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## Artworks Gallery in Winston-Salem, NC, Features Works by Mary Blackwell Chapman and Mona Wu

Artworks Gallery in Winston-Salem, NC, will present *Time in the Pandemic*, featuring works by Mary Blackwell Chapman, and *Leaf Dreaming*, featuring works by Mona Wu, on view from Aug. 1 -28, 2021. Receptions will be held on Aug. 6, from 7-10pm and Aug. 8, from 2-4pm.

Mary Blackwell-Chapman's current show, *Time in the Pandemic*, reflects her response to the worldwide COVID-19 Pandemic of the past year and a half in ceramic and fiber. Some artists found increased energy during this time, but some, like Blackwell-Chapman, felt an emptiness and lack of direction. She realized renewed interest and focus in family history, natural beauty, and quiet work with new forms of expression in clay and with a material new to her: fiber.

Her works in the "Homeplace" series reference personal family history and the broader, varied stories of how all of our families came to live in this country and have found, or not found, a home. Fiber is a medium particularly connected to the home, family, community, and history.

Blackwell-Chapman's ceramic work shows an interest in surface treatment and glaze/slip finish that is also new to her. These changes in style and technique reflect her reaction to the profoundly altered state of the world. The world has felt very new and different, and she responded by picking up new tools, new images, and new concerns.

Blackwell-Chapman is a sculptural artist from Forsyth County, NC. She earned a BA in English Literature from Goucher College, and an MA in Motion Picture from Northwestern University in Chicago. She has studied sculpture, both ceramics and book arts, at Penland, UNC-G, Arrowmont, Shakerag, the Calligraphy Centre, and the Sawtooth Center. Her



Work by Mary Blackwell Chapman

works are in numerous collections. She has been a member of the artists' collective, Artworks Gallery, since 1992.

Mona Wu's new show, *Leaf Dreaming*, consists principally of images printed on fabric, and then embellished with hand stitching on unused cloth napkins. Botanical imagery is the theme in most of the work, although some were produced with simple woodcut, monoprinted, then hand sewn into small wall hangings.

In addition to the wall hangings, there are twelve cocktail napkins with gel prints of single leaf outlines and overlaying leaf veins and ferns within; eight dinner napkins with more complex compositional components and various top stitches.

This series is a vast departure from  
*continued above on next column to the right*

Wu's previous work of prints on paper. Instead of paper, the artist works with fabric and thread. It is a new art form and a fresh look at familiar objects expressed in new materials, sewn entirely by hand.

A native of China, Wu immigrated to the US in 1970. She studied Chinese painting and calligraphy in Hong Kong then received her BA in Art History from Salem College in 1996. She also studied Printmaking at Wake Forest University from 1997-2014.

In 2003, Wu was selected as Sawtooth School of Visual Art Winston-Salem Artist of the year. She teaches Printmaking and Collage at Sawtooth. Wu is currently a member of Artworks Gallery.

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, call the gallery at 336-723-5890 or visit ([www. Artworks-Gallery.org](http://www.Artworks-Gallery.org)).



Work by Mona Wu

## Craven Arts Council and Gallery in New Bern, NC, Features Works by Tracey Penrod

The Craven Arts Council and Gallery in New Bern, NC, will present an exhibit of works by Tracey Penrod, on view in the Director's Gallery of the Bank of the Arts, from Aug. 1 - 31, 2021. A reception will be held on Aug. 13, from 5-8pm, during the downtown New Bern Artwalk.

Penrod is a lifelong resident of Eastern North Carolina. She lives in Wayne County where the surrounding land and its aspects, both seen and unseen, offer inspiration for many of her works of art.

Penrod's artistic pursuits in her post-secondary education began in commercial art and advertising design. Although her career took a detour into public education, Penrod returned to making art in 2012 through artistic practice, play, and workshops.

Recently retired at the end of the 2021 school year, Penrod left the classroom to once again engage her creative calling by exploring the matters of the heart through



Work by Tracey Penrod

abstract expressionism and representational art.

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, contact: Mairin Gwyn Narron by calling 252/638-2577 or visit ([www.cravenarts.org](http://www.cravenarts.org)).