

Pink Dog Creative in Asheville, NC

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a bit of collaboration with our ancestors, we have everything that we need to create our own liberation. With that, we require healing, we require rest, we require acknowledgement and importantly, we require love.”

“I hope this exhibit brings you joy, makes you feel a bit of playfulness and inspires you to look in the mirror to witness the miracle that is you,” adds Ukah.

Bevelyn Afor Ukah was born and raised in Atlanta, GA, within a multicultural Black, Nigerian-American family. A huge part of her life’s work is about exploring how humans can make immense connections across cultures and perspectives. Her art reflects a collaboration of perspectives on race, sexuality, and body image. Her pieces can inspire inquiry on how these identity markers connect us to an ecological responsibility to healing and reimagining. She says, “We are all stardust, and each of us have an immense power to make positive changes within and all around us.” Her belief in our cosmic connections shows up in most of her work.

Ukah has worked for years in collaboration with communities across NC, co-creating learning spaces to advocate for food and environmental justice. Over that time, she says, “My most poignant lessons have come from listening and sharing stories of loss, resilience, contradiction and triumph in community. This work of learning in community is my greatest love, and art, I have found, is learning’s most powerful expression.”

Ukah is a mixed media artist and hopes to inspire others to find their inner creative. She says, “Creating has generated profound portals for healing, spiritual cleansing and indescribable connection.” Although she is relatively new to her visual art practice (having started it in February 2020), she finally feels at home in this lifelong commitment to craftsmanship and exploring art as activism.

For further information check our NC Commercial Gallery listings, call the gallery at 828/776-3034 or visit (www.pinkdog-creative.com).

If you are interested in having your art displayed at Saluda Library, please review the Displays & Exhibits Policy at (polklibrary.org/policies) and contact Saluda Library Manager Bob McCall at 828/894-8721 x294 or e-mail to (bmccall@polklibrary.org).

Polk County Public Libraries has two libraries, Columbus Library and Saluda Library, with books, movies, music, audiobooks, and downloadable eBooks and audiobooks available for checkout, as well as public computers and wireless internet access. PCPL also offers regularly scheduled virtual and in-person programs for all ages.



Works by Holly Wilkes

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings or visit (www.polklibrary.org).

Caldwell Arts Council in Lenoir, NC, Features Works by Lee Malerich & Sculpture Celebration

The Caldwell Arts Council in Lenoir, NC, will present *GIANTS*, featuring works by SC artist, Lee Malerich, on view in the Council’s Main Gallery, from Sept. 2 through Oct. 14, 2022. Also the Council will be presenting the 36th Annual Sculpture Celebration, juried by John Douglas Powers, on Sept. 10, from 9am-4pm, at the T.H. Broyhill Walking Park, in Lenoir.

Malerich is a Midwesterner, born in Decatur, IL, who came south in the 1980s to take a job at Columbia College in Columbia, SC. She also taught at Coker College in Hartsville, SC, and Orangeburg Calhoun Technical College in Orangeburg, SC.

Shortly after arriving in South Carolina, she won her first South Carolina Arts Commission Fellowship in the area of Crafts. It was an easy introduction to the art community in the state and her studio work flourished. Working in narrative textiles, she documented her family and its growth and her battle with colon cancer. As far as subject matter, women’s response to their lives was of the most interest. The work was like a visual discussion board.

Malerich moved a 1939-built farmhouse in 2004 and renovating it required most of her time and creativity. At the end of this period, she emerged with an interest in working with wooden windows, tongue and groove, and sanding in patterns. It took more than six years to retrain for the new medium. It was not until she was given a warehouse full of damaged chairs that the work began to evolve. The work now suggests ways of being and ways to look at the world.

The putting aside of one medium and taking up another was an exceedingly brutal period. Skills and techniques had to be learned and experience acquired. Starting over meant producing less skilled work. Student work, done by an experienced professional; that was the most unnerving aspect of this transformation. Drive counts more in this case than talent.

Slowly the work with wood started to mature and began to express feelings as readily as the former visual discussions. With the addition of colored pencil to the sculpture, the connection with the former textiles is complete.

Malerich stated, “I work in layers, pierced by holes, enhanced by colors. The pieces are different on all sides, sometimes surprisingly. We are being patched up after experience. It is tough these days. My figures stand tall and vulnerable, legs braced for more social and physical insult.”

