

Upstairs Artspace in Tryon, NC, Offers New Exhibitions

The Upstairs Artspace in Tryon, NC's notable contemporary gallery, features new exhibits that capture the originality, variety and skill of five established artists living in Western North Carolina. The exhibits will be on view through Nov. 30, 2018.

Two major shows are Peter Roux's *The Cloud Paintings*, and *Solo Connections*, with Nancy Cramer Lettenstrom, Libby Skamfer and Vivian Torrence. In a smaller gallery is Michael Hatch's *A Glass Act*.

Peter Roux takes pictorial painting to a new level with clouds as subject - gorgeous, cumulus clouds without horizons. He has exhibited widely in the Northeast and Europe, but is gaining recognition in WNC since moving recently to Weaverville, including shows at Blue Spiral 1 and Haen Gallery in Asheville.

The women artists in *Solo Connections* have been practicing artists for many years, each honing highly individual styles. Libby Skamfer is an abstract painter, yet her vivid, lively canvases reflect many personal moods and experiences, such as the loss of a beloved pet.

Nancy Cramer Lettenstrom is a mixed media artist, whose oeuvre includes drawings on papyrus, collage and built surfaces. Her objective, she says, is to explore the "mystery of existence," often merging human and animal forms with surrealistic results.

Vivian Torrence's collage and mixed



Works by Michael Hatch

media works are intimate, drawing in the viewer. The effect is accomplished through an aura of nostalgia and historical reference, but also her materials and exquisite tints of color. The three women are new arrivals to the Tryon area.

Also a Weaverville resident, Michael Hatch is a prolific glass artist, making color-saturated pieces of sculptural artistry that range from sinuous vessels to amusing face jugs. His Crucible Glassworks studio is usually open so visitors can watch him blow glass. A long-standing member of Southern Highlands Craft Guild, Hatch studied at the famous Pilchuck and Penland craft schools.

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, call the gallery at 828/859-2828 or visit (www.upstairsartspace.org).

Toe River Studio Tour Takes Place Throughout Yancey and Mitchell Counties in NC - Nov. 30 - Dec. 2

Each year the tour has grown - from the original 13 artists back in the early 90's, to now over 100. This year's tour boasts 103 participating artists, 62 open studios, and 6 galleries.

The tour starts on Friday, Nov. 30, at 10am. At 5pm, the artists close their doors and head over to the Spruce Pine Gallery for a Meet-the-Artist free reception at 5:30pm. The community is invited to stop by, shake a hand or two, share a glass of wine with a new or old friend, and plan their route for the next two days when studio doors open at 10am and stay open until 5pm.

The mountains of Yancey and Mitchell Counties of Western North Carolina are home to some of the top artists in America. And twice a year, Toe River Arts honors their talent and the area in which they choose to live and work with a premier studio tour showcasing their work. For a quarter of a century, local artists have opened their studios, demonstrated their talent, and offered up their hospitality.

The first weekend in December is a fitting way to mark the holiday season, to get out in the crisp late fall air and enjoy what residents already know about the Blue Ridge mountains - the clear Toe River, curves in the roads, the likelihood of finding something different, something that speaks to this out of the way place. Artists in the two counties will welcome visitors to their studios for an entire weekend of browsing and buying.

Glass studios sparkle with ornaments, sculptures, vases and bowls, goblets and glasses - blown, fused and flameworked. Potters show off trays, jugs, mugs, tiles, baking pans, fountains, bird houses, sculptured forms, ceremonial pieces, dinnerware, even a bathroom sink. They come in stoneware, raku, wood-fired, earthenware, Majolica, and porcelain.

If wood makes the heart pound, carving, furniture, turned wood, inlaid wood, painted wood, or art made with materials gathered from the woods will definitely keep it beating. And all the jewelry. It lights up a room with reflections off precious stones, pearls,



Work by David Clemons

copper, brass, silver, and gold.

People who need something above the couch, in the kitchen, down the stairwell can chose from photographs, pencils and charcoals, oils, watercolors, acrylics, silkscreen, and paintings on handmade paper. Textiles are covered in handspun yarns, hand-woven flat goods, sculptured dolls, and garments pieced, painted, and stitched.

