



## Despite Hurricane Helene's Destruction, The River Arts District Artists in Asheville, NC, Aim to Unite and Recover

The River Arts District (RAD) in Asheville, NC, is emerging with resilience and creativity after the impact of Hurricane Helene. Despite facing significant challenges, local artists are rallying together to rebuild their studios, restore their works, and reinforce the community spirit that defines this vibrant district.

Hurricane Helene brought unprecedented rainfall and flooding to the area, damaging 80% of structures and displacing as many as half of the artists. In the aftermath, the River Arts District Association (RADA) has initiated a comprehensive recovery plan aimed at supporting affected artists and revitalizing the local arts scene.



View of the RAD after Hurricane Helene, photo by Renee Treece of Luxe House Photography



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Key Highlights of the recovery efforts include:

- Community Fundraising Initiatives: RADA has launched a fundraising campaign to assist artists with repairs and lost materials. Donations can be made through the RADA website at ([www.riverartsdistrict.com](http://www.riverartsdistrict.com)), with all proceeds going directly to impacted artists and rebuilding.
- Displaced artists programs: RADA is currently sourcing temporary and permanent spaces for displaced artists.
- Art supply donations: RADA, in partnership with several large art suppliers, is



View of the RAD right after Hurricane Helene hit WNC, photo by Renee Treece of Luxe House

securing large donations for lost supplies that will go directly to the artists. - Collaborative Projects: Artists are encouraged to collaborate on community art projects that symbolize hope and renewal. These projects will not only beautify the district but also foster connections among artists and residents.

"In the weeks and months ahead, we will rely on one another, and we will need each other to get through this," said Jeffrey Burroughs, President of RADA. "Our strength lies in our collective community. Though it's hard to think of the future now, this is not the end - it's a new beginning. While parts of the District are still standing, much will need to be rebuilt. We will rebuild - not just the physical spaces but the dreams, passion, and creative energy that makes our community so vibrant."

As the River Arts District looks to the



View of the RAD after Hurricane Helene, photo by Renee Treece of Luxe House Photography

future, the strength and determination of its artists serve as a beacon of hope. The community invites everyone to join in these recovery efforts, whether through donations, attendance at events, or simply supporting local artists by buying online.

The River Arts District is home to over  
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350 working artists and has become a renowned hub for creativity and innovation in Asheville, NC. The district is committed to fostering an inclusive and supportive environment for artists and art lovers alike.

For more information about recovery efforts, upcoming events, and how to contribute, please visit ([www.riverartsdistrict.com](http://www.riverartsdistrict.com)) or follow us on Instagram, [@riverartsdistrictasheville](https://www.instagram.com/riverartsdistrictasheville).

## Mark Bettis Gallery in Asheville, NC, Features Group Show Focused on Animals

*Editor's Note: If this sounds familiar, it's because we included it in our Oct. issue, but due to Hurricane Helene it was postponed. And it could be delayed again. Call the gallery to make sure before you visit.*

The Mark Bettis Gallery in Asheville, NC, will present *All Creatures*, an exhibition featuring 11 local and national artists who will be using mixed media, clay, glass and painting to create their interpretation of creatures far and wide, on view from Nov. 9 - 23, 2024. A reception will be held on Nov. 9, from 5:30-7:30pm.

We share this amazing planet with so many creatures... from bugs to mammals to reptiles - furry, winged and crawly each one represents a special presence and relationship on this earth. We created this show to

honor all of those creatures big and small. "When I look into the soul of an animal, I do not see an animal, I see a living being. I see a friend. I see a soul," says Anthony Douglas Williams. Our group of 11 artists will be creating a special interpretation of their choice of creatures using mixed media, glass, wood, clay and painting.

The gallery is located in the River Arts District on Roberts Street, Asheville NC, 28801. The gallery features unique and distinctive works of art in a variety of mediums including contemporary paintings, glass, sculpture, and mixed media.

For further information check our NC Commercial Gallery listings, call the gallery at 941-587-9502 or e-mail to ([markdbettis@gmail.com](mailto:markdbettis@gmail.com)).

## Groewood Gallery in Asheville, NC, to Host 6th Annual Vessels of Merriment Exhibition

*Editor's Note: We received this press release before Hurricane Helene hit Asheville. It could still take place, but we suggest you call the gallery to make sure before you visit.*

From wine and whiskey cups to flasks and goblets, the 6th Annual *Vessels of Merriment* exhibition at Groewood Gallery in Asheville, NC, will feature handcrafted drinking vessels by 17 potters from across the country. This ceramic invitational will kick off with an opening celebration on Nov. 9, from 2 to 5pm, where guests can mix and mingle with some of the participating artists and enjoy complimentary offerings served by our friends at Metro Wines. This event is free to attend and open to the public. *Vessels of Merriment* will remain on view through Dec. 31, 2024.

This beloved annual exhibition, a favorite among both staff and customers,



Works from Silver River Ceramics celebrates the artistry of ceramic vessels crafted for drinking, serving, and storing your favorite libations. We hope these handcrafted pieces truly capture the heart and dedication of the talented artists who create them. With all artwork available for purchase, this exhibition offers the perfect opportunity for finding unique holiday gifts.

Featured artists include: Evelyn Ward,  
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