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Toe River Arts Council in Spruce Pine, NC, Offers Works by Cynthia Bringle

The Toe River Arts Council in Spruce Pine, NC, is presenting *CLAY + Cynthia Bringle*, on view in the Spruce Pine Gallery, through Aug. 18, 2018.

Bringle started out studying painting, always wanted to paint. Until, during her second semester at Memphis Academy of Art, she wrapped her hands around a ball of clay. The class was required for all first-year students. She continued painting but from that semester until today let clay dictate her passion. "Painting has a lot of similarities to my pots. Brush strokes are everywhere. Working in clay is very much akin to painting only three dimensional; plate as canvas."

"What means the most to me is that I can still make pot," says Bringle.

In 1963, Bringle came to Penland School of Crafts and for a few weeks during the summer, helped then executive director, Bill Brown and Ed Brinkman haul firebricks for the first gas kiln at the school. "We got so dirty moving those bricks, they wouldn't even let us into the cafeteria. They brought out our lunches to us." She finished up her undergraduate work at Memphis and graduate work at Alfred University, and in 1970 moved to Penland. "My studio was an open shed with a wheel and kiln." For the next four years she worked in the Penland Barns as a resident artist, moving after her own studio was completed on school property.

These days, when Bringle's not in the studio, she's either taking classes, teaching, walking with 10-year old, best friend, rescue dog Margie, or just enjoying her place in the mountains. And her exhibit pieces will reflect those times with pottery, clay, and jewelry—"beads are just a fun thing to do." She brought out a beautifully crafted deep blue and red laced shoes. "I did these in one class." Then pointing to a rich, honey colored cherry wood chair in the corner, smoothed by years of sitting, "and this in another. I take a painting class because it gives me the time to paint, which I don't



Works by Cynthia Bringle

usually have, and I like new things." And everyone who knows Bringle's work, sees that it is anything but repetitive.

Bringle's exhibit pieces run the gamut from years-old pieces - "I have a closet downstairs that holds many other things" - to new work. And paintings - Bringle has never stopped painting. The exhibit is not a retrospective of her life's work but reflects what she has done, what she is doing, and what she might be considering in the future. *Clay +* will celebrate her life from yesterday when she picked up a brush in her early teens in Tennessee to tomorrow when she throws another pot...this one with a wee turtle climbing up the side. "I love turtles."

Since 1976, the Toe River Arts Council, promoting the arts in Mitchell and Yancey Counties, has been working to connect the arts and the community. The Council is dedicated to enhancing the lives of the people who live in this region through arts-related experiences and education. We are proud of our work in the schools, with the artists, for our residents and for those who may just be passing through. Studies show that we learn through hands-on enterprises, whether in school or out, 8 or 80. The Toe River Arts Council creates realities out of those possibilities.

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

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Toe River Arts Council in Spruce Pine, NC, Offers Works from Members of GoFigure Guild

The Toe River Arts Council in Spruce Pine, NC, will present *Not to be Toyed With; Exploring the Art of the Doll*, featuring works by members of the GoFigure Guild, on view in the Council's Spruce Pine Gallery, from Aug. 25 through Sept. 22, 2018. A reception will be held on Sept. 1, from 5-7pm.

Beginning August 25, the Toe River Arts Council in Spruce Pine will be transformed into a room of dolls - not the kind we all played with when we were young, not Ken and Barbie or GI Joe, or even Chatty Cathy - but those works of art that take viewers to a realm of understanding how each figurative piece was conceived and created.

For the exhibit, 30 members of the GoFigure Guild were challenged to expand their own visions, creating up to 100 original works plus historical art dolls and several "Storybook Characters on Parade," sculptures created by Guild members.

During the course of the show, the public will have several opportunities to learn more through the many educational components of the exhibit. There will be three educational presentations in the main gallery and one and two-day workshops in the second-floor classroom. The education presentations are free and open to the public. Each workshop has a fee and requires pre-registration.

GoFigure was founded in 2009. Since then the group has grown to include mixed media and contemporary soft sculpture. Members with skill levels from each end of the spectrum come from as far away as Greenville, SC, and Knoxville, TN, and



Work by Lesley Keeble

from closer to home in Mitchell and Yancey counties and several places in between.

Toe River Arts Council is a non-profit arts organization whose mission is the connect the arts with the community to enhance living in the two-county region and serve as an economic driver for all residents and visitors.

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, call the Council at 828/682-7215 or visit (www.toeriverarts.org).

The deadline each month to submit articles, photos and ads is the 24th of the month prior to the next issue. This will be Aug. 24th for the September 2018 issue and Sept. 24 for the October issue. After that, it's too late unless your exhibit runs into the next month. But don't wait for the last minute - send your info now. And where do you send that info? E-mail to (info@carolinaarts.com).