



Upstairs Artspace in Tryon, NC, Offers Holiday Gift-Giving Shows

The excitement has begun to build for the best—and most unique—art shopping in Western North Carolina – just before the holidays at the Upstairs Artspace gallery’s 100 x 100 exhibit and sale. A highly anticipated part of the holiday season each year, this year’s sale of \$100 works by 100 of the area’s best-known artists opens with a reception, from 5-7:30pm on Saturday, Dec. 10, 2016.

Adding to the fun and competition, the works are unsigned on the front, making them anonymous until the closing reception, Saturday, Dec. 17, when the work can be picked-up and turned over by the buyer for the Big Reveal. Then it may be taken home and wrapped or hung for the perfect addition to your holiday party.

“Because of the anonymity, some artists have taken the opportunity to expand their repertoire, creating work in a style or medium other than that for which they are known,” said Executive Director Michele Deudne. “The artists have fun, there is a huge variety of art, and those who participate as buyers have fabulous choices, and a little bit of mystery in the bargain. Other than Art Trek, it is our biggest event of the year, and largest fund raiser (the Upstairs is a 501(c)(3), so all of this fun also helps to keep the doors to the Upstairs open.)”

As in the past two years, there will be a special 100 x 25 show as well, with the works of students from area schools. The prices for these works is \$25.

The CooperRiis healing community celebrates their 2016 exhibition; *Creating Recovery* during our 100 x 100 fundraiser as well. Located within the CooperRiis community is the Art Barn/Woodshop, a large well-appointed facility that provides shared space, tools and materials for painting and drawing, printmaking, making pottery, dying textiles, precision woodworking, photography, vision board collage, sculpture and music. The main artistic focus is centered on individual empowerment and residents, staff and volunteers, are invited to explore any medium with which to express themselves.

Not quite as wild as the bridal sale at Filene’s Basement, but lots of fun racing for a place at the front of the line with the list of your purchases, when the secret location of the sales desk is revealed. Mark your calendars for Dec. 10, from 5-7:30pm.

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, call the gallery at 828/859-2828 or visit (www.upstairsartspace.org).

Mitchell and Yancey Counties in NC Present Toe River Arts Council Studio Tour - Dec. 2-4, 2016

Beginning Friday morning, Dec. 2, 2016, the landscape of Mitchell and Yancey counties in NC changes for a weekend. As if blooming from beneath the muted greys and shadowy rusts of fallen leaves now tamped down from an errant snow fall or cold rain, hundreds of big red and white Studio Tour signs dot the roadways, intersections, and front and side yards. All lead the way to a magical tour of arts and artists.

Through Sunday, Dec. 4, from 10am to 5pm each day, determined visitors travel the highways and back roads in search of that perfect piece of art and the creative artist behind. This is the second of two open Studio Tours sponsored by the Toe River Arts Council this year. And it has

been happening for over two decades in the beautiful Toe River Valley.

There are folks who have “done” the tour for years, know the artists, plan their vacations around the weekend, and use the signs as welcome reminders of their time in the region. There are those for whom this is new. The signs help them navigate the new territory and give them comfort in knowing they are on the right path. And still others who continue to marvel at the numbers of artists who live and work in their own backyards.

The signs point to studios of new and established artists, visiting artists. Those working in clay, glass, fiber, wood, metal, photography, paint. Mixing media, making

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jewelry, crafting soap, weaving baskets, writing, creating. And opening up their studios for one magical weekend in December every year. It’s an adventure, it’s free, and it’s open to anyone who wants to take a journey to the arts.

The Toe River Arts Council hosts a reception the evening of the first tour day, Dec. 2 from 5:30 to 7:30pm at their Spruce Pine Gallery (269 Oak Avenue, Spruce Pine, NC). There one will find

works from the participants, displayed geographically to make an adventure easy to plan. There are too many artists to visit in a day; but with the help of the guide, now available at either gallery and at many regional businesses, the showcase of artist work at the exhibition that is open through the end of the year, and the eye-popping red and white signs, visitors plan their weekend arts experience.

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