables to mantels and walls. As well as 2024's new artist members, showing this year are: Rickie Barnett, Pam Brewer, Cynthia Bringle, Naomi Dalglisch & Michael Hunt, Susan Feagin, Terry Gess, Jason Hartsoe, Lynne Hobaica, Lisa Joerling, Nick Joerling, Michael Kline, Shaunna Lyons, Jeannine Marchand, Courtney Martin, Linda McFarling, Shane Mickey, Teresa Pietsch, David Ross, Michael Rutkowsky, Ruth Fischer Rutkowsky, Valerie Schnauffer, Ken Sedberry, Galen Sedberry, Gertrude Graham Smith, and Joy Tanner.

Each year, selected SPPM artists donate pieces for a sweepstakes. A portion of the proceeds goes to benefit a local non-profit. Chosen by membership, our 2024 Sweepstakes partner is Mitchell County Animal Rescue (MCAR). Fifty percent of the sweepstakes proceeds will be donated to MCAR. Donating artists are: Michael Hunt and Naomi Dalglisch of Bandana Pottery, Stormie Burns, Susan Feagin, Andy Palmer, Ken Sedberry, and Julie Wiggins.

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In 2024
Josh Stein
for North Carolina Governor
&
Mo Green
for North Carolina Superintendent
of Public Instruction

Josh Stein is the Democratic candidate running for the Governor's office in North Carolina. After serving in the state Senate for seven years, Stein was elected as North Carolina's attorney general in 2016, then reelected in 2020. He won both races by slim margins; less than 1%. During his time as attorney general, Stein has sued the US Postal Service, e-cigarette manufacturer JUUL, and he helped secure settlements from drug makers to combat against the opioid epidemic. Most recently, Stein threatened legal action against the NCAA over the eligibility of UNC-Chapel Hill football player Tez Walker. Stein was endorsed by Gov. Cooper in August.

Stein's opponent is current NC Lt. Governor, Mark Robinson who wants to take the vote away from women and start shooting people he doesn't like.

It's a tough choice, but we hope you'll go with Stein.

There's another race we'd like to draw attention to in North Carolina and that's the race for the North Carolina Superintendent of Public Instruction. The Democratic candidate is Mo Green, and the MAGA candidate is Michele Morrow.

Green received his bachelor's degree in political science and economics and his law degree from Duke University. He served as general counsel, chief operating officer, then deputy superintendent for Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools. He also served as the superintendent of Guilford County Schools and executive director of the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation, a grantmaking organization that said it is "committed to improving the quality of life for all North Carolinians."

Morrow received her bachelor's degree in nursing from UNC Chapel Hill.

She worked as a nurse, activist, and homeschool teacher.

She was a representative for Liberty First Grassroots, a conservative political action committee, and legislative liaison at Pavement Education Project, which says it "offers parents and citizens an opportunity to see what books are available in NC Schools." She's a book banner.

This ad is provided by Tom Starland, Editor & Publisher of *Carolina Arts*.

It is not fair and balanced, well it's as fair and balanced as FOX News.

Do the right thing - vote Blue all down the ballot. No candidate endorsed this ad.

Sweepstakes tickets will be available to be purchased on line a (www.sprucepinepottersmarket.com) and on site.

The Spruce Pine Potters Market has become a wildly popular event, attracting local and regional visitors as well as those who travel long distances to attend. The show provides a unique opportunity to visit

with and collect from exceptional clay artists, each offering a large, fresh selection of their finest work. It's a "neighborhood show of national significance."

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, call SPPM at 607/345-5461 or visit (www.sprucepinepottersmarket.com).

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