



Craft Fair of the Southern Highlands Celebrates 75 Years of Craft Heritage in Asheville, NC - July 21 - 24, 2022

The Craft Fair of the Southern Highlands returns to downtown Asheville, NC, at the Harrah's Cherokee Center on July 21-24, Thur. - Sat., 10am-6pm and Sun., 10am-5pm. General admission is \$10.00, children under 12 are free, tickets available soon.

Returning to Harrah's Cherokee Center-Asheville for the first time since the unprecedented year of 2020, the Summer Edition of the Craft Fair of the Southern Highlands offers the public an opportunity to cultivate craft in their daily life.

Featured artisans include those with both contemporary and traditional work in clay, wood, metal, glass, fiber, natural materials, paper, leather, mixed media, and jewelry. Members of the Southern Highland Craft Guild will fill both the arena and concourse level of Harrah's Cherokee Center-Asheville. These members have undergone a two-step jury process as a part of the Guild's legacy to uphold a set of standards established by their creative peers.



Work by Linda Caristo

There will be a range of craft demonstrations with interactive activities for visitors, and mountain musicians performing live on the arena stage. For the full list of the Summer exhibitors, visit (craft-guild.org/craftfair).

Harrah's Cherokee Center-Asheville was a shift in landscape for this event from its inception under canvas tents 75 years ago in 1948 on the grassy lawns of Arrowmont School of Arts & Crafts in Gatlinburg, TN. Downtown Asheville provides a robust experience for visitors, as the time honored gathering is representa-



Work by David W. Scott

tive of the creativity that flows in Western North Carolina. As a venue to provide a regional marketplace for mountain craftspeople, the Guild Fairs have evolved into a popular celebration of craft in the country.

The Southern Highland Craft Guild, chartered in 1930, is today one of the strongest craft organizations in the country. The Guild currently represents nearly 800 craftspeople in 293 counties of 9 southeastern states. During the Depression the Guild cultivated commerce for craftspeople in the Appalachian region. This legacy continues today as the Guild plays a large role in the Southern Highlands craft economy through the operation of four craft shops and two annual craft expositions. Educational programming is another fundamental element of the organization, fulfilled through integrated educational craft demonstrations at retail outlets and expos, free educational community events, and an extensive public library located at its headquarters at the Folk Art Center on the Blue Ridge Parkway.

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, call the Guild at 828/298-7928 or visit (www.craftguild.org/craftfair).

Southern Highland Craft Guild in Asheville, NC, Offers Annual Haywood Community College Show

The Southern Highland Craft Guild in Asheville, NC, is presenting its annual *Graduating Class of 2022 of Haywood Community College's Professional Crafts Program*, on view in the Main Gallery of the Folk Art Center, through Sept. 7, 2022.

Located on the second floor of the Folk Art Center the show continues the historical relationship between the Southern Highland Craft Guild and Haywood, an educational center of the Guild. One of the most anticipated shows of the year, the class of 2022 represents works of wood, metal, and fiber.

This new generation of craft is led by instructors Amy Putansu in fiber, Brian Wurst in wood, Emily Reason in clay, and Robert Blanton in metals & jewelry. The main gallery of the Folk Art Center is adorned with hanging tapestries and woven totes, pierced and soldered jewelry, and wooden furniture, soon to be heirlooms for one's home.



Work by Mitchell Burleson

Students of the Haywood program come from all over, with or without prior experience of craft, and sometimes pursuing it as a second or third career. The course of study is challenging, combining craft concentrations with supplemental classes in design, drawing, craft history, business, marketing and photography. Haywood Community College and the Southern Highland Craft Guild share a history that documents the role of craft education in preserving traditional culture, creating economic opportunity and fostering professional practice. All of the artists represent the vitality and creativity of craft practice today, which is the ultimate purpose of both institutions. Many Haywood graduates have become individual members of the Southern Highland Craft Guild and have served the Guild in vari-



Work by Annah Bible-Sullivan

ous capacities.

Instructor Brian Wurst of the Professional Crafts Wood program says, "Our programs have thrived for nearly five decades, and our relationship with the Craft Guild has been a key part of that. We're always thrilled to have work showcased at the Folk Art Center, and in turn scores of our alumni have gone on to become active Guild members. The Graduate Show is the capstone of two hard years by these students, and it's a delight to share it in this beautiful space."

Haywood Community College is located in Clyde, NC, just west of Asheville. The college's Professional Crafts Program began in recognition of the region's strong craft heritage. It was envisioned that students would learn the basics of craft media and how to transform that craft into a business. The clay studio was the first to open in 1974. With the addition of jewelry, wood and fiber studios, a comprehensive curriculum was in place by 1977. The Haywood Community College Professional Crafts Program, Graduate Show, Class of 2022 is a free exhibit at the Folk Art Center on the Blue Ridge Parkway in East Asheville.

The Southern Highland Craft Guild is a non-profit, educational organization established in 1930 to cultivate the crafts and makers of the Southern Highlands for the purpose of shared resources, education, marketing and conservation. The Southern Highland Craft Guild is an authorized concessioner of the National Park Service,

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