

Caldwell Arts Council in Lenoir, NC

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western NC. Trees and Fields, and Abstracts featuring line, shape, color and form. These endeavors are executed in acrylic on canvas in various sizes. I do not work from photos exclusively but with onsite sketches for the Barn and Outbuilding series. I do work from sketches and imagination for the other two themes."

Atkin earned a BFA degree with honors in painting from Eastern Kentucky University in 1981, and an MFA in drawing and painting from Western Carolina University in 1988. His work has earned many awards over the years in all categories and is continually collected by many patrons.

Steve West, of Lenoir, NC, says, "After 60 years of living and working in Florida, I moved to Lenoir to enjoy the change of seasons and the mountains, with my wife, Donna. I earned my BA (1970) and MA (1973) Degrees in Art Education, along with Certification in Educational Leadership (1983) from the University of South Florida in Tampa. For most of my career, I taught art at Middle and High School levels."

"I have skills in drawing, painting, ceramics, printmaking, calligraphy and photography," added West. "I served as the District Art Specialist for Volusia County Schools (Daytona Beach Area). This involved working with 100 art teachers on art curriculum development, equipment needs, art events and working with principals. After moving to Lenoir, I taught Art classes at South Caldwell High School as well as Studio Art and Art Appreciation classes at Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute."

West has won numerous awards for his art (primarily photography), both in Florida and North Carolina, and has produced



Work by Andrew Atkins

several YouTube tutorials, one of which has over 316,000 views! Currently, West is the moderator/administrator of a group site on Facebook, called "Old Photography Friends."

West continues, "My photographic goal is to produce extraordinary imagery from ordinary subject matter. Typically my subjects are varied, including landscapes, macro images and composites. For the purposes of this exhibit, my focus will be on old eclectic subjects, as buildings, machinery and vehicles. I have a nostalgic connection to aged artifacts. They remind me of pleasant memories from my childhood. I am drawn to the interesting textures of aging wood or the rust pattern on an old vehicle. I love the challenge of photographing an antique and then turning it into a work of art. I believe in using the photo editing tools at my disposal, including: Photoshop, Light Room, Topaz Studio, etc. to enhance my photos."

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, call the Council at 828/754-2486 or e-mail to (office@caldwellarts.com).

Western Carolina University in Cullowhee, NC, Features Works by Jefferson Pinder

Western Carolina University in Cullowhee, NC, is presenting *Jefferson Pinder: Selections from the Inertia Cycle*, 2003-2014, a new exhibition of video performances on view at the WCU Fine Art Museum, at Bardo Arts Center, through Oct. 22, 2021.

An interdisciplinary artist based in Chicago, Pinder focuses on themes of labor and endurance in his video art practice with metaphoric references to African American identity, history, and experience. Curated by Julie Levin Caro, Professor of Art History and Faculty Director of Craft Studies at Warren Wilson College, the exhibition brings together five video performances from Pinder's *Inertia Cycle* series. This series examines complex issues of race, ethnicity, and class through Pinder's grueling physical performances. The videos are set to engaging sound scores drawn from African, folk, and hip-hop music.

Pinder's portrayal of the black body at work, under distress, and moving through pain and exhaustion constitutes an act of resistance and social commentary. As Pinder states, "I portray the black body both frenetically and through drudgery in order to convey relevant cultural experiences." Pinder approaches his subject matter with a sense of lyricism and sometimes with humor. In the five videos on view—*Marathon*, *Mule*, *Lazarus*, *Ben Hur*, and *Thoroughbred*—Pinder immerses the viewer in scenes of physical conditioning to prompt an emotional response.

Pinder has produced highly praised



Jefferson Pinder, "Mule", 2006, 8mm film transferred to digital video, 2:35

performance-based and multidisciplinary work for over a decade. His work has been featured in numerous group shows including exhibitions at The Studio Museum in Harlem, The High Museum, Tate Modern in London, the 2016 *Shanghai Biennale*, and the Smithsonian Museum of African American History. He was awarded a United States Artist's Joyce Fellowship Award in the field of performance in 2016 and was selected as the John S. Guggenheim Fellow in 2017. Pinder received a BA in Theatre and MFA in Mixed Media from the University of Maryland and studied at the Asolo Theatre Conservatory in Sarasota, FL. Currently, he is a Professor in the Contemporary Practices department at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago.

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, call the Museum at 828/227-ARTS or visit (arts.wcu.edu/jeffersonpinder).

Western Carolina University in Cullowhee, NC, Offers Multimedia Event - Oct. 14 & 15, 2021

Western Carolina University in Cullowhee, NC, will present *Seeing Sound: A Musical Journey of Water and Light*, at the Bardo Arts Center (BAC) Performance

Hall, on Oct. 14 & 15, 2021. Tickets go on sale October 1 at 10am.

This unique immersive experience offers

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an answer to the question: if we could see sound, what would we see? *Seeing Sound* is an original BAC production that synthesizes live music across genres into light. Each note creates its own color that will be registered by an LED that first shines its light into water, allowing the rippling reflections of color to project into the space.

