

Tyron Fine Arts Center

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takes place in the lower level galleries of the Tryon Fine Arts Center. Art sales will benefit the TR&HC's scholarship program and its ongoing effort to collect, preserve, and make equestrian history during this fundraising event. This outstanding group show will also feature a historic element presented by TFAC celebrating the rich equestrian heritage of our area.

Thirty artists from Polk County, the state of North Carolina, the Southeast region, our great nation, and as far as Canada have been invited to participate in this unique show. These artists will be featuring their equine art in a variety of techniques and media.

Several of the artists such as Richard Christian Nelson, Monica Stevenson, Joan MacIntyre, Keith Spencer, Kelly Phipps, Jim Carson, Linda Cheek, Richard Over-smith, Daniel Nevins, Jeff Pittman and Sarah Holmberg are from Western North Carolina. Other artists from around the state and nation include Jan Lukens, Tucker Bailey, Debi Fitzgerald, Booth Malone, Mary Neely, Linda Luster, Maureen Riley, Hilarie Lambert, Linda Volrath, Sam Robinson, Mary Verrandeaux, Genevieve Liljeberg, Ann Malphrus, Mary Hoffman, Evan Jones, Scott Boyle, Dawn Whitelaw, Gary Cooley, and Canadian artist Valerie Hinz.

This exhibit's focus will be original art-



Work by Mary Verrandeaux

work; painting, photography and sculpture. However a giclee reproduction on canvas of this year's Block House Steeplechase race poster artwork by Richard Christian Nelson will be available in varying sizes.

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings or call 828/859-8322.

Mica in Bakersville, NC, Offers First Show of the Season

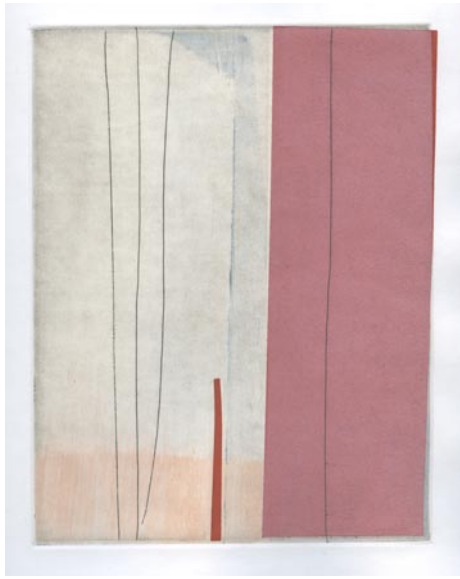
Mica, a cooperative fine crafts gallery, in Bakersville, NC, is pleased to present *Rocks, Paper, Scissors*, the first of their visiting artists shows for 2015, running from May 23 through July 21, 2015. The works of four extremely-gifted western North Carolina artists are being shown: Lisa Blackburn, Bill Brown, and, working in collaboration, Thor and Jennifer Bueno.



Work by Thor & Jennifer Bueno

Lisa Blackburn has always been inspired by small details and the physical relationships between objects. Growing up as an only child, Blackburn spent much of her time in the woods observing, collecting, and arranging the objects she had found. That early training has stayed with her. Whether it is the patina of a worn path, the juxtaposition of people in relation to one another, or the relationship and space between rocks in a stonewall, each communicates a history and a presence. Blackburn is interested in capturing and communicating the details of these relationships in her work. Primarily creating one-of-a-kind and limited edition work on paper, she enjoys the repetitive and methodical processes of hand bookbinding and printmaking.

Metal sculptor Bill Brown grew up working in a variety of the studios at Penland School of Crafts, where his father was the director. Young Bill experienced everything from blowing glass and making pottery to dyeing yarn. He found his focus in 1978, when he began to work full time in metal sculpture. Brown says, "The sculpture I create is an artistic transformation of life



Work by Lisa Blackburn

experiences, and my interpretation of the natural and spiritual world around me. My work involves the exploration of the plasticity of steel, and the challenges of transforming materials, thought, and energy into art."

