



The Southern Highland Craft Guild in Asheville, NC, Features Works by Guild Members

The Southern Highland Craft Guild in Asheville, NC, is presenting *Earth's Gifts*, featuring works by Guild members, on view in the Folk Art Center's Focus Gallery, through Aug. 30, 2022.

The Focus Gallery will be filled with the work of five Guild members including: Jude Stuecker (fiber), Erica Stankwyth Bailey (jewelry), Steve Miller (wood), Rex Redd (clay), and Mary Dashiell (clay). Disciplines represented include hand-forged jewelry, raku pottery, hand-built ceramics with surface decoration, quilting, wheel-turned and sculpted wood.

The ceramic animal sculptures on display are by Mary Dashiell, Guild member since 1992. "The pieces are hand built from red earthenware clay. The surface decoration, on all but the turtles, is a combination of low fire underglazes and glaze dots and lines," state Dashiell. "I love patterns, texture, detail, contrast and color. (the turtles are decorated with a different glaze technique). They have majolica glaze, which is colors painted on the surface of the glaze and then the piece is fired and the colors melt into the glaze." Dashiell learned to make clay animal whistles from an Italian potter many years ago. "As the years went by, my animal whistles were being made bigger and bigger until finally some of them were not very workable as whistles. The bigger animals became sculptures with no whistles. I still make smaller animal whistles like the frogs."



Work by Erica Stankwyth

The raku pottery on display is the work of Rex Redd. "I do a variety of alternative firing styles, all using raku kilns. From mag-



Work by Rex Redd

nesium and silver laced glazes that leave a metallic bubbly surface, to multi-layered combinations that resemble polished stone, I am constantly experimenting with materials to find new and unique finishes for my pottery," states Redd.

"Recently, I have been working on a carbon-trap process that is a bit unconventional. In raku, a glaze firing typically achieves its final look in the last moments of the firing process; such as post fire reduction for metallic lusters, or dark "crackles" in clear glazes," says Redd. "In a saggar or pit fire, glazes are seldom used; instead relying on the raw clay to take on the flashes of color and carbon from a variety of chemicals, colorants, and materials packed around the piece as it fires. I have been combining the two processes, where part of the pot is glazed, and the unglazed portion is buried in combustible materials stuffed inside a container. When fired, the glaze begins to foam as it heats up."

"Meanwhile, the combustibles below are burning, releasing carbon, soot, ash, etc. As this material rises in the heat of the kiln, it gets trapped in the foamy glaze above. Eventually the glaze reaches maturity, levels out, and traps all the goodies it collected from below. The final product is slowly developed over the course of the firing, and very unpredictable. What I can control is shape, weight, and overall design of the pottery. This all has bearing on what finish I attempt for any given piece. Semi-controlled serendipity is the goal! As an artist, it can be very hard to give up control of your

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final product. I deal with this by loving the process, with the final results simply being the icing on the cake."

The Folk Art Center is located at Milepost 382 on the Blue Ridge Parkway in east Asheville. Headquarters to the Southern Highland Craft Guild, the Center also houses three galleries, a library, a craft shop and a Blue Ridge Parkway information desk and bookstore.

The Southern Highland Craft Guild is a non-profit, educational organization

established in 1930 to cultivate the crafts and makers of the Southern Highlands for the purpose of shared resources, education, marketing and conservation. The Southern Highland Craft Guild is an authorized concessioner of the National Park Service, Department of the Interior.

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, call the Guild at 828/298-7928 or visit (www.craftguild.org).

Southern Highland Craft Guild in Asheville, NC, Offers Wood Day - Aug. 13

The second weekend of August makers of the Southern Highland Craft Guild will convene at the organization's headquarters, the Folk Art Center, in Asheville, NC, to showcase a variety of woodworking techniques at the annual Wood Day, Saturday, Aug. 13, 2022, from 10am to 4pm. Visitors are invited to join more than 15 fine masters of wood as they demonstrate their craft. This event is free to the public and includes opportunities to get hands-on with basic woodworking techniques.

The material of wood has multiple sources, such as branches, trunks, roots and even bark, that are used in both function and decoration. Its earliest forms were generated for basic living, as a means of shelter or protection. Pieces of Egyptian furniture from around 2500 BC survive as literal examples of man's ability to create objects of beauty from wood. Being one of Appalachia's indigenous resources, trees formed items for the early settlers of this region, such as tables, chairs, bowls, coopered barrels, as well as wagons and homes. Over time, woodwork transitioned into a leisure

activity through whittling and carving.

This free event not only educates the public on the rigors and talent that goes into woodworking, but serves the mission of the Guild in preserving a longtime culture and heritage.

Admission to Wood Day and the Folk Art Center is free. The Folk Art Center is located at Milepost 382 on the Blue Ridge Parkway in east Asheville. Headquarters to the Southern Highland Craft Guild, the Center also houses three galleries, a library, a craft Shop and a Blue Ridge Parkway information desk and bookstore.

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Asheville Gallery of Art in Asheville, NC, Features Works by Robin Wethe Altman

The Asheville Gallery of Art in Asheville, NC, will present *Cherishing Mountain Moments*, featuring striking paintings of Robin Wethe Altman, on view from Aug. 1 - 31, 2022. A "Meet the Artist" reception will be held on Aug. 5, from 5-8pm.

Robin Wethe Altman was raised in a family of artists and musicians, so luckily there was plenty of support for her artistic leanings. The artist colony of Laguna

Beach, CA, is where she grew up and she participated in the town's galleries as well as the Summer Art Festivals there. Winning an art scholarship from the Festival of Arts, Altman went on to study art at Principia College in Elsah, IL. She traveled abroad with college groups to study the art of the great masters as well as to paint on location.

Presently Altman licenses her artwork to several companies that produce her work

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