

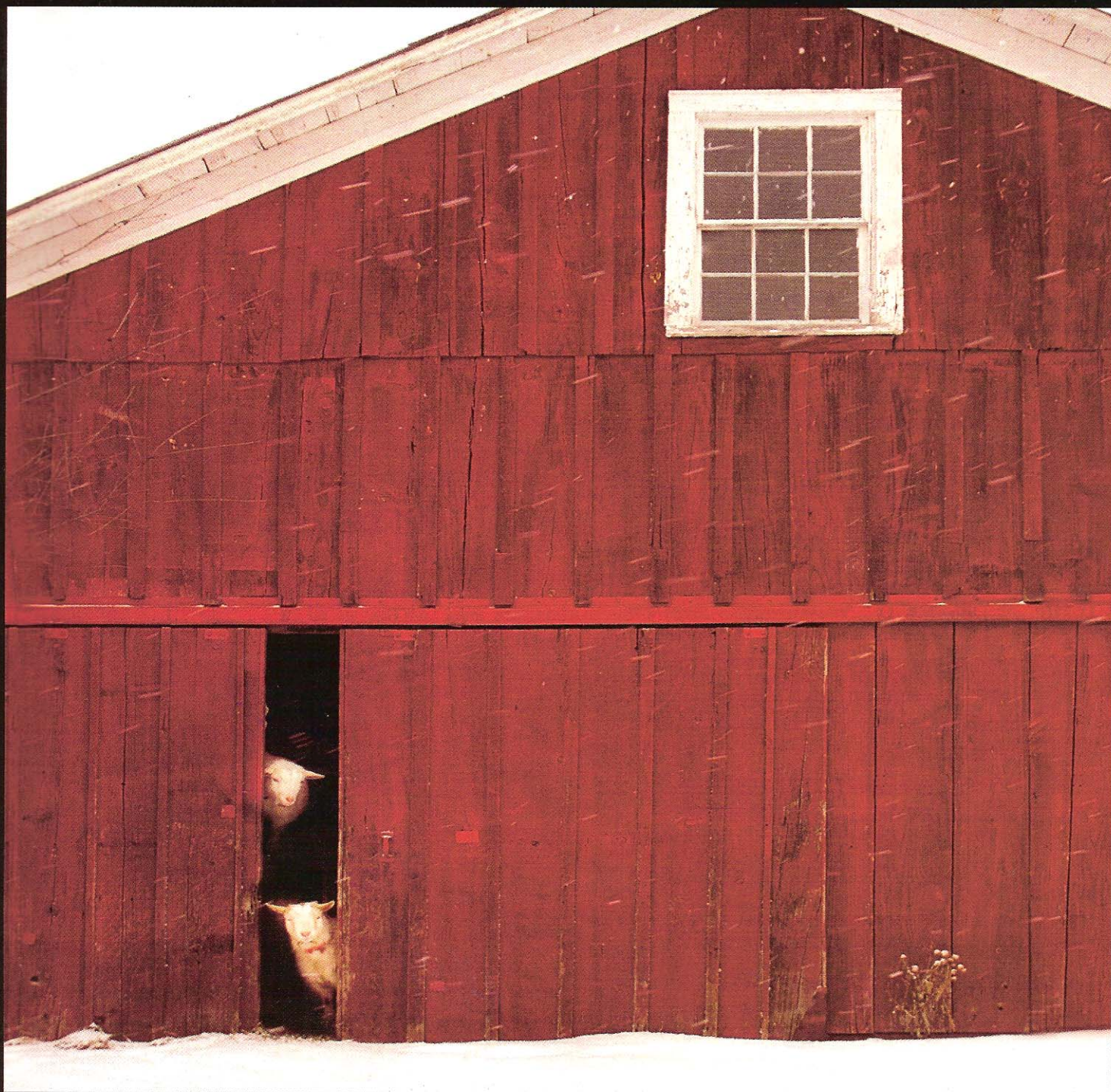
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# ASHEVILLE

