

Pink Dog Creative in Asheville, NC, Features Works by Mark Flowers

Pink Dog Creative in Asheville, NC, will present *Under Tones*, featuring works by Mark Flowers, from June 17 through July 16, 2023. A reception will be held on June 17, from 5-7pm.

In his first one-person exhibition since before the pandemic, 68 year-old veteran artist, Mark Flowers continues to evolve in his style.

In March of 2021, while visiting Baltimore, MD, Flowers rode a commuter train from downtown out to the suburbs and back. He held his cell phone to the window and recorded still images as the train moved. The series of forms in motion and spontaneous imagery are the foundation of this new work. It was supported by the North Carolina Arts Council materials grant. The main part of the exhibition includes the "Baltimore Series" paintings.



Work by Mark Flowers

"Any artist wants to evolve, and I feel this is another moment of growth for me. As it's always been, the challenge now is to make a visual composition that will engage myself and hopefully an outside audience. My many years of making art have made me more focused and confident. I have gotten to a place where I can improvise and care less about the rules I artificially set years before. This new approach is more challenging for me, which in turn has invigorated the studio atmosphere," said Flowers.



Work by Mark Flowers

Mark E. Flowers earned his BFA in Studio Arts from The University of South Carolina in 1977 and his MFA in Painting from Western Michigan University in 1979. He has exhibited his work throughout the United States and in Europe. His work can be found in 28 public and over 350 private collections. Throughout his career he has



Work by Mark Flowers

won numerous awards for his art in both regional and national competitions. In 1980, just out of graduate school, he was awarded the South Carolina Artist Fellowship Award. In 2003, he was named one of 100 Art Notable Alumni for the Centennial Celebration at Western Michigan University. Most recently, he was awarded a residency at the Golden Foundation in New Berlin, NY. He has taught art at the secondary and college levels for 42 years. He retired from teaching in 2019.

In 2004, he and Kristy Higby, his life-long artist partner, purchased a hand-made log cabin just north of Asheville, NC in the community of Alexander. They spent ten years renovating the cabin and in 2009, built a large studio on the property. In the summer of 2014, they relocated permanently to the property they affectionately call "Mountain Tea".

Randy Shull and Hedy Fischer are creating a colorful sensation on Depot Street in Asheville's River Arts District. The former textile manufacturing and warehouse building at 342-348 Depot Street has been transformed into an exciting mix of artist studios and retail spaces.

Pink Dog Creative shares the neighborhood with New Belgium & the Wedge Breweries, 12 Bones Smokehouse and hundreds of local artists. Pink Dog has 33 artists working in their studios, GRIND Coffee Bar, Fresh West Wood Fired Pizza, Vivian Restaurant and A.C.E. Bicycles. Pink Dog raises funds and awareness for people and organizations working to make our communities more equitable and just, including Southside Rising, Youth Artists Empowered and the Edington Center, among others.

For further information check our NC Commercial Gallery listings or visit (pinkdog-creative.com).

Toe River Arts Studio Tour, in WNC Takes Place - June 2-4, 2023

"There's something breathtaking and awe-inspiring about driving through the mountains of western North Carolina, nature herself showing that she is the original artist.

It doesn't matter if you live up the hill or across the state, the Toe River Arts Studio Tour, on June 2-4, 2023, 10am to 5pm, provides an adventure for the intrepid seeker of the art experience.

The art is as diverse as the artists with the tour featuring the work of glassblowers, jewelers, printmakers, potters, fiber artists, ironworkers, painters, sculptors, and woodworkers.

Artist studios are exciting places to visit because they offer a glimpse into the dynamic processes used to create a finished piece. Every artist has their own way of telling a story, inviting visitors to ask questions, hold their work, and share a moment. You can count on the studios being as unique as the artists: the building off to the side of the house, or across the field or down the road or right off the main road or down a gravel one-lane. Two-stories with a gallery space or small and cozy with a table set up or cleared off for display. Still there are others that devote a corner to each artist sharing the space.



Work by Bridget Fox

Just 40 minutes north of Asheville and two hours from Charlotte & Greenville, the Studio Tour makes for an exciting day trip. However, with 88 studios and 10 galleries to visit, the Toe River Arts Studio Tour becomes a great weekend mini vacation. Both Chambers of Commerce in Burnsville-Yancey and Mitchell County provide information on lodging, eateries, and other local events. Additionally, Toe River Arts is incredibly grateful to Explore Burnsville for being the event sponsor.

