

Caldwell Arts Council - Photography

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from weddings, to on-location shoots of families, and travel.; says Mathews. "I also love to photograph people in their daily lives. This show started when our family went on a trip to the Middle East. I wanted to capture the places and faces of the Middle East. Everyone we met over there was friendly and happy to get to know us. We had many wonderful experiences. I wouldn't trade it for anything. I hope you enjoy these photos as much as I enjoyed taking them. Shukran (thank you)"

Steve West says "Photography, for me, is a quest for the perfect image. I am constantly experimenting with new techniques, equipment, software and strategies for capturing the fleeting moments, where the light is just right. I focus on the formal design

elements with each image. My photographs have to be unified and frequently exhibit a sense of dynamic equilibrium, that is, static lines counterbalanced by dynamic lines. This is a carry-over from my work in drawing and painting. I seek out interesting surface qualities in color, pattern and rhythm. With Photoshop and other image editing tools, I attempt to transform ordinary photographs into the realm of the surreal."

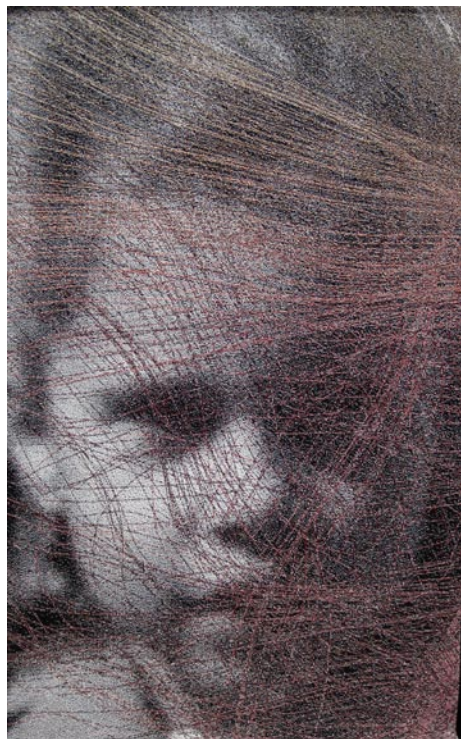
This project is supported by the NC Arts Council, a division of the Department of Cultural Resources.

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, call the Council at 828/754-2486 or visit (www.caldwellarts.com).

UNC Asheville's Center for Craft, Creativity & Design in Hendersonville, NC, Features Works by Lia Cook

UNC Asheville's Center for Craft, Creativity & Design in Hendersonville, NC, is presenting, *Bridge 11: Lia Cook*, featuring a solo exhibition by this internationally recognized fiber artist, on view through Oct. 31, 2012.

Cook is a pioneer of the modern fiber-art movement and was one of the first to utilize a digital Jacquard loom as an art tool. The exhibition includes large-scale weavings created on Jacquard looms from photographic images that have been digitized into a computerized code for the loom to read.



Work by Lia Cook

With threads acting as pixels, each work captures the distinct and compelling features of a face when viewed from a distance. As the viewer comes closer, the "pixels" of the image dissolve into pointillist fields of individual threads. The weavings present the viewer with traditional aspects of weaving, such as texture and pattern, as well as the intrinsic qualities of photographs.

The exhibition also introduces several new works from her recent art-neuroscience collaboration. Cook was inspired by her participation in TREND (Transdisciplinary Research in Emotion, Neuroscience and Development), a 2010 spring residency at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine. During that time, she collaborated with Greg Siegle, a PhD professor of

psychiatry, to record images of the brain that reflected the emotions viewers experienced as they responded to the stimuli of her woven faces. "I wanted to look deeper into understanding what a human being experiences when visually engaged in an object that has evidence of the hand," said Cook.

In these new works, Cook overlays her woven portraits with colorful lines that represent the data she collected. "One unexpected visual result involved the use of Diffusion Spectrum Imaging (DSI) in which the fibers of the brain are able to be imaged using MRI technology," said Cook. "I was struck by the similarity of these interlacing fibers to textile constructions. These images became a starting point for my latest work that combines the woven face with the fiber of the interior brain." Cook and her collaborator also found evidence that viewers had different emotional responses to woven work than they did to same-size digital photos of the same work.

"Lia Cook engaged in a scientific study to decipher the human, emotional response to objects that are traditionally made by hand," said Stephanie Moore, CCCD executive director. "We are clearly moved in a different way by objects that may be touched or held." Cook explains, "We could see different responses in the brain ... the woven image evoked a different kind and/or intensity of emotional response."

