

Bender Gallery in Asheville, NC, Features Works by Peter Wright and Audrey Wilson

Bender Gallery in Asheville, NC, will present *Artifacts and Contraptions*, a two person exhibition featuring glass and mixed media sculptures by artists Peter Wright and Audrey Wilson, on view from Aug. 1 through Sept. 30, 2014. A reception will be held on Aug. 1, from 5-8pm, in conjunction with downtown Asheville's First Friday Art Walk.

Audrey Wilson is an emerging artist with a unique perspective on aesthetics and the conceptual narrative. Her multimedia sculptures are an amalgam of created and altered objects that explore the relation between man and technology.

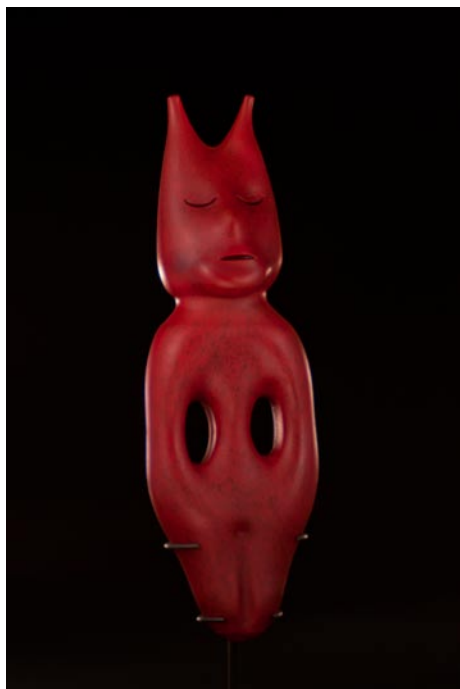
Her body of work titled "The Aberrant Collection of the Spurious Calamus" investigates the role of invention in society. As she explains, "inventions are a continuous response to something that needs to be changed, a response to the needs of life. Without a brave, creative impulse, life would become a commonplace of interest. Yet, with just one thought many deficient prototypes are produced. Without these thoughts, advances could not be possible".

The collection is one of ingenuity, focusing on the delicate yet durable hollow base of a quill, or calamus. The calamus is the strongest part of the feather which is often a symbol of bravery and wisdom. Each work is a representation of a real invention and invokes such symbolism. They illustrate a spark of human imagination combined with a form of some technological advancement, thus including the current state of the design.

Wilson states, "Technology is not the parent of human activity, rather the afterthought. It is the imagination that drives to create the content of the machine. The challenge counts insofar as man perceives it, as well as the innovation it took to create the modern product."

Peter Wright is inspired by indigenous art and utilitarian objects used by man throughout history. He takes a visceral approach to his work, creating vessels and sculpture rich in texture and color.

Wright explains, "I think of myself as a sculptor who works with hot glass. I chose glass because of the way it moves when it's hot, because of the ways it can play with light, because of the different surface



Work by Peter Wright

treatments that can be applied. My work is acid etched to remove the shine. I want the viewer's first response to be the form, not the material. Only on close viewing should they discover the piece is glass."

Wright's Mezcala sculptures are inspired by commonplace objects in pre-Columbian culture. These figures originally started out as ax heads and were presented as ceremonial gifts. The color and stone of the figure determined its importance.

The series of "Animal Spirit Jars" are a collaborative effort with artist Hib Sabin. The surfaces have a beautiful, soft matte finish and often feature dappled colors or web-like patterns that resemble cracks in ancient vessels. The lids are adorned with life-like, hand carved wood animals created by Sabin. The figures add an element of ceremonial significance to these powerful vessels.

Bender Gallery specializes in contemporary sculpture and is located on S Lexington Avenue in downtown Asheville. There is a parking garage on S. Lexington Avenue behind the Aloft hotel as well as a garage on nearby Biltmore Avenue.

For further information check our NC Commercial Gallery listings or visit (www.bendergallery.com).

