

# Western Carolina University

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teapot from him in 1964. Cardew, who died in 1983, is now considered to be one of the most influential potters of the 20th century. Works by Michael Simon, Don Reitz, Tatsuzo Shimaoka, the Meaders family and other acclaimed potters also will be on display, as well as pieces that Byrd and Rector have made.

The exhibit will include "Untitled (dog heat)," a new sculptural work by Byrd's nephew, John Falconer Byrd, and "Cherokee Parakeet" by Byrd's former student, Joel Queen. John Byrd, a member of the art faculty at the University of South Florida, will be a visiting artist at WCU on Monday, Mar. 24. Queen, a ninth-generation Cherokee potter, is also a sculptor and

woodcarver.

David J. Brown, director of WCU's Fine Art Museum, said the venue is honored to showcase work by other noted artists from the couple's collection as well as a selection of works made by Byrd and Rector.

"Just as importantly, the exhibition is a small token gift to thank Joan especially for her amazing career and years of service to the WCU community," said Brown. "What an inspiration their life together is to all of us. We are lucky to have such enormous and nurturing talent in our midst."

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, call the museum at 828/227-3591 or visit ([www.fineartmuseum.wcu.edu](http://www.fineartmuseum.wcu.edu)).

## Arts Council of Henderson County in Hendersonville, NC, Features Annual Student/Teacher Exhibitions

The Arts Council of Henderson County in Hendersonville, NC, is presenting a series of exhibitions as a thematic unit entitled *Mentors & Students*, on view at First Citizens Bank in downtown Hendersonville. Designed to celebrate the importance of art in a child's life, the three exhibitions will feature the work of Henderson County elementary students, secondary students, and their art mentors.



*Lion* by Ari Juedemann, at age 7, from 2013 elementary show

The *Art of Our Children* featuring works by local elementary students will be on view through Mar. 7, 2014.



*Life as an Art Teacher*, by Kelly King, from 2013 mentors show

The second show in the series will feature works by Henderson County's art teachers in the fifth annual *Art Teachers*



*Untitled*, acrylic by Michaela Orr, 10th grade, 2013 Best of Show, secondary exhibition

*Create*, on view from Mar. 14 - 28, 2014. A reception will be held on Mar. 14, from 5:30-7pm. Artwork will be for sale during the *Mentors* exhibition.

Works by secondary students will be featured in the third show of the series, *Artists of Tomorrow*, on view from Apr. 4 - 18, 2014.

*Mentors & Students* is open to all public, private, parochial and home school students and teachers in Henderson County.

*Mentors & Students* is sponsored by First Citizens Bank, and the Dr. Minor F. Watts Fund at the Community Foundation of Henderson County.

The Arts Council of Henderson County is a community organization that promotes, advocates for and nurtures the arts in Henderson County and Western North Carolina. The Arts Council is supported in part by the North Carolina Arts Council, a division of the Department of Cultural Resources; funds administered by the Community Foundation of Henderson County, Henderson County, Henderson County Tourism Development Authority, and the City of Hendersonville.

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, call the Arts Council at 828-693-8504 or e-mail to ([acofhc@bellsouth.net](mailto:acofhc@bellsouth.net)).

## Snake handlers, train hoppers, avenging angels and more are freed from the margins at



PHOTO BY RENATO ROTOLO

### 18 WAYS TO SEE Selected Bold Life Artists

Anthony Bellemare | Bobbie Polizzi | Brigid Burns | Carol Bomer | Gabriel Shaffer  
Heidi Hayes | James Flames | Karin Eberle | Maureen Robinson | Philip DeAngelo  
Renato Rotolo | Robert Asman | Robert Seven | Rowan Farrell | Taiyo la Paix  
Virginia Derryberry | Werner Haker | William Thomas Thompson

Plus **FIG MILK** and **SWEET VERMOUTH**  
Collages by Richard Russell

March 21 — May 3

upstairs [artspace]

49 South Trade Street, Tryon, NC 28782  
828-859-2828 | [www.upstairsartspace.org](http://www.upstairsartspace.org)

### A Few Words From Down Under The Arty Party

by Judith McGrath, first run in our December 2005 issue

On t'other side of my island continent, a shining city offers a bi-annual art fair. Just about every fine art gallery in this broad brown land spends big bucks to rent a stall, package and transport art works to the venue, and send a staff member together with one of their stable artists to the spectacular. The reputation of this art fair is known far and wide and draws savvy art appreciators and collectors from around the nation and abroad. Any artist who has their work shown there is considered either a sure thing or an emerging talent to be watched by the world.

The majority of this country's population is located on the east coast so it's easy for them to access the fair but it's difficult and extremely expensive for those of us on the western side of the continent to attend. In response to this situation, my town attempted to attract a similar audience to our own Art Fair during the 'off' years. After repeated efforts the event failed, as few connoisseurs were tempted to make the trip west. Not to be deterred, the locals borrowed a different idea from afar and a more insular and self-absorbed alternative was planned.

This year saw the inauguration of a new state-wide art extravaganza. It declared the four-week period from mid October to mid November (springtime Down Under) to be a celebration of art and craft practitioners who live, and produce their work, in the West. It was requested that during this time period galleries exhibit only works by local artists, art/craft practitioners open their studios to the public on weekends, major corporations display their art collections in building foyers, and retail shops provide window space for installation work. It was a fantastic idea.

The team of organizers, led by a highly efficient out-of-towner, did a great job contacting all the right officials in the art, business, financial, and political circles.

Grants were secured, market researchers found a snappy name for the project and the obligatory mission statement was penned; one that stressed the importance of the visual arts in society and how it impacts on both the cultural and economic vitality of the wider community. It was well promoted within the art community and scores of practitioners lined up to be a part of the month long event. They were on a roll! Posters and pamphlets were printed and distributed to all participants, a website was designed, the event's official launch was scheduled and it was attended by all the art, business, financial, and political big wigs. At the gala evening it was stated that 'over 2000 artists and more then 200 venues' were committed to participate in the inaugural month long celebration of Art. Ta da! Job done! Congratulations all around.

Then reality hit. The pamphlets had to be at the printer months prior to the event's commencement so when they were published and distributed they were virtually redundant. Some participants registered too late to be included in the pamphlet while some planned events that were listed never came to fruition. The website was put on-line behind schedule and not updated weekly as anticipated. Other than the back slapping opening night, scant was seen in print or heard on the airwaves about the ongoing celebration.

The four weeks have come and gone. Although I knew about the project from its birth (I sit on the periphery of the art circle) few others knew of it before, during or after the event. I believe there was some publicity in mid October but I must have missed that addition of the newspaper. I read reviews of art exhibitions during the month but none mentioned if the show being discussed was part of the project or not. (Most commercial galleries are booked years in advance and many had the designated time slot already locked in with an interstate artist.) I did see in my weekly community newspaper that a local artist had her studio open to

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## A Few Words From Down Under

**Editor's Note:** Judith McGrath contributed her writings about exhibits and events taking place in Western Australia to *Carolina Arts* for about a decade. Although she was writing about events taking place thousands and thousands of miles away, they seemed relevant to what Page 22 - Carolina Arts, March 2014

was going on here in the Carolinas. Her contributions were very popular when we first ran them and continue to be popular on our website's archives. We've decide to revisit them from time to time.

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