There are soaps and scents and some things that truly make one wonder, "How did they do that?" Each tour is unique. Some artists have participated in all. Others come and go with the seasons. And if you can't get to it all, and you won't, don't worry, There's another tour the first weekend in June.

Bright studio signs point the way from studio to studio, from gallery to gallery, from one unique work environment to another. And a free 40+ page full color guide directs you to each.

All the information will be available at the website, (www.toeriverarts.org). The guide will be available at locations around the two counties. For more information, e-mail to (trac@toeriverarts.org) or call 828/682-7215.



THERE'S A FINE LINE BETWEEN PRICELESS AND WORTHLESS.



Artist Diane Falkenhagen's Texas studio — destroyed by flooding during Hurricane Ike, 2008

What would you do if you lost your work, your tools, your images, and a lot more to a flood? Metalsmith Diane Falkenhagen knows what five feet of contaminated saltwater can do to a jewelry studio. CERF+ can help you learn how to protect your career from crossing that fine line.



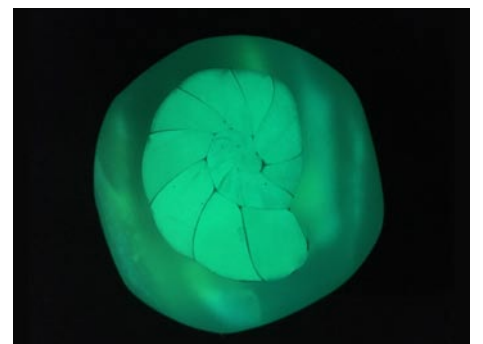
CraftEmergency.org + StudioProtector.org

Toe River Arts Council in Burnsville, NC, Offers Works by David Wilson

On Nov. 3, the Burnsville Gallery will be set aglow with the opening of David Wilson's *Glass and Light* exhibition that will continue through Dec. 29, 2018. A reception is scheduled for Nov. 9, from 5-7pm.

Wilson has been working in glass from the South Toe area of Burnsville for the past 37 years and has established himself as an experimental, innovative glass blower. He has been both a student and instructor at the Penland School of Crafts in glass and neon studies. More recently, he worked with six other glassblowers, including his son, Hayden, in blowing hundreds of glass orbs for the Burnsville Gateway Tower.

Glass and Light will showcase several of his small sculptures, including several fluorescent glassworks. The glowing effect is achieved by combining glass with rare earth oxides before melting for coloration. And the various types of oxides produce different colors, from oranges to greens, to brilliant blues. The glass fluoresces under ultra-violet (UV) light. This is one of those exhibits that one has to witness in person in order to fully grasp the "glow" of these small sculptures in a dark area in the gallery. And just when you think you have seen it all, you haven't.



Work by David Wilson

Wilson, a multi-faceted glass blower, will have on display his almost alien-like bowls cradled atop blown glass legs. Some are for drinking, others for holding, each bowl perfectly positioned and more unique than the one before. This is glass at its most creative.

The Burnsville Gallery is located on West Main Street in Burnsville.

Toe River Arts Council is a not for profit organization that seeks to connect the arts with the public in the Toe River Valley region of Mitchell and Yancey counties.

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, call the gallery at 828/682-7215 or visit (www.toeriverarts.org).

Toe River Arts Council in Spruce Pine, NC, Offers Annual Tour Exhibit

Twice a year, collectors of fine art and craft head to the mountains of Western North Carolina for the Toe River Studio Tour known for over a quarter century as an event of unsurpassed quality, beauty, and innovative thinking. And beginning Nov. 17, a new excitement will crinkle through the air as the *Studio Tour Exhibition* opens at the Spruce Pine Toe River Arts Gallery and continues through Dec. 2, 2018.

Each participating studio tour artist and gallery are invited to share two of their best

pieces with the public in an exhibit mounted on the gallery floor. Displays are arranged geographically and coordinate with the Tour Guide. With only three tour days and so many studios and artists, choices are difficult. The exhibition allows a viewer an opportunity to plan their adventure. And if they aren't able to be here for the tour, pieces may be purchased until the end of the year.

"This tour welcomes a record 18 new

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The deadline each month to submit articles, photos and ads is the 24th of the month prior to the next issue. This will be Nov. 24th for the December 2018 issue and Dec. 24 for the January 2019 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).