

American Folk Art in Asheville

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beautiful solace provided by the yard.

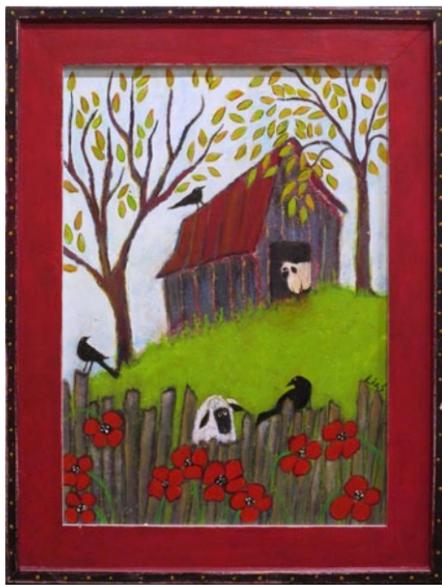
For Ellen Langford, the concept of home drives the narrative of her work, which focuses on the relationships between the land and its inhabitants. Ellen captures the small yet mighty moments of connection that happen every day: a bounding dog and its human companion, a child playing in the rain, a figure looking out over a rich landscape. Tucked somewhere within each painting, you can usually find that which binds all these moments together, the homestead.



Work by Jack Klippel

Homescapes & the Story of the Backyard celebrates the quiet moments of reflection spent surveying the land surrounding one's home and watching the wildlife as they go about their own process of finding shelter and comfort for the coming winter. Beautiful wood-fired pottery from Shawn Ireland will elevate warm gatherings of friends & family and everyday domestic rituals alike as the world begins to slow down and embrace the offered by the home.

Woodworker Jack Klippel has been among American Folk's artists for the last several years. What began as a retirement



Work by Liz Sullivan

hobby for Klippel soon turned into much more and released a creativity within him that he never knew he had. No stranger to reinventing himself, Klippel was more than willing to try his hand at a brand new collection of work for this special show: the songbirds and river fish of our great landscape.

"The results really speak for themselves. They are fabulous... Full of personality & whimsy, but still with an aged quality to them that is incredible," says American Folk's new owner Julia L. Mills. "And Jack's enthusiasm for trying something new was absolutely charming, just like the carvings he's created for this show."

For further information check our NC Commercial Gallery listings, call the gallery at 828/281-2134 or visit (www.amerifolk.com).

Bender Gallery in Asheville, NC, Features Works by Helmut Barnett

Bender Gallery in Asheville, NC, will present *Abstract Meditations*, a solo exhibition of paintings, drawings, and collage by Helmut Barnett, a popular mixed media artist from Austin, TX, on view from Oct. 1 - 23, 2022. A reception will be held on Oct. 1, from 6-9pm. Barnett will be in attendance and available for discussion.

Barnett's vast and varied body of work is complex, colorful, precisely executed and the product of an organized and clever mind. Barnett is a dedicated devotee of the early abstract artists of the 20th century which lends a distinct modern retro feel to Barnett's oeuvre.

Barnett is a consummate abstractionist with a soft spot for surrealism. His colorful works are original and intelligent with frequent nods to Kandinsky, Malevich, Mondrian and Miro. Occasionally Barnett will sneak in recognizable figures in his compositions, provoking further questions in the viewer's mind. A common theme of Barnett's work is the multi-faced connection with life which is delightfully evident in his amazing collages. Barnett's work is modern, approachable, and encourages interaction with the viewer. They are as interesting as they are beautiful.

The works in *Abstract Meditations* range from offbeat small drawings to collages and mixed media, to monumental acrylic paintings. Barnett states, "As an American Abstract Artist, I work in many contemporary media and images. Geometric and organic forms in oil and acrylic on large canvases, mixed media drawings on paper using acrylic, oil, solvent transfer and collage".

Born in Stuttgart, Germany in 1946,

Mark Bettis Gallery in Asheville, NC, Offers Works by Balsam Abo Zour

Mark Bettis Gallery in Asheville, NC, will present *Imperfect Beauty*, featuring