

Mica Gallery in Bakersville, NC

continued from Page 25

artist-members featuring sculpture, glass, jewelry, fiber, wearables, painting, and functional pottery. This extraordinary collection, enhanced by a yearlong rotation of guest artists and the welcoming and beautiful setting, make Mica a must-see destination for those who appreciate the hand made.

For further information check our NC Commercial Gallery listings, call the gallery at 828/688-6422, or visit (www.micagallerync.com).



Work by Bryant Holsenbeck

Blue Moon Gallery in Brevard Offers Works by April Johnson and Jeff Miller

Blue Moon Gallery in Brevard, NC, will feature selected works from Hendersonville photographers, April Johnson and Jeff Miller in an exhibit titled, *Beloved Black Bears*, on view through May 31, 2019.

Rob Travis, photographer and owner of Blue Moon Gallery is delighted to bring this exhibit to Brevard. He often seeks out local artists for exhibits who compliment the variety of photography, jewelry, and three-dimensional art at the gallery.

"I have known April and Jeff for quite some time and admire their work. We have a great synergy of artists here and we're pleased that April and Jeff are sharing this truly remarkable exhibit. Among the works in the exhibit are "Waving Bear", "Buddha Bear", and "Peek-a-boo" Cub printed on canvas. Visitors will find the beloved bear exhibit to be playful, joyful and offer unique glimpses of a bear's life that most of us rarely experience."

Jeff Miller is a professional photographer who founded Mountain Lens in 2004. His mission is to continually refine his skills as a photographer, and to help others develop their skills so we can all enjoy, capture, share and help preserve the beauty around us. Miller's photographs have appeared in regional, state and national publications, as well as, websites, galleries, businesses and private collections.

April Johnson is a professional photographer and she founded Asheville Pet Photography in 2015 specializing in pet, wildlife and equine photography. Johnson received her dual BFA's for fine art and photography from Kent State and School of Visual Arts in New York City. While in New York she worked as a corporate photographer for companies such as Apple Computer, Minolta Camera, Citicorp Bank, Caterpillar and many more.

Miller and Johnson are proprietors, instructors, and photographers of Mountain



Works by April Johnson and Jeff Miller

Lens Retreat, a serene 20-acre mountainside retreat with a state-of-the-art photography training center and lodging for up to 12 attendees. Steps away from the training room is a waterfall, creeks, ponds and hiking trail. Mountain Lens venue offers workshops with some of the best regional and national instructors in the business.

Rob Travis is an artist and professional photographer living in Brevard, NC. Originally trained as a fused glass artist, he took up photography in 2007. He owns Blue Moon Gallery, located on Main Street in downtown Brevard. The gallery specializes in nature and landscape photography and offers paintings and three-dimensional art and jewelry.

For further information check our NC Commercial Gallery listings, call the gallery at 828/290-5492 or visit (www.bluemoongalleryNC.com).

Penland School of Crafts in Penland, NC, Features Two New Exhibitions

The Penland School of Crafts in Penland, NC, is presenting *Compose / Decompose*, a new exhibition at the Penland Gallery that combines mixed-media sculpture and sound installations in one space. The work has been created for this show by Penland resident artist Eleanor Annand and Make Noise, an Asheville collective that designs and builds electronic instruments and collaborates with musicians to create new worlds of sound. The exhibition runs through May 12, 2019.

Although the work has been carefully crafted, this exhibition is less about presenting collectable items and much more about creating a unique environment and experience for the viewer. The work Annand made for the show is primarily constructed from laser-cut cardboard that has been intricately designed to allow her to hand-fold hundreds of pieces into different shapes; other pieces are made from cast paper elements.

"This work plays with disruption, entropy, light, and shadow," Annand says. "Embracing a lack of permanence, I worked primarily with cardboard and recycled paper scraps to create modular units that can be arranged in a myriad of ways. Compose, decompose, compose, decompose, is a cycle in my process that mimics cycles of life and which I am exploring further in the



Work by Eleanor Annand

impermanence of my materials."

Accompanying Annand's work are sound

continued above on next column to the right

installations that use Make Noise synthesizers to create a series of aural environments that visitors can experience through the use of headphones. Modular synthesizers, not unlike Annand's sculptures, are comprised of multiple units that can be combined and adjusted in countless ways to create different sounds. The sounds in these installations were created by various artists using instruments designed by Tony Rolando.

Explaining their intent, Make Noise has said, "We want our instruments to be an experience, one that will require us to change our trajectories and thereby impact the way we understand and imagine sound. Also, we think what we do is fun and we hope you like it, too."