Glass artists Thor and Jennifer Bueno have been working together since the year 2000. In 2008 they completed a three-year residency at Penland School of Crafts in the mountains of North Carolina. The Buenos then settled nearby and set up their studio, where they continue to find inspiration in nature. Their focus is seeking a feeling of Zen clarity by creating beautifully austere blown glass river stones, inspired by the waterways that lace the mountain forest they call home.

The Buenos' smooth glass orbs range from lemon to watermelon size, and are veined and blotched with high-keyed color. The artists arrange the hollow glass shapes in stacks or naturalistic wall patterns to achieve what Thor describes as a soothing aesthetic combination of Andy Goldsworthy and Dale Chihuly.

For further information check our NC Commercial Gallery listings, call the gallery at 828/688-6422 or visit (www.micagallerync.com).

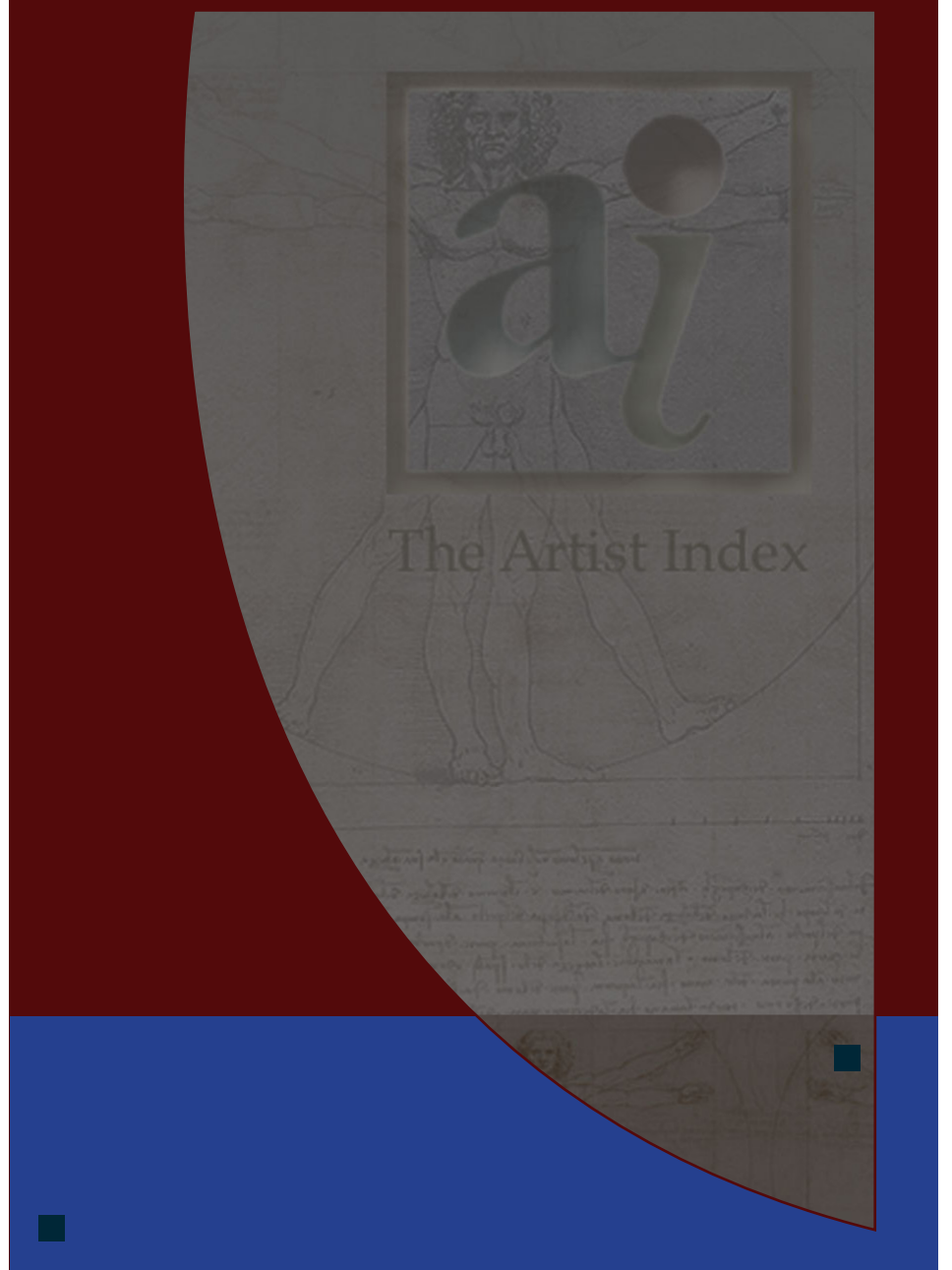
BRAHM in Blowing Rock Takes a Look at Mill Production & Handmade Culture

