

Southern Highland Craft Guild Offers Annual Holiday Makers Sales at Folk Art Center in Asheville, NC - Dec. 1 & 8

Returning this year for holiday shopping is the Southern Highland Craft Guild's Annual Holiday Sales, on Dec. 1 and 8, 2018. The first two Saturdays of December, members of the Guild will be selling their fine crafts at the Folk Art Center from 10am to 4pm. This opportunity allows shoppers to purchase handmade items for their friends and loved ones with rare deals. Each year creatives of the Southern Highland Craft Guild liquidate overstocks and annual inventory at the Guild's Annual Holiday Sale. Members will be on hand in the center's auditorium selling select work 10-50% off retail, with a separate group exhibiting each weekend. This allows a range in goods and designs for the public to shop from the Guild.

A highly desirable market for makers, this sale provides them the chance to cycle out remaining 2018 product to begin the new year with a fresh start. This allows many creatives to try out new techniques, and begin their annual production process. For the customer, the sale means great deals for holiday shopping and a chance to connect with the craftspeople. It also provides an exciting, festive alternative to mall and big box import shopping. Choose from a variety of gift items including ceramic tableware, fine jewelry, hand-woven and dyed wearables, bound journals and etched cards, blown vases and ornaments, turned wooden bowls and more. Buying from artisans supports the local economy and promotes the Guild's mission to cultivate the crafts and makers of the Southern Highlands for the purpose of shared resources, education, marketing and conservation.

Nearly 70 members will be participating over the course of the two sales, with a



Work by Jude Stuecker

different group each weekend – so plan on coming to both for best selection!

While at the Folk Art Center, do not miss the Focus Gallery show, *The Golden Fleece* and the Main Gallery exhibition featuring the WNC Chapter of ABANA. Visitors will also want to shop at the main gift shop, where they will find premier gifts for everyone on their list, and a variety of handmade holiday decorations from Christmas tree ornaments to wreaths and table arrangements.

The Folk Art Center is located at Milepost 382 on the Blue Ridge Parkway in east Asheville, just north of the Hwy. 70.

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, Department of the Interior.

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

Southern Highland Craft Guild in Asheville, NC, Features Works by Members of Blacksmith's Group

The Southern Highland Craft Guild in Asheville, NC, will present *Forging Ahead: A Blacksmith Invitational*, featuring works by members of Artist Blacksmith Association of North America, on view in the Main Gallery of the Folk Art Center, from Nov. 3 through Jan. 29, 2019. A reception will be held on Nov. 3, from 3-5pm.

The exhibition features 36 objects from makers of the Western North Carolina chapter of Artist Blacksmith Association of North America. Works range from functional to decorative emphasizing the discipline of finesse with fire of a forge.

Many modern blacksmiths still work with the old-fashioned tools and techniques handed down through the centuries. However, as the years pass, new technology and sophisticated equipment have emerged to help lessen the work load of the contemporary blacksmith.



Work by Susan Hutchinson

captures the arduous nature of blacksmith, even to the smallest details, as can be seen in Robert Timberlake's thimble.

Early blacksmiths were essential to the survival of any community. They were the most important craftsmen on the first ships from Europe that colonized the New World/Americas. Prior to the Industrial Revolution, they created all iron and steel tools. Because of the high cost to create such tools repairing a tool was preferable to having a new tool made.

This exhibit is located on the second floor of the Folk Art Center in the main gallery through Jan. 29, 2019. All products are available for purchase, online and in the gallery.

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Work by Robert Timberlake

Southern Highland Craft Guild member Susan Hutchinson, also a member of ABANA, gave curator Nikki Josheff and photographer Steve Mann a demonstration shaping steel using the traditional blacksmith tools, hammer and anvil, and then on a modern electric power hammer. "She has a power hammer that allows for much more force than that of a human." *Forging Ahead*

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photo+sphere Takes Place Around Asheville, NC - Nov. 7 – 11, 2018

photo+sphere is an innovative citywide event exploring our relationship to the environment through photography and photo-media, featuring nationally known speakers, exhibitions, films, and special projects at venues throughout Asheville, NC. Through high quality arts programming, photo+sphere engages the public in meaningful dialog concerning how we see the world and the role humans play in determining the future of our planet.

In the spirit of community collaboration, photo+sphere events will take place Nov. 7-11, 2018, throughout Asheville in partnership with leading art galleries, museums, scientific, environmental and educational institutions, including: Asheville Art Museum, Black Mountain College Museum + Arts Center, Blue Spiral 1, Buckminster Fuller Institute, Center for Craft, The Collider, Momentum Gallery, N.C. Nature Conservancy, RAMP Studios, REVOLVE, Satellite Gallery, Tracey Morgan Gallery, UNC-Asheville, Western Carolina University, and Warren Wilson College, among others.

photo+sphere speakers include Susannah Saylor of the Canary Project at Syracuse University, David McConville, Co-chair of the Buckminster Fuller Institute in San Francisco and the following Keynote Presenters:

Nov. 8 - Kickoff Party Fundraiser at 5pm followed by Mel Chin's KEYNOTE PRESENTATION: *The Arctic is Asheville*, at 7PM at Asheville Masonic Temple (downtown). Mel Chin is an internationally known visual artist whose conceptually rigorous and imaginative art has been at the forefront of community engagement and activism for more than thirty years. The exhibition *Mel Chin: All Over the Place* was on view at the Queens Museum of Art in New York through Aug. 12 and two major projects debuted in Times Square in July. Chin's work was documented in the popular PBS series Art21. He has received numerous



Work by Susan Patrice

awards and grants from esteemed organizations including the National Endowment for the Arts and the New York State Council for the Arts.

Nov. 9 - Opening Reception for two exhibitions at 4pm followed by Sharon Harper's KEYNOTE PRESENTATION at 6pm and photo+sphere Anthropocene Short Films at 7:30pm at RAMP Studios and STEAM Studio (near UNC-Ashville) Sharon Harper, Professor of Visual and Environmental Studies at Harvard University, works with photography and video, exploring how technology mediates our relationship with the natural world and generates perceptual experiences. Her photography is in numerous permanent collections, including the Museum of Modern Art and the Whitney Museum of American Art in New York, and the Museum of Fine Art, Houston.

Nov. 10 - Talks by Eric Baden ("Cloud Library") at 1pm, David McConville ("Beyond the 'Whole Earth'") at 2:15pm and Justin Brice Guariglia's KEYNOTE PRESENTATION at 6:30pm at Black Mountain College Museum + Arts Center (downtown).

Justin Brice Guariglia, artist and envi-

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