

# Toe River Arts in Spruce Pine, NC

continued from Page 25

Since 1976, the Toe River Arts has been working to connect the arts and the community. The Council is dedicated to enhancing the lives of the people who live in this region through arts-related experiences and education. We are proud of our work in the schools, with the artists, for our residents and for those who may just be passing through. Studies show that we learn through hands-on enterprises, whether in school or out, 8 or 80. Toe River Arts creates realities out of those possibilities.

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



Work by Paul and Kim Fuelling

## Pink Dog Creative Gallery in Asheville, NC, Features Works by Juan Benavides

Pink Dog Creative Gallery in Asheville, NC, is presenting *Machinations: Oil on Wood Paintings* by Juan Benavides, on view through Oct. 7, 2018.

Juan Bateman Benavides was born and raised in Bogota, Colombia. He graduated from East Carolina University with a BFA concentrating in painting and drawing. He also has spent over 30 years as a musician pursuing a career as a Flamenco/latin style guitarist. After graduating from ECU, Benavides was signed by Sony records and had the opportunity to tour the country. This led him to pursue music as opposed to his art. Through that journey, he explored his culture and roots in music, which led to studying Flamenco guitar in Spain with Flamenco guitarist master Gerardo Nunez.

Benavides has been a composer and leader of multiple bands, including De Madera, Cabo Verde, Fuego de Alma and currently the Juan Benavides group, playing original compositions with a variety of musicians in the mountains of Asheville, NC. He has released 6 albums, 1 of which sold internationally. His music has been featured in the Cannes Film festival winning *Im, Anywhere USA* and on multiple Putumayo collections. One of his compositions was featured on Grammy award winning jazz saxophonist Marion Meadows album. After

years of music as his focus, Benavides is being pulled to return to painting full time and sharing his art.

Benavides offered the following Artist Statement: "My inspiration comes from my life in Colombia, my experiences as a musician, my travels, as well as my esoteric and mystic interests. Magic realism is one of the many genres of expression which I use to create metaphysical maps of my spiritual journey. In my new series of paintings I have created derelict machines as a metaphor for my mind's assumptions of life experiences, observing the death of old systems of thought and the transformation and awareness of letting go of that which does not serve me. In the painting *Sisyphian Journey* for example, I depict a tattered old machine that at one point probably could fly, but it's chained to a cliff with no hope of escaping. As with Sisyphus and his rock, the mundane task of rolling a rock uphill to watch it roll back down again endlessly speaks to my own life experience as it refers to art, but unlike Sisyphus that is condemned to repeat his fate eternally, I'm giving myself a chance to observe this process and enjoy the voyage."

For further information check our NC Commercial Gallery listings or visit ([www.pinkdog-creative.com](http://www.pinkdog-creative.com)).

## American Folk Art in Asheville, NC, Features Exhibit Focused on Bowls

American Folk Art in Asheville, NC, will present *Bowls, Bowls, Bowls*, featuring works by five local potters, on view from Oct. 5 - 24, 2018. A reception will be held on Oct. 5, from 5-8pm.

From the humblest bowl that fits perfectly in your hand, to one that you proudly use every Thanksgiving, our bowls don't just hold food, they hold memories. In October, American Folk Art will be presenting a plethora of functional pottery bowls by five of our distinguished regional potters, all presenting their own very personal design aesthetics. The focus will be on the beautiful possibility of form and multiple functions of a bowl. "Because our potters work with regionally sourced stoneware clays, these forms are hardy, and can be used for baking or on an entryway table for holding keys and other trinkets as well," says gallery director, Morgan Ford.



Work by Shawn Ireland

Using their clay as canvas, Rosa & Winton Eugene are known for painting delicate scenes of their rural South Carolina surroundings and memories on their pottery and bowl forms, creating heirloom quality



Work by Kim Ellington

yet utilitarian pieces collected throughout the country. Shawn Ireland, a resident of our North Carolina Mountains, where he uses local resources to create his unique clays. His pottery incorporates a distinct rustic yet modern take blended animal and figurative forms of old Etruscan pottery he encountered while living for a spell in Italy. Ireland is a wonderful cook and often thinks of a perfect serving piece while setting his table; then retires to his studio to create it.

We will also have selections by Caroline Cercone, Kim Ellington & Naomi Dalglish and Michael Hunt.

As we head into the fall season, when baking and gathering around the table has such appeal, American Folk Art invites you to be inspired to set a beautiful table using pottery which will add to the enjoyment of every meal.

For more info check our NC Commercial Gallery listings, call the gallery at 828/281-2134 or visit ([www.amerifolk.com](http://www.amerifolk.com)).



THERE'S A FINE LINE BETWEEN PRICELESS AND WORTHLESS.



Artist Diane Falkenhagen's Texas studio — destroyed by flooding during Hurricane Ike, 2008

What would you do if you lost your work, your tools, your images, and a lot more to a flood? Metalsmith Diane Falkenhagen knows what five feet of contaminated saltwater can do to a jewelry studio. CERF+ can help you learn how to protect your career from crossing that fine line.

**Cerf+**  
THE ARTISTS'  
SAFETY NET

[CraftEmergency.org](http://CraftEmergency.org) + [StudioProtector.org](http://StudioProtector.org)

## Asheville Gallery of Art in Asheville, NC, Features Works by Kate Thayer

Asheville Gallery of Art in Asheville, NC, will present *Textures . . . Colors*, featuring works by Kate Thayer, on view from Oct. 1 - 31, 2018. A reception will be held on Oct. 5, from 5-8pm.

The exhibit features the work of Kate Thayer, whose ethereal rendering of light in her palette-knife oil paintings illuminates the beauty of the natural world.

Thayer's layering process of applying oils with a palette knife allows the layers to build upon one another, triggering the viewer's imagination to see the passages underneath. Each painting takes several months to complete. "When I return to an unfinished painting, it becomes a different painting filled with new ideas, colors, and marks. After looking into my paintings the viewer may see the trees and rivers in a way they have not seen them before."

Thayer is recognized for the exquisite voice in her paintings. Mostly self-taught, the artist says museums and art galleries have been her education and that she is a continuing student of master painters. Thayer maintains she has always been an artist. "From intricately designed knitted clothing, to culinary artistry, to garden design, to painting with the earliest medium, pastel, and now with oils, they all had the same aim: to create sensory and spiritual experiences that are personal, provocative, and life-enriching."

The artist lives and works in Flat Rock, NC. Her work has won numerous awards as well as gracing the spaces of avid collectors. "This show is about the spirit and



Work by Kate Thayer

vitality of nature, expressed in its many palettes for each season. It's about sharing the wonder of what nature says to me to bring to life what adds to life. An artist once said, 'Beauty cannot be explained . . . only experienced.'"

Thayer's work, as well as the paintings of the other 30 gallery members, will be on display and for sale through the month of October.

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listing, call the gallery at 828/251-5796, visit ([www.ashevillegallery-of-art.com](http://www.ashevillegallery-of-art.com)), or go to the gallery Facebook page.

The deadline each month to submit articles, photos and ads is the 24th of the month prior to the next issue. This will be Sept. 24th for the October 2018 issue and Oct. 24th for the November issue.

After that, it's too late unless your exhibit runs into the next month. But don't wait for the last minute - send your info now.

And where do you send that info?  
E-mail to ([info@carolinaarts.com](mailto:info@carolinaarts.com)).