A resident of Berkeley, Cook has been a professor of Art at the California College of the Arts since 1976. She has exhibited widely across the United States and internationally. Her work can be found in many permanent collections including the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City, the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston; the Racine Art Museum and the Smithsonian American Art Museum in Washington, DC. Cook has also been the recipient of many prestigious awards and special recognitions, among them a French Fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts and a Master of the Media for Fiber from the James Renwick Alliance.

Bridge 11: Lia Cook, is a traveling exhibition, part of the biennial Bridge Exhibition Series organized by the Society for Contemporary Craft in Pittsburgh, PA.

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, call the Center at 828/890-2050 or visit (www.craftcreativitydesign.org).

Flood Gallery Fine Arts Center in Asheville, NC, Features Works by Andrew Blanchard and Julie Porterfield

Flood Gallery Fine Arts Center in Asheville, NC, will present two new exhibits including: *SouthernGoodShit*, featuring works by Andrew Blanchard, on view in the Flood Gallery, from Aug. 4 - 28, 2012, and *Outside Today: New work by Julie*

Porterfield, on view in the Pump Gallery, from Aug. 4 - 28, 2012. A reception for both exhibits will be held on Aug. 4, from 6-9pm.

SouthernGoodShit, is an all-new body of screen-prints on wood panel and paper by

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the Spartanburg, SC, based artist, Andrew Blanchard. Completed in the last year and a half, the exhibition is a rowdy presentation of the American south; gothic in all its gruff glory.

The visuals in this exhibition not only document, they narrate an homage to the sanctity of the outer-fringe, do-it-yourself, make or brake attitude that continually maintains the Southern states' soul aesthetic. At it's core, social, economical, and familial motivations also thrive throughout this body of work, creating a hopeful dialogue for the viewer to question issues such as the blurred lines between an urban, country, and rural way of Southern life, white and black flight, and the stereotypical symbols that plaque and personify the lore of the past.

Blanchard's painterly, photographic take on printmaking has allowed his work to be collected throughout the United States, as well as in Hawaii, France, Bulgaria, South Korea, and the United Kingdom. His prints have been included in over one hundred national and international juried printmaking exhibitions. Recently, several of his prints were included in Schiffer Publishing's *Printmakers Today*, as well as the 2011 *Southern Edition of New American Paintings* magazine. In 2012, he was also selected by *Oxford American* magazine as one of the New Superstars of Southern Art. Currently, Blanchard is an Associate Professor of printmaking and photography at Converse College in Spartanburg, SC.

Julie Porterfield's paintings are diverse and compelling. She creates her work based on photographs she takes while exploring the Blue Ridge Mountains. She uses a variety of materials in her work: acrylics, charcoal, wood, wire and paper. Her paintings center on the natural and she combines painterly brushstrokes with smooth ones applied in a free manner. The images are realistic, vivid and representational, real creatures in real environments.

"Using a variety of materials really helps me keep a fresh perspective," says Porterfield. The mixed media in her paintings have varying, sometimes radical surface effects and the viewers will find themselves immersed in her work.

Porterfield is a self-taught artist, who relocated to Asheville from Southwestern Pennsylvania in 2007. She maintains a studio space at Phil Mechanic Studios building in the River Arts District.

Caldwell Arts Council in Lenoir, NC, Features an Exhibit by Friends

The Caldwell Arts Council in Lenoir, NC, will present the exhibit, *FRIENDS*, featuring artwork by 15 artists, including that of internationally-known sculptor/jewelry maker Bob Ebendorf, and CCC&TI's Visual Arts Program Director Jane Harrison, on view from Aug. 31 through Sept. 28, 2012. A reception will be held on Aug. 31, from 5-7:30pm.

The Caldwell Arts Council is excited to host this outstanding collection of artists. The artwork on display will range from jewelry to printmaking, sculpture to painting. In the words of our artists: "Bob Ebendorf



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and Jane Harrison have gathered together a small group of both communal and individual friends who share the same cause - making art. Paths cross and intertwine, critique sessions are shared, information exchanged, we are taught and we teach. We search out those with whom we share common dialogue and aesthetic ideas; and these conversations, meetings, shared imagery makes a difference in who we become as artists. With this small show, we honor and acknowledge the value of the shared cause."

This project is supported by the NC Arts

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Carolina Clay Resource Directory is our attempt at *Carolina Arts* newspaper to create a focal point for info about the clay community in both North and South Carolina. We may not be everything some want, but we'll try and bring our readers the most news about what's going on, where you can find it, and info about the individuals and organizations involved in the Carolina community. Whether you call it clay, pottery, ceramics - if you don't see what should be here - just let us know about it so we can add it to the mix.

For the Carolina Clay Resource Directory go to:
www.carolinaarts.com/ccrd/carolinaclay.html

For the Carolina Clay Resource Directory Blog go to:
<http://carolinaclayresourcedirectory.wordpress.com/>