Running concurrently with this exhibition is a smaller Focus Gallery show of functional pottery by Joseph Pintz, whose work is characterized by sturdy, earthenware forms and richly layered surfaces.

The Visitors Center Gallery has an ongoing display of objects that illuminate the history of Penland School, and the Lucy Morgan Gallery presents a selection of work by dozens of Penland-affiliated artists. On display outside the Penland Gallery are large steel sculptures by Daniel T. Beck and Hoss Haley, plus a structure designed by artist Meredith Brickell that invites visitors to stop for a few minutes and observe the clouds.

The Penland Gallery and Visitors Center is located at Penland School of Crafts on Conley Ridge Road, just off Penland Road in Mitchell County (near the town of Spruce Pine). It is the first building on the right as you enter the Penland campus.

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, call the gallery at 828/765-6211 or visit (www.penland.org/gallery).

STARworks in Star, NC, Offers Annual Firefest - Apr. 5 & 6, 2019

Lots of fiery fun will take place during Firefest at STARworks, in Star, NC, on Apr. 5 & 6, 2019. Firefest is a two-day festival celebrating the role of fire in the creation of art.

The event includes blazing finales, demonstrations in clay, glass and metal, artist talks, live music, food trucks, beer garden and the opportunity for attendees to get their hands dirty. Guest artists have been invited to create sculptures, present their work during artist talks and participate in finale events involving fire.

Firefest attendees can try working with hot glass, metal and clay during STARworks Open Studios on Friday evening. More in-depth workshops in each medium will be offered Saturday.

New for Firefest this year is Coffee with Firefest Artists on Saturday morning at 10am. Participants have the opportunity to meet the Firefest artists, enjoy coffee and pastries and choose a handmade mug to keep, donated by Seagrove potters and STARworks resident artists. Proceeds from the event will support the resident artist programs at STARworks.



Featured ceramic artist Michael Sherrill built his sculpture in the STARworks Clay Studio. Flames should shoot out from all the holes in the sculpture when it's revealed during the finale on Saturday night.

Bigley will be the featured artist. Bigley is a mixed media artist practicing both traditional and contemporary methodologies. His artistic approach relies on art's ability to challenge how people view the world and their own interactions with it.

Special guest artists also include glass artists Nancy Callan, Therman Statom, John Littleton and Kate Vogel, metal artists Andrew Dohner and Zack Noble, and ceramic artists Eric Knoche and Kazuya Ishida.

Other Firefest activities include an art sale and exhibition, live music by The Radio and a sculpture bonfire. Finale events, slide shows, demonstrations, live entertainment and observing artists at work are all included in the price of admission.

Daily admission is \$5. Children 12 and younger are admitted free. Open Studios, workshops and Coffee with Firefest Artists will be additional costs for those who wish to participate. More information and a complete schedule of events can be found at (www.STARworksNC.org/Firefest).



Kids Draw It, We Make It is back again this year for Friday evening. Eddie Bernard from Wet Dog Glass will lead the demonstration. Bernard transformed last year's winning drawing by Ethan Parsons from Star Elementary School into a three-dimensional sculpture.

"Kids Draw It, We Make It" returns Friday evening at 7:30pm. Local children, ages 5 - 12, were invited to submit drawings. The STARworks Glass team will pick a drawing to turn into a glass sculpture with the help of guest artist Eddie Bernard, founder of Wet Dog Glass. All submitted drawings will be on exhibit during the event.

Featured ceramic artist Michael Sherrill created a large sculpture at STARworks that will be fired during the festival and revealed when it has reached peak temperature and is still aflame during the Saturday night finale. Sherrill is a materials-based artist who experiments with clay, metal and glass. He resides in western North Carolina. Currently, his work is featured in an exhibition at the Mint Museum in Charlotte, NC.

Featured glass artist David Walters worked with Dale Chihuly and many other highly regarded artists in Seattle, WA. Working with glass gives him original forms on which to paint. He incorporates characters from fairy tales and children's stories, along with his own sense of history into his pieces.

Metal artist Mac Metz will lead the iron pour during the finale, filling molds created by artists and scratch molds created by Firefest attendees. Metal artist Joseph



The petal kiln built by Andres Allik will fire Michael Sherrill's sculpture. At peak temperature, the walls (petals) of the kiln will be lowered while the sculpture is still on fire.

STARworks is seeking volunteers for Firefest to help with check-in, gallery sales, answering questions, monitoring the entrance and directing attendees. Volunteers who work three hours will receive free admission for the day and a coupon that can be used in the STARworks Café & Taproom. Those interested in volunteering should contact Mary Holmes by e-mailing (mary@STARworksNC.org)

continued on Page 28