Toe River Arts Council in Burnsville, NC, Features Works by Debbie Littledeer

The Toe River Arts Council in Burnsville, NC, will present an exhibition of whimsy and wonder with the illustrations of Debbie Littledeer, on view in the Burnsville TRAC Gallery, from Aug. 9 through Sept. 20, 2014, and be included in this year's Carolina Mountain Literary Festival. A reception will be held on Sept. 5, from 5-7pm.

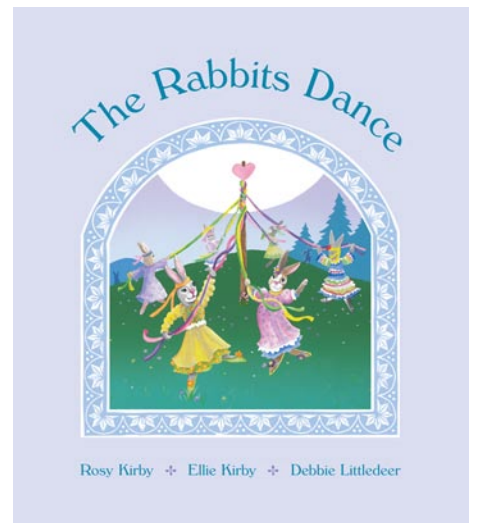
Littledeer has just illustrated her first book, "The Rabbits Dance" and will have her originals and giclees on display.

Littledeer grew up in the mountains of North Carolina, and except for two years, has lived, played, and worked somewhere in the Blue Ridge mountains. Since childhood she has had either a pencil or paintbrush in her hand. After graduating from Mars Hill College with degrees in Studio Art and Art History, she worked here and there, at various craft shops, a library, and as an arts and crafts instructor. Littledeer's screenprinting profession began in 1986 after study at Penland and John C. Campbell Schools and it continues to today.

"The Rabbits Dance" began long ago. Littledeer says, "Many years ago, my friend and fellow artist, Ellie Kirby placed one of my silkscreen prints on her seven year-old Rosy's bedroom wall. Inspired by my print, a few days later Rosy presented Ellie with her own illustrated story about rabbits getting together to dance."

Fast forward to a few years ago. Kirby invited Littledeer to collaborate on creating a children's book. "The Rabbits Dance" is based on Rosy's story, Littledeer created the 18 illustrations, and her daughter Sophia modeled for Kirby's paintings of the little girl in the story.

It's a story within a story. A motherhood metaphor that readers will cherish



Book by Debbie Littledeer

and pass down for generations of mothers and daughters to come.

On Friday, Sept. 5, from 4 to 4:45pm, join Littledeer at the Burnsville Gallery for a conversation about the process of illustrating her book. On display will be her original artwork, giclee reproductions of some of the pictures, photos, drawings, and notes. Then from 5 to 5:30pm she will autograph "The Rabbits Dance" at the Burnsville Town Center. Return with her to the gallery for a toast to her success at a reception from 5-7pm. On the following day, Littledeer will be available at the Gallery for another round of question and answers (4-4:45pm at the TRAC Gallery) and another booksigning at the Malaprops table (5-5:30pm at the Burnsville Town Center).

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, call the gallery at 828/682-7215 or visit (www.toeriverarts.org).

Millard and Company in Tryon, NC, Features Works by Vicki Van Vynckt

Millard and Company in Tryon, NC, will present *Above the Horizon*, an exhibit of 23 oil paintings, primarily of sunrises and sunsets, by Tryon artist Vicki Van Vynckt, on view from Aug. 1 through Sept. 5, 2014. A reception will be held on Aug. 1, from 5-7:30pm.

The inspiration behind this exhibition started ten years ago and 1500 miles away in Santa Fe, NM.

In 2004, Van Vynckt and her husband Jim moved there from Minnesota when Jim took a job transfer while working

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