

Craft Fair of the Southern Highlands Takes Place in Asheville, NC - July 20 - 23, 2023

The 76th annual Craft Fair of the Southern Highlands will take place at Harrah's Cherokee Center in downtown Asheville, NC, from July 20 - 23, 2023, from 10am-5pm daily.

With a creative community of juried members spanning over nine states, the Southern Highland Craft Guild fosters opportunities for makers to build, market, and maintain their creative livelihood through continuing education, retail outlets, and mentorship. We are invested in helping members achieve their goals and providing them with the resources to refine and sell their craft. The Southern Highland Craft Guild is headquartered at the Folk Art Center in Asheville, NC on the Blue Ridge Parkway.



View of one of the Craft Fair booths

Hosted in downtown Asheville at Harrah's Cherokee Center, artisans will fill both the concourse and arena levels of the venue, exhibiting a variety of craft ranging from contemporary to traditional in works of clay, wood, metal, glass, fiber, natural materials, paper, leather, mixed media, and jewelry. Join us for this unique shopping experience and enjoy live music and craft demonstrations during your visit. \$10 tickets are available for individual days, online at (<https://www.ticketmaster.com/craft-fair-of-the-southern-highlands-tickets/artist/2541528>) or at the door. Children under 12 are free.

The Guild's Craft Fair tradition started in 1948 in Gatlinburg, TN on the grounds of Arrowmont School of Arts & Crafts. At this inaugural fair, the Guild connected visitors with the most talented craftsmen and showed the importance of handicrafts in the life of southern Appalachia.

Today, the Craft Fair of the Southern Highlands is held twice every year (July & October) in downtown Asheville, North Carolina at Harrah's Cherokee Center. It brings together hundreds of makers in what



View of the main Craft Fair floor

has become a key event for craft. These events are unique in that they offer attendees the opportunity to connect with the artists by purchasing directly from them. In an age of mass production and global imports, the connection to fine American craft and the individual maker is often lost but more significant than ever.

More than two hundred craftspeople fill two floors of the Civic Center twice each year. Local musicians play live on the arena stage; craft educators share their knowledge with adults and children alike through demonstrations and hands-on projects. Eleven thousand visitors from all over the country participate in festivities during the four days of the show. Over the course of the event, nearly a million dollars are invested in the purchase of crafts.

For 92 years, the Southern Highland Craft Guild has curated a group of juried artisans for the purpose of marketing, education, shared resources, and conservation of Appalachian Craft. Our four retail locations



There is always entertainment at the Craft Fair

in Western North Carolina sell the work of over 800 of our juried members.

Harrah's Cherokee Center - Asheville is located at 87 Haywood Street in downtown Asheville.

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

Blue Spiral 1 in Asheville, NC, Features Works by Akiko Sugiyama

The Blue Spiral 1 in Asheville, NC, will present works by Akiko Sugiyama, on view in the Small Format Gallery, from July 7 through Aug. 23, 2023.

"A plain flat sheet of paper is the starting point for expressing my mood or satisfying a sculptural urge," notes Akiko Sugiyama. It is easy to see the creative energy of her mind and richness of her talent when looking at her exquisite paper collages.

Sugiyama's work is a blend of Eastern and Western aesthetics. She graduated from the Women's College of Fine Arts in Tokyo with a BA in Oil Painting, where she concentrated on European art and techniques. However, her Asian heritage remained a major creative factor in her work.

The materials and detail in her work are a study in perfection, both delicate and spiritual. Yet the expressiveness of the work can be Western. "The Japanese influence on my work is unavoidable since I was born and raised in that culture. Today I allow my works to be honest to myself, including my early influences, particularly Japanese children's tales that I heard in my early years of life. These former fantasies and feelings thus impart a flavor to many present day experiences in the United States," notes Sugiyama.

Working with rice or parchment paper, she paints it and then rolls, folds, cones,



Work by Akiko Sugiyama

curls, crushes, pierces, cuts or rends it into compositions that reveal the artistic aspects of paper. She explores both the cultural and artistic aesthetics in her collages, giving us a rich body of work.

Sugiyama has exhibited at Philadelphia Museum of Art (PA), The Morikami Museum (FL), Atlanta International Museum of Art and Design (GA), Georgia Museum of Art, Orlando Museum of Art (FL) Deland Museum of Art (FL) and the Tampa Museum of Art (FL).

For further information check our NC Commercial Gallery listings, call the gallery at 828/251-0202 or visit (www.bluespiral1.com).

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Wedge Studios in Asheville, NC, Features Works by Philip DeAngelo

Wedge Studios in Asheville, NC's River Arts District, will present *The Art of Homage*, featuring new works by Philip DeAngelo, on view at the Philip DeAngelo Studio, from July 21 - 29, 2023. A reception will be held on July 21, from 5-8pm.

The concept of "homage" is, in a sense, about connection to one's influences, inspirations and experiences. Spanning beyond one's own lifetime, or overlapping with contemporaries, it is how people process, share and produce - particularly in the realm of the visual arts - where it can manifest as an honorific aspect within the creation process.

Using several key inspirations as focal points, DeAngelo has been working on a new series that takes all these things into consideration, and he and his wife/gallery manager, Tina, invite you to join them for the opening reception of this unique show on July 21.

Many artists feel connections to those they've studied in the past. Their comic, literal or ethereal style can remind one of time or place or both. Their words often act as guideposts for those that come after them, and in this way, DeAngelo shares some of his favorite quotes on the gallery walls from greats across the creative spectrum - from Georgia O'Keeffe and C.S. Lewis to Hank Williams.

Several of the artists who have influenced DeAngelo from his traditional study years and onward, mostly span the decades of the mid-to-late 20th century,

including David Hockney, Roy Lichtenstein and Mark Rothko. Early personal inspirations include Theodor Suess Geisel and Norman Rockwell. Some of the things he's attracted to across the spectrum include color, the human figure, landscapes, abstractions, refined layout principles, and the impact of paint.

DeAngelo's experiences owning and running galleries has also provided him with a chance to personally reflect on some past favorite periods in his own art life, with a piece called "Big Wednesday" representing a treasured time in Ocean City, New Jersey, where his pop art and ocean lifestyle scenes flourished.

In his painting, "A Long Walk," DeAngelo pays tribute to David Hockney's water references and expanses of color, showing how one can point to an inspiration while still retaining one's own style and imagery. Serving as a successful preview/test piece in the gallery, many have noticed the departure from his main body of work, with some even suggesting a, "Hockney-esque" connection. At the same time, it stands out quite clearly as a "DeAngelo" with his subtleties in color choices, paint layering, simplified detail and perspective, reminding us that one can be inspired, yet at the same time carry one's own career forward as a uniquely recognizable brand.

For further information check our NC Commercial Gallery listings or visit (www.riverartsdistrict.com).

So you're the Marketing Director of a visual arts organization, art museum, arts center, arts council or artist guild and you're wondering why you never see the exhibits presented at your facility included here. Maybe you're the owner of a commercial art gallery and you've never seen your exhibits included with others presented in your area. You might even be an individual artist who is having an exhibit in a non-profit space or commercial space and you don't see your exhibits included. My question to you is - How long will you put up with that before you ask someone, "Why that is the case?" If you're not included - it's your fault. Send your info about exhibits to "Carolina Arts" by e-mail to (info@carolinaarts.com). Our deadline is the 24th of the month "prior" to the month your exhibit starts.