The Arts Council will also present the 36th Annual Sculpture Celebration, presented by the Caldwell Arts Council, juried by John Douglas Powers, on Sept. 10, from 9am-4pm, at the T.H. Broyhill Walking Park, in Lenoir. Sculptors are invited to bring up to 3 sculptures for this one-day event to compete for \$11,000 in cash awards, along with potential sales and commissions. This annual family-friendly event attracts sculptors and buyers from the eastern United States to Lenoir and in past



Work by Lee Malerich

years, has attracted over 4,000 people. It is funded in part by generous sponsors and by the North Carolina Arts Council, a division of the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources.

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, call the Council at 828/754-2486 or visit (caldwellarts.com).

The Gallery at Flat Rock in Flat Rock, NC, Offers Annual Art in Bloom Exhibit

Think of it as “art with an expiration date”. *Art in Bloom 2022* presents the artful pairing of colorful, fresh blooms with sculpture and canvases to create a new experience for art lovers. It’s a visual conversation that’s amplified through the inherent transience of the exhibit.

In a celebration of ephemeral beauty, The Gallery at Flat Rock is pairing twenty professional floral designers with an equal number of artists to present imaginative interpretations of juried works of art for its seventh annual *Art in Bloom* exhibit, on view from Sept. 2-4, 2022.

Here’s how it works: professional floral designers study the artwork and then create fresh floral interpretations based on what they experience. These floral pieces are exhibited in tandem with the artwork that inspired the designer, creating a dynamic visual display. “Art in Bloom” originated in 1976 at the Museum of Fine Arts Boston.



View from a previous exhibition

Spencer/Ann Baxter; Mackenzie Taylor/Laura Felt; Courtney Tomchik/Stephanie English; and Judy Verhoeven/Manabu Suzuki.

A Preview Reception from 5 to 8pm, will be held on Friday, Sept. 2, and will launch our seventh annual *Art in Bloom*. The reception is \$45 to attend and reservations are required.

The *Art in Bloom* Preview Party is the official kickoff to the festival weekend. Enjoy creative fare and drinks and be among the first to see the artful interpretations of *Art in Bloom* with the artists in attendance.

A limited number of tickets are available and need to be purchased in advance at this link (<https://checkout.square.site/buy/6NCPPF3B7C4RHHOPHKWMBXKBG>).

For further information check our NC Commercial Gallery listings, call the gallery at 828/698-7000 or visit (galleryflatrock.com).



View from a previous exhibition

The participating artists include artist/floral designer: John Anderson/Anna Keck; Kate Sea Barrett/The Shady Ladies; Beth Beasley/Preston Wainwright; Aaron Bernard/Larry Crume; Susan Cannon/Peggy Snow; Gary Cooley/Beth Hohensee; Nancy Cutler/Sayo Harris; Helene Lund Den Boer/Noriko Rajagopalan; Kimberly Dow/Judy Peacock; Veronika Hart/Libby Sylvain; Carol Beth Icard/Susan Cano; Ann marie LeBlanc/Dede Walton; Joan Lesikin/Andrea Reeps; Doug McAbee/Joey Farrington; Kim Painter/Candy Gallaher; Keith

progresses row after row until the piece is completed at the top,” says Wilkes.

She is inspired by the challenges and rewards of playing with color and design in abstracts. She develops an idea with drawings, collages, and/or photos. “When I start to weave I am fascinated as I mix the yarns and they become new colors, patterns, and textures. I weave series of tapestries to expand my ideas,” she says. Her favorite subject to weave is what surrounds her, the beautiful mountainscapes which come to life in her tapestries.

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Saluda Library in Saluda, NC, Features Works by Holly Wilkes

Saluda Library in Saluda, NC, is featuring an exhibit of fiber works by Holly Wilkes, on view through Sept. 30, 2022.

Wilkes has been involved with fiber arts for many years. Most of this time her focus has been on all types of weaving, but in recent years, she has concentrated on tapestry weaving. She weaves abstract or nonrepresentational, as well as representational tapestries. “I find that the low, meditative pace of weaving tapestries is a respite from our hectic world. There is a rhythm in placing the yarns as a design develops. Starting at the bottom of the tapestry, the design

The deadline each month to submit articles, photos and ads is the 24th of the month prior to the next issue. This will be September 24th for the October 2022 issue and Oct.

24 for the November 2022 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).