For more than a quarter century, the Toe River Arts Studio Tour has intrigued those who make the journey to visit places of inspiration and creation. Situated between Roan Mountain which boasts the world's largest rhododendron garden and Mt. Mitchell, the highest peak east of the Mis-



Work by Roby Summerfield

issippi, the Toe River Arts Studio Tour is a free, self-guided journey of the arts. This arts adventure through Mitchell and Yancey Counties will take visitors along the meandering Toe River, across its many bridges, around barns, acres of fields and miles of forests all while visiting the talented studio artists who often take inspiration from the mountains they call home.

The *June Studio Tour Exhibition* is on view in the Kokol Gallery, in Toe River Arts' Spruce Pine location, through June 4, 2023. This exhibition gives visitors an opportunity to have a glimpse into each studio and plan their route. It's also a great place to begin the tour or take a break from a day of non-stop art and artists.

Join artists, staff, and the volunteers who make the tour the best and one of the longest continually running self-guided tours in the country, as we toast the beginning of the season during our "Meet-the-Artists" reception on June 2, from 5:30-7:30pm.

"Every year is unique. The artists change, and the work evolves. I'm always excited when the boxes arrive - to see a new artist's work or the evolution of a more seasoned artist" said Kathryn Andree, who has been Toe River Arts Exhibits Coordinator for over a decade. The participant shows are the biggest exhibits during the year, averaging over 150 pieces on pedestals, tables, walls, with a few bigger pieces relegated to the floor. They are the most diverse, with media ranging from 2-dimensional to glass, clay, wood, and fiber - something for every palate, every wallet.

Guide booklets are available.

Toe River Arts is a non-profit organization that has been connecting the community with the arts for over four decades.

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, call 828/765-0520 or visit (toeriverarts.org).

Appalachian State University in Boone, NC, Offers Exhibit Featuring CENTER Award + Grant Recipients

Appalachian State University in Boone, NC, will present *Circular Solutions: CENTER Award + Grant Recipients 2021 & 2022*, on view in Gallery A and Petti/Peiser Galleries at the Turchin Center for the Visual Arts, from June 2 through Nov. 4, 2023.

Founded in Santa Fe, New Mexico, the not-for-profit organization CENTER supports socially and environmentally engaged lens-based projects through education, public platforms, funding, and partnerships.

Image-making holds a unique power to confront audiences with uncomfortable truths, advance cultural understandings, and promote social justice. Through the advancement of artists and their work, CENTER serves to deepen public understanding of lens-based media's complex history and ongoing cultural significance. By establishing trans-disciplinary partnerships between artists and justice-driven communities, historians, cultural critics, students, and the art world, CENTER advances projects that

respect all people, open minds, and engage our shared humanity.

As part of CENTER's annual award program, recipients are offered an exhibition at selected venues across the country. This year, the Turchin Center for the Visual Arts is pleased to host this important exhibition showcasing the creative work of the 2021 and 2002 CENTER award and grant recipients. CENTER's mission resonates deeply with the curatorial emphasis at the Turchin Center which supports exhibitions addressing critical issues facing our nation and the world today. Placing an emphasis on diversity and inclusion in the selection of our artists and exhibitions enables the Turchin Center to fulfill its vision of an equitable future for the arts.

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, call the Center at 828/262-3017 or visit (www.turchincenter.org).

Blowing Rock Art and History Museum in Blowing Rock, NC, Features Artists from Artists Alley

The Blowing Rock Art and History Museum (BRAHM) in Blowing Rock, NC, is presenting *Artists Alley: Building a Creative Community in Blowing Rock*, on view in the Rankin West Gallery, through Nov. 11, 2023.

This exhibition illustrates an essential, animating force in Blowing Rock's artistic history: the small community of Artists Alley. Located on a single eponymous road just minutes from Main Street off Highway 221, Artists Alley emerged in the late 1950s and would ultimately host a varied yet tightly knit band of artists and craftspeople living and making alongside one another for over 60 years.

How and why do people come together to form a community? Solidarity, friendship, and mutual support? And why do artists, in particular, do the same?

Featuring works by and stories of such local icons as Philip Moose, Herb Cohen, José Fumero, Frank Sherrill, Lynn Jenkins, Barbara and David Ballesty, and John Brady, this exhibition narrates these artists'



José Augustín Fumero, "Oracle", woven acrylic fiber mosaic, not dated. Gift of Nancy S. Hardy, BRAHM Permanent Collection, 2014.02.01

singular and collective stories. Weaving together historical anecdote, archival material, painting, ceramic, fiber, and more, this installation blends the historical and the art historical as well as the deeply local along-

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