

Southern Highland Craft Guild

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on the craft community. These members administered our mission to preserve, promote, and teach the rich traditions of handmade craft in the Southern Highlands.

Twin sisters Cynthia and Edwina Bringle have been instrumental in shaping the craft community at Penland School of Crafts. Cynthia, a renowned ceramic artist, and Edwina, a skilled fiber artist, have both made lasting contributions as educators, mentors, and artists. With Cynthia's ceramics blending rich color and design, and Edwina's vibrant woven textiles, their work continues to inspire and educate new generations of artists.

Originally from Memphis, TN, Connie Brown moved to Asheville, NC, in 1989 with her husband and son. Over the past three decades, she has created more than 140 quilts, each showcasing her passion for quilting. In addition to her quilting work, she grows Japanese Indigo, using the plant to hand-dye unique fabrics. Her love for quilts and their history inspired her to become an AQS Certified Quilt Appraiser. Brown now offers professional quilt appraisal and evaluation services, specializing in newly made quilts, traditional and art quilts, as well as antique and vintage quilted treasures.

Doug Dacey finds inspiration for his

pottery in the natural world. He looks to patterns and textures found in nature - such as the shapes of leaves, rocks, and water - to influence both the forms and surfaces of his work. In his functional pieces, Dacey strives to create simple, elegant designs that reflect the beauty of the natural world. He hopes to create a connection between the viewer and the natural environment, offering pieces that are both visually appealing and thoughtfully crafted.

Founded in 1930, the Southern Highland Craft Guild is a non-profit organization dedicated to preserving and promoting the rich craft traditions of the Southern Highlands. Through shared resources, education, marketing, and conservation, the Guild supports local artisans and fosters a thriving creative community. As an authorized concessioner of the National Park Service, the Guild plays an important role in both preserving craft traditions and supporting the regional economy.

Items featured in the exhibition will be available for purchase starting Feb. 8, either online or directly through the Folk Art Center.

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, call 828/298-7928, or e-mail to (info@craftguild.org).

West Asheville Library in Asheville, NC, Features Works by Kira Bursky

The West Asheville Library in Asheville, NC, part of the Buncombe County Public Libraries, is presenting, *Hurricane Helene Exhibition*, featuring works by Kira Bursky, on view through Feb. 27, 2025.

Artist Kira Bursky says, "After Hurricane Helene came through my town, I drew to process my feelings. The 31 drawings were created once a day during October. These drawings are dedicated to all those affected by Hurricane Helene and those who have gone through other experiences that have shaken up the world they know. I am inspired by art's power to give us space to process, reflect, and heal. Thank you for taking the time to sit with these artworks. I send out my love and gratitude."

Multidisciplinary artist and filmmaker Kira Bursky (aka All Around Artsy) is inspired by mental health, creativity, and magic. An award-winning creator, Bursky has produced more than 60 short films that have screened globally. She's gone viral with over 25 million views across her films, art, and fashion work on platforms like Reddit and YouTube. In addition to her cinematic accomplishments, she sold 2,500 art NFTs and developed an immersive projection-based installation.

Bursky expanded her artistic repertoire with the launch of All Around Artsy Fashion, a wearable art brand that reflects her passion for dopamine dressing: wearing what makes you feel good. She is now planning the 2025 gallery exhibition tour of her Hurricane Helene art collection with scheduled stops in NC towns including Asheville, Lansing, and Murphy to name a few.



Works by Kira Bursky and photo of her

20% of profits will be donated to BeLoved Asheville and ArtsAVL towards Hurricane Helene relief efforts. You can view the full collection in Bursky's shop at (<https://allaroundartsyfashion.com/collections/hurricane-helene-art-prints>).

The West Asheville Library originally opened in 1953, but moved to its current site in 1997. Not only does the library feature a large selection of adult, teen, and children's literature, it also features a Hispanic outreach center, strong video collection, internet, Wi-Fi, branch newsletter, computer study areas, and many programs for adults and children. The library also houses a large children's section and a 75-seat meeting room.

