

Bender Gallery in Asheville, NC

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and they enjoyed regular visits to their family cottage in the country. However, most of Pazderka's life has been lived in the US and he also considers himself American.

His work and life are deeply influenced by what he describes as the "incompleteness of the immigrant experience". Pazderka explores humanity's quest for a universal truth. The work reflects his reverence for history and the failed Soviet promise of utopia of his native land. It is thus a balancing act between this history and his assimilation into the capitalist consumer culture of the United States.

The works shown in *One Day I Will Disappear* consist of oil, ash, and charcoal paintings on burned panel and paper. They feature clouds, mountains, portraits, ephemera, and remnants of nature. They are conceptually dark, yet haunting and beautiful at the same time. Pazderka uses humble materials such as found plywood panels that he burns with a torch before beginning the painting process. He transforms the painting surface with the destructive, yet creative power of fire. He states, "Materials and process are components of the work that are as important as the image and what the work is about".

Pazderka chooses to work in a colorless palette reminiscent of aged black and white photographs. He explains, "Photographs interest me because it is a tangible memory, but photographs are really residue of the photographic process." They are themselves a memory of a memory.



Work by Tom Pazderka

Much of Pazderka's work is based on old family photographs and photos taken from nature and architecture relaying the past, the present, and the hope of a better future. The work appears otherworldly and fleeting, like ghosts of his memories. In Pazderka's words, "The present is all there is in the end."

Pazderka holds a BFA from Western Carolina University and an MFA from U.C. Santa Barbara. He has received many awards and fellowships and has held residencies in the US, France, and the Czech Republic. He lives and works in Ojai, CA.

Bender Gallery is a contemporary fine art gallery in the heart of downtown Asheville, NC. They specialize in abstract and figurative work by regional, national, and international painters and sculptors.

For further information check our NC Commercial Gallery listings, call the gallery at 828/505-8341 or e-mail to (info@bendergallery.com).

Upstairs Artspace in Tryon, NC, Offers Two New Exhibitions

Upstairs Artspace in Tryon, NC, will present two new exhibits including: *Timely Traditionalism*, featuring works by Jean Cauthen, Lita Gatlin, Marc Hanson, Dottie Leatherwood, and Stephanie Neely, and *Carl Plansky: Painter and Printmaker*, with guest Curator, Larry Elder, on view from July 3 through Aug. 13, 2021. A reception will be held on July 3, from 5-7:30pm, with an Artists' Walk & Talk from 5-6pm.

Larry Elder, well-known art consultant and former owner of a gallery in Charlotte, is curator of both shows that feature some of his favorite artists including: Jean Cauthen, Lita Gatlin and Stephanie Neely, of Charlotte; Marc Hanson and Dottie Leatherwood, of Savannah, GA. Working in oil or pastel, the paintings run from serene landscape to delightful abstraction. All have received regional and national recognition for the quality of their art.

20th century artist Carl Plansky (1951 - 2009) developed a dramatic style of impressionism in landscape, florals and figuration. His passion for oil paint is seen in its lavish application to canvas; and in his invention of Williamsburg Handmade Oil Colors, a premier paint for artists distributed today by Golden Paints. Elder has arranged a fascinating retrospective of this important artist's work, an artist who "lived life without compromise or regret."



Work by Marc Hanson

Upstairs Artspace is a nonprofit contemporary art gallery in downtown Tryon, NC. It is supported by public and private donations, sales of art, grants, and fund-raising events. It is supported in part by the Polk County Community Foundation, the Mary F. Kessler Fund, and public and private donations.

Founded in 1978, Upstairs Artspace is Tryon's oldest fine art gallery and is oper-



Work by Carl Plansky

ated by its a Board of Directors, members, and volunteers. It exhibits 10 to 15 shows annually that are generally conceived around themes or genres.

Upstairs Artspace maintains three gallery spaces totaling approximately 3000 square feet and rotates fine art exhibitions every six weeks that are selected by committee and independent curators. These exhibits include most forms of art media including painting, sculpture, mixed media, works on paper, prints, photography, digital media, videography and installations. The artists are selected for their abilities and reputations, and while most are from our region, we also feature work from other parts of the country.

Upstairs Artspace is known throughout the region as a gallery featuring art that is contemporary and avant-garde. Artists are selected by qualified exhibits committee members. While most of the art in an exhibition is available for purchase, Upstairs Artspace is not a retail gallery and does not maintain a permanent collection.

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



STEPHANIE NEELY (DETAIL)

upstairs
[artspace]

TIMELY TRADITIONALISM

Jean Cauthen
Lita Gatlin
Marc Hanson
Dottie Leatherwood
Stephanie Neely

CARL PLANSKY

Painter and Paintmaker

GUEST CURATOR: LARRY ELDER

WHERE ART AND INNOVATION MEET

OPEN RECEPTION

**Saturday, July 3
5 – 7:30 pm**

Artists' Walk & Talk
5 – 6 pm

**July 3 through
August 13, 2021**

Upstairs Artspace
49 S. Trade St, Tryon NC
828.859.2828

upstairsartspace.org

Hours: Tues – Sat, 12 – 5pm

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www.carolinaarts.com



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