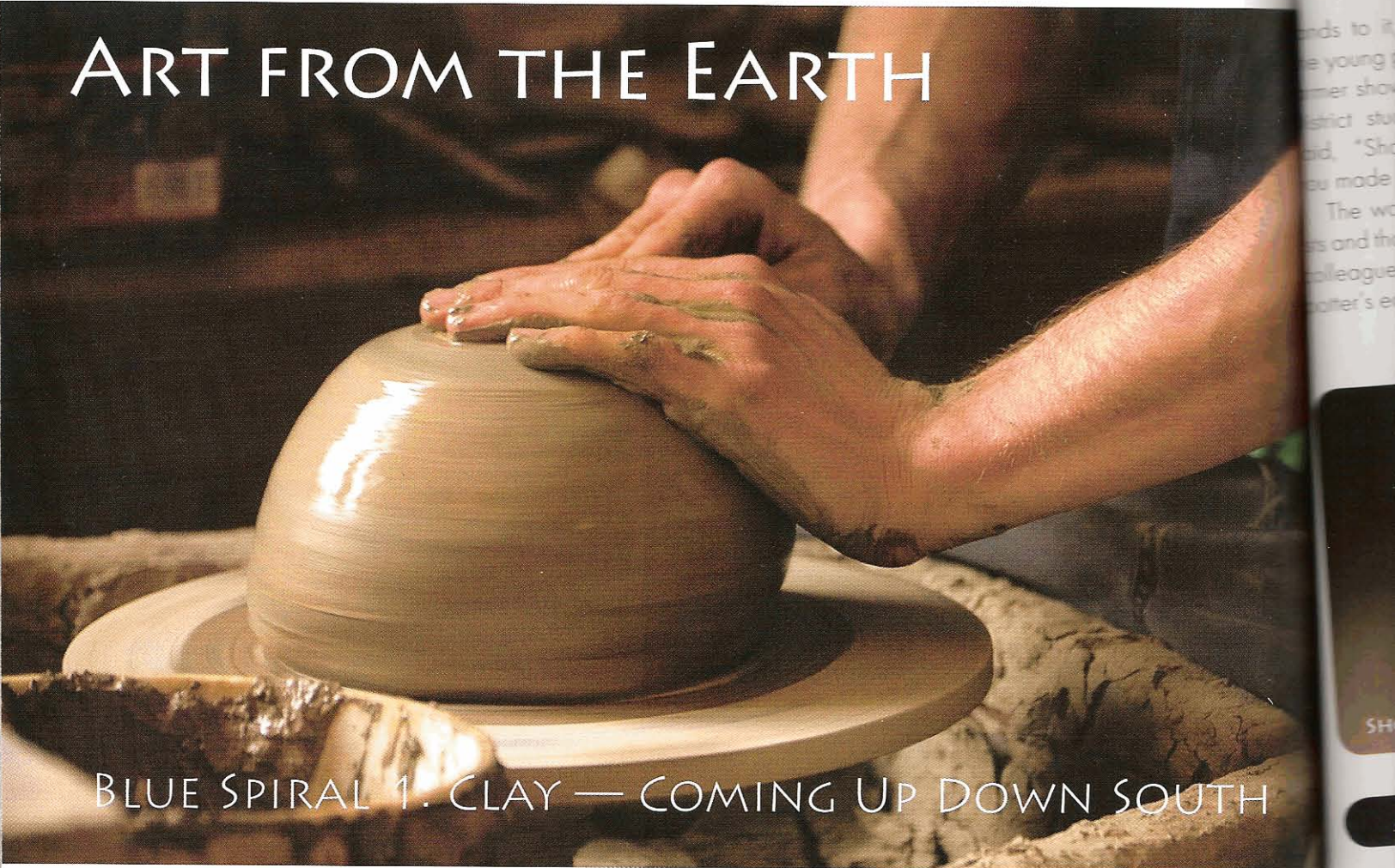
M A G A Z I N E 

YOUR GUIDE TO ASHEVILLE, BILTMORE, & THE SURROUNDING AREA





# ART FROM THE EARTH



## BLUE SPIRAL 1. CLAY — COMING UP DOWN SOUTH

Take a pile of dirt, add a little water, and throw in a large dose of creativity ranging from wisdom to whimsy, from wacky wit to wile. These are the ingredients of an extraordinary multi-artist pottery invitational show running through February 24 at the Blue Spiral 1 Fine Art Gallery. Highlighting 17 of the area's emergent talents, "Clay - Coming Up Down South" truly has something for every artistic taste.

In the exhibit, you're certain to run across what appears, at first glance only, to be groups of happy pigs. It's a mistake, however, that soon becomes obvious. Linger a few moments over Pavel Amromin's porcine pottery and obvious and then subtle, often poignant messages begin to emerge from each of his creations.

Do your interests run more toward fine earthenware artistically thrown and finished with a glaze of graciousness? Several of Shoko Teruyama's pieces in the show are lidded containers formed with

both talent and heartfelt intent. Her inspiration, she says, comes from a childhood memory of the *butsudan* (a small temple) her grandmother kept at home for her late husband. Each of the vessels Teruyama creates are opportunities for people to preserve their own special objects.

Perhaps you'd like a propeller-topped ceramic head mounted on a massive wood block? Or one with a tree growing out of the top of the skull? Molly Potter (with that name, did she really have a choice of vocations?) sculpts clay heads upon which she affixes such found objects as acorns, locks, gears, skeletons, and birds' nests, utilizing visual absurdity to make light of societal conformity and inherent contradictions.

Is functional art more your cup of tea? Kelly O'Briant's art is meant for the table. From tea sets to tumblers, from butter and cheese dishes to plates, O'Briant's pieces are as delightful to hold and use as they are to look at. Perhaps the most unique

of her works at this show are her salt and pepper pods.

Are you drawn to something that captures in clay the essence of the Appalachian forests and mountains of Western North Carolina? Potter Eric Wolfgang Knoche shapes pieces that remind us of artifacts we might discover alongside a path through the woods. His creations are at once natural, rugged, and seemingly seasoned with age.

Josh Copus, who shares studio space with Knoche, woodfires his bottles, platters, jars, and other pieces to produce colors and surfaces that reflect the area from which they came. It's no wonder. Copus mines his own clay right here in Buncombe County.

Copus says he discovered a trove of clay along the edge of a tobacco field in Leicester. When Copus tried to pay the cooperative owner for the clay he was removing, the farmer refused compensation. "It ain't worth nothin' till y'all put your