Seeing Sound is a collaboration across the different departments in Belcher College, along with members of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI), who are coming together to celebrate the miracle of water as interpreted through music and light. We are pulling technical resources from the WCU School of Stage and Screen, artists from the WCU School of Art and Design, and musicians/composers from the WCU School of Music.



View from "Seeing Sound"

Creating the magic, from the School Stage and Screen, we have Sound Engineer and wizard, Zay Jarrett, a senior student in the School's Entertainment, Design and Technology program. He receives the sound from the instruments on stage then refines them and redistributes the signal to be sent to the lighting board. At the lighting control



View from "Seeing Sound"

board, Professor Leo Lei receives the audio signal and then brilliantly translates the specific notes to specific colors determined by the synesthetic composer, Alexander Scriabin, who was a synesthetic composer.

Synesthesia is a condition in which individuals often experience stimulation in multiple senses when an experience is meant to only stimulate one. For example, often individuals say they can "see music as colors" when they hear it. This idea sparked an incredible process that led to *Seeing Sound: A Musical Journey of Water and Light* where all audiences will have the opportunity to truly see music transformed into color before their eyes. The production will feature a wide variety of musicians across a broad spectrum of genres, offering something for almost anyone to enjoy.

Find tickets and further information at (arts.wcu.edu/seeingsound). The BAC Box Office can be reached by calling 828/227-2479 and will reopen with ticket sales on Oct. 1 at 10am. Please note, masks are mandatory at all Western Carolina University in-person events, which include Bardo Arts Center.

Tryon International Film Festival Kicks Off with an Art Gallery Theme Party in Tryon, NC - Oct. 8, 2021

Kicking off the 2021 Tryon International Film Festival will be the ever-popular and elegant "Into The Light: A Black and White Gala" on Friday, Oct. 8, 2021, at the recently expanded Tryon Fine Arts Center in Tryon, NC. It will be an evening filled with red carpets, glitz and glamour, fine art in the making, epicurean delights, international celebrities, and, of course, movies!

"We are so psyched about this year's gala," Festival Co-Founder Beau Menetre said. "Because we were virtual last year, this year there is a pent-up longing to see and be seen. And this year's gala will be like no other here in the past. We have taken our inspiration from the movie *Into The Light*, which will be showing that night. The movie is about internationally acclaimed visual artist Chuck Connelly and his descent into self isolation and his re-emergence into society, and the work he produced along that journey. A Neo-Expressionist who employs thick paint with distressed brushstrokes, he came of age in the 1980s next to Jean-Michel Basquiat, Julian Schnabel, and Jeff Koons, but eventually pissed off too many gallery owners and stopped being shown. We will have some of his original paintings on display, as well as works of art from local artists.

"I'm also happy to announce that Chuck Connelly is scheduled to be at the Gala, which is super exciting," Menetre said. "We will show the movie about him and show his artwork, and he'll be here to meet and greet. It doesn't get any better."

Throughout the Art Center with its many rooms and galleries, the work of local artists will be on public display for the Gala. Those artists include Margaret Curtis, Gary Turpin, Vicky Van Vynct, Bob Neely, Becky Collins, Chuck Mattern, Wan Marsh, John McMahan and more. Some of the artists will be set up to paint during the Gala, giving the patrons an insight look at the creative process. In keeping with the art gallery theme, the Gala's decor will include original displays and centerpieces, such as a six-foot high glass full of colorful painter's brushes.

"Tryon is renowned for its world-class art and creativity," Menetre said. "This is a wonderful and most appropriate opportunity to capitalize on the local talent."

Guests are asked to arrive in semi-formal black and white attire. "The



Work by Wan Marsh

Gala's sponsor is Black and White Coffee Roasters out of Wake Forest, NC, and we thought of no better - and most creative - way to salute that sponsor than to pick up on its name and apply it to the event. Black suits and white evening gowns are always elegant, and most people have basic black and white party clothes."

All food for the evening will be pre-packaged and sealed, prepared by caterers in white cotton gloves. Drinks for the evening will be local craft beer from Upcountry Brewing and local fine wines.

The party will start at 5pm, with guests mingling with drinks in hand and catered food, listening to live music in the background. At 7pm comedian Alex Scott will open the formal presentation with a short comedy skit. He will then introduce Menetre and Co-Founder Kirk Golwitzer for the official welcome. The stage will then make way for the screening of *Into The Light*, followed by questions-and-answers with Connelly and the audience. Afterward the guests are welcome to continue enjoying themselves in the building and outside in the star-lit McMillian Gardens set against the Blue Ridge Mountains autumn backdrop.

Scott, a personal friend of Menetre, will be the evening's emcee. "I've known Alex for several years and was thrilled when he accepted my invitation to host our Gala," Menetre said. "I guarantee he will keep you laughing until it hurts."

Scott is known for the quick wit he brings to the stage. His ability to come up with jokes off the top of his head and connect with the crowd keeps him winning open mic competitions. The first time Scott ever touched the mic, he won second place in the DC Comedian of the Year contest.

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