The Blowing Rock Art and History Museum (BRAHM) in Blowing Rock, NC, is presenting *Millhands/Handmade*, which will take a look at the South's vast textile history, from the growth of industrial mills and their effect on southern families, to regional textile artists working today

and keeping handmade techniques alive. The exhibit will be on view through July 26, 2015, and a reception for this exhibition and others on view will be held during BRAHM's Summer Exhibition Celebration on Saturday, May 9, from 5:30-7pm.

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"Textiles are rooted deeply into the history of North Carolina," says Lee Carol Giduz, Executive Director. "They are part of our story. In the exhibit *Millhands/Handmade*, visitors will glimpse the history of textiles from our industrial mill past to contemporary art forms being crafted in our mountains and our state today."

Historic artifacts from Southern textile mills and life-size photographs of over-worked millhands from the industrial age will set the scene and invite viewers to step into the past. Contemporary works by four regional North Carolina artists will complement the historical display and, in turn, ask viewers to reflect on the past through the present. Keeping in mind ideas of labor and laborious practices, this exhibition presents a unique perspective on the everlasting, ever-evolving story of textiles.

Exhibiting artists include Edwina Bringle, Catharine Ellis, Jeana Klein, and Nava Lubelski.

Edwina Bringle has spent much of her career living and working at Penland School of Crafts. After just one visit to Penland with her sister, Cynthia (a renowned potter), Edwina discovered a love for weaving that influenced her to leave her practice as an x-ray technician in Memphis, TN, and move permanently to North Carolina. Despite the time-consuming process that is hand-weaving, Edwina has produced a countless number of pieces over the years. Her work exists through fearless color combinations of warp and weft, for which she is most recognized and highly respected.

Catharine Ellis is best known for her creation of woven shibori. She has made a career for herself as a weaver for decades, putting a variety of techniques into practice. Most recently, she has been using Jacquard looms in the Oriole Mill in Hendersonville, NC, to weave fabric, then further altering them through natural dye processes and woven shibori techniques. Ellis is an author of "Woven Shibori", and she regularly teaches classes, gives talks, and is highly involved with various textiles organizations around



"Nature's Rainbow," detail c. 2000 by Edwina Bringle. Natural dyes: indigo, onion skin, plant matter. Courtesy of the Blowing Rock Art & History Museum.

the state.

Jeana Klein was handed a crochet needle and yarn at the age of three and taught from then on to create for herself. By the time she was in college, she found a love for weaving that inspired her to pursue a career as a textile artist. Her latest work explores a mixed media combination of hand-quilting and embroidery, following with painting directly onto the handmade fabric surfaces, treating them as her canvas. Klein teaches fibers in the Art Department at Appalachian State University and continues to use her work to explore themes revolving around the ideas of artistic value.

Nava Lubelski lives and works in Asheville, NC, and her work is recognized and collected across the country, from New York to California. Utilizing found objects, embroidery techniques, and sculptural tendencies, Lubelski's work explores the boundaries and "contradictions between the impulse to destroy and the compulsion to mend." Along with thread and fabric, much of her work is composed of collected paper threads. Her creations are intricate and detailed, yet equally engaging at a distanced view.

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, call the Museum at 828/295-9099 or visit (www.blowing-rockmuseum.org).

The deadline each month to submit articles, photos and ads is the 24th of the month prior to the next issue. This will be May 24th for the June 2015 issue and June 24 for the July 2015 issue.