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, call the Library at 828/250-4750 or e-mail to (sherry.roane@buncombecounty.org).

American Folk Art in Asheville, NC, Features Annual Miniature Show

American Folk Art in Asheville, NC, will present its *21st Annual Miniatures Show*, on view from Feb. 7 - 26, 2025. A reception will be held on Feb. 7, from 5-8pm.

It's time again for the little tradition that we LOVE! Our *21st Annual Miniatures Show*! Small works with big stories to tell are the perfect addition to an established collection of art, as well as the ideal beginning to a new collection. Anyone can find just the right spot in their home to tuck one of these little beauties!

The artwork in this show might be limited in size, but there are never any restrictions on subject or spirit! Dedicated to small but mighty masterpieces, this year's show will feature new work from 16 of



Work by Kent Ambler

our resident artists: Kent Ambler, Mike Ball, Doug Frati, Stacy Lambert, Karl Mullen, Peter Loose, Vicki Miller, Liz Sullivan, Ellen Langford, Wayne Howell, Cornbread, Tim Whitten, Jack Klippel, Carl Block, and new-to-the-gallery artists continued above on next column to the right

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John Sperry and Sonya Clemons!

Twenty-five years ago, John Sperry quit his corporate job because he knew he just had to paint. Using oil pastels & acrylics, he brings his bright and whimsical characters to life on wooden panels. As Sperry likes to say: without humor, life would be oh-so-dull! His healthy sense of humor has a starring role in much of his work, and his quirky scenes & funky critters never fail to bring out a smile.

Sonya Clemons connects to her audience with a familiar touchstone that reaches us all: those hardworking hands that brought us up. She will often sit with her mother as she snaps beans or prepares biscuit dough, and those loving, capable hands are the feature of Clemons's paintings. There is a beautiful nostalgia in the dishcloth patterns depicted or the types of kitchen tools being used that reminds us that the woman in these paintings could be anyone's mother, or grandmother.

The *21st Annual Miniatures Show* debuts on our website at 11am on Feb. 5, and you will have a full hour to preview the entire show before phone sales begin at noon sharp!

And don't forget! You're invited to join us in celebrating this cherished show



Work by John Sperry

on Feb. 7, from 5-8pm. At this special evening reception, guests will be able to purchase locally-created flower bouquets, commission an on-demand typewriter poem from Eddie Cabbage, and enjoy live music all while enjoying our beloved annual *Miniatures Show*! The perfect pre-Valentine's Day date night for you and your sweetie!

For further information check our NC Commercial Gallery listings, call the gallery at 828/281-2134 or visit (www.amerifolk.com).

Gallery Mélange in Asheville, NC, Offers Works in Its Winter Showcase

The Gallery Mélange in Asheville, NC, is presenting *An Arctic Soirée: A Celebration of New Work*, on view through Feb. 28, 2025.

This immersive event features the newest creations of Mark Bettis, Victoria Pinney, and Jeffrey Burroughs, complemented by the captivating sounds of AVL. XLR & Phantom Pantone.

An Arctic Soirée invites attendees to break free from the winter gloom and discover the season's understated charm. This carefully curated selection of paintings, sculptures, and jewelry spotlights each artist's personal interpretation of winter's crisp tranquility. From abstract landscapes and delicate transformations

to shimmering, ice-inspired jewelry, the exhibit offers a visual journey through the subtle hues, textures, and gentle mystique of the colder months.

Mark Bettis is a masterful painter whose work embraces bold color and texture, evoking both energy and reflection in creating a series of figurative paintings for this event.

Victoria Pinney is known for her dynamic abstractions and focus on the natural world's subtle details.

Jeffrey Burroughs is a fine jeweler whose iconic luxury creations fuse ancient tradition and innovation with a touch of rebellion.

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