

ARTS

ASHEVILLE CITIZEN-TIMES • CITIZEN-TIMES.COM

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COLLAGE



SPECIAL TO THE CITIZEN-TIMES
Cherokee baskets at Western Carolina University.

Dream weavers, Cherokee baskets

CULLOWHEE — The Cherokee people's four major basketry traditions of river cane, white oak, honeysuckle and maple are represented in a new exhibit at Western Carolina University's Mountain Heritage Center.

Organized by guest curator Steve Lott and running through April 30, the exhibit includes baskets on loan from regional collectors. It features baskets that date from the 19th and 20th centuries. Basketmakers featured are Ramona Baith, Ollie Bigwitch, Nancy Bradley, Rowena Bradley, Nancy Conseen, Ollie Hornbuckle, Lucille Lossiah, Mary Jane Lossiah, Mollie Lossiah, Ramona Lossiah, Emily Smith, Mary Trampler, Agnes Welch, Maidena Wildcatt and Eva Wolfe.

The Mountain Heritage Center is in the H.F. Robinson Administration Building. For more info, call 227-7129 or visit www.wcu.edu/mhc.

Ushers for the new year

TRYON — "Group 07" at The Upstairs Artspace in Tryon is an invitational, "no theme" venue for 16 artists working in numerous media. Most have had long and distinguished careers, while others have had less attention. The show opens with a reception from 6 to 9 tonight and is up through Feb. 24 (with a "Walk & Talk" art tour at 2 p.m. Jan. 7).

North Carolina artists include Celia Gray (sculpture), Dustin Spagnola and Kathryn Temple (painting) and Kathryn Raleigh (collage). From South Carolina are Andrew Blanchard (printmaking), Ralph Paquin (drawing), Mana D.C. Hewitt (metalwork) and others.

Also opening at the gallery tonight is "From Here: Local Color in Black & White by Blair Martin." For more details, call 859-2828.

Monet, s'il vous plaît

RALEIGH — The N.C. Museum of Art has extended hours for the final weeks of the "Monet in Normandy" exhibit.

The museum will be open from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Thursday through Saturday and Jan. 11 and 12. On Jan. 13, it will remain open from 9 a.m. through the night until 5 p.m. Jan. 14. The museum is at 2100 Blue Ridge Road, Raleigh.

For more information, visit www.ncartmuseum.org.

Get art news? Contact Paul Clark at pclark@CITIZEN-TIMES.COM or 232-6854. Check out his blog, Big Bang, at www.CITIZEN-TIMES.COM.



SPECIAL TO THE CITIZEN-TIMES
"Head Gear," made by Molly Potter of stoneware and found objects, is among works in the exhibit "CLAY: Coming Up Down South" at Blue Spiral 1 gallery. It costs \$1,400.

Clay artists molding a bright future

Emerging ceramicists shown at Blue Spiral 1

By Paul Clark
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ASHEVILLE — David Eichelberger knows that being included in an emerging artist show at Blue Spiral 1 gallery is a big boost to his career.

An artist-in-residence at the Energy Xchange, a methane-from-trash-powered artist compound near Burnsville, Eichelberger is better established as a ceramics artist in Santa Fe, N.M., where he last lived. He hopes his inclusion in the latest Blue Spiral show will increase his profile among art collectors in the area.

"I'm really excited about being in that show," he said. "I knew about Blue Spiral when I was living in New Mexico."

"CLAY: Coming Up Down South" features functional and sculptural work by 17 rising young ceramicists whose work has never been shown at the gallery.

The show is a good chance to see some of the clay work being done in the area. It includes wood-fired pottery with a contemporary twist, sophisticated hand-built vessels and poignant figurative sculpture. The artists are early in their careers, yet were chosen because of their works' relevancy and craftsmanship.

Blue Spiral put out the call for entries about nine months ago, sending it to "just about every school in the Southeast that has a ceramics department," Jordan Ahlers, Blue Spiral's assistant director, said. Staff also told artists the gallery represents about the invitational, asking them if they knew any emerging clay artists. It also contacted Odyssey Center for the Ceramic Arts, a school of clay in Asheville's French Broad River Arts District.

Blue Spiral received slides and photos from about 80 artists. The people there swapped the photos around and came to a consensus on the 17 artists they wanted to feature.

Please see CLAY on G3

THE EXHIBIT



JOHN FLETCHER/JFLETCHER@CITIZEN-TIMES.COM
"Trojan Horse" by Molly Potter is one of the works on display in the exhibit "CLAY: Coming Up Down South" at Blue Spiral 1 gallery.

What: "CLAY: Coming Up Down South," featuring works by 17 emerging regional ceramic artists.

When: Opens Thursday and runs through Feb. 24.

Where: Blue Spiral 1, 38 Blittmore Ave.
More: 251-0202, www.bluespiral1.com



JOHN FLETCHER/JFLETCHER@CITIZEN-TIMES.COM
Jordan Ahlers at Blue Spiral 1 talks with ceramic artist Ronan Kyle Peterson about Peterson's piece "Magnolia Seed Pod Jar" as they prepare for a new show at the gallery.

CLAY: Many artists in show are local

Continued from G1

The gallery has had other significant clay shows, including a show that came down Saturday, "Style & Function: National Ceramic Invitational," a 40-artist show curated by Linda Arbuckle. "Coming Up Down South" is significantly smaller, allowing each artist more space to exhibit his abilities. Creators of functional clay will have about 20 pieces each. Those who make sculptural work will have about 10, Alhers said.

"This work gets back to our Southeastern focus," he said. "It provides an opportunity for artists new to the gallery but starting off in their careers. And it's a good opportunity for us to introduce our clientele to some of these younger artists that they may not be familiar with."

Kyle Carpenter has been a full-time potter for four years. He sells his work at American Folk Art and Framing in downtown Asheville, and every fall he curates the "Asheville in Atlanta" pottery show at MudFire Clayworks & Gallery in Atlanta, one of two ceramic galleries in that city. Carpenter has been featured in an article in Clay Times magazine, and earlier that same year, his solo exhibit was highlighted by Ceramics Monthly magazine.

Emerging artist shows are important "because they're fresh," he said. "The work is usually innovative. I know a couple of people in that show, and one, Josh Copus in particular, he's got the energy and professionalism like I've never seen in such a young artist. He just graduated

from UNC Asheville and had his senior exit show. You can just tell that he's going to make it."

One of the reasons this show is so important is that opportunities to show aren't as good for clay artists, according to MudFire owner Erik Haagensen.

"Just the sheer weight of history is behind painting and sculpture, and the modern studio pottery movement is only 50, 70 years old," he said. "Pottery may have been a catalyst for human civilization. But I don't think it has been accorded the respect as a valid art medium in the fine art community until recently."

Western North Carolina is rich with clay artists because of the quality of clay that comes out of the Catawba Valley and surrounds. Some potters, such as Matt Jones in Leicester, dig their own clay. Their connection to the Earth is often reflected in the work they create.

Many of the artists in the Blue Spiral show are from Western North Carolina, including Copus (Asheville), Eichelberger (Burnsville), Eric Wolfgang Knoche (Asheville), Emily Reason (Burnsville), Joy Tanner (Asheville), Shoko Teruyama (Penland) and Jerilyn Virden (Bakersville).

FINE ARTS THEATRE

THE QUEEN (PG-13)
1:00 4:00 7:00

THE HISTORY BOYS (R)
1:20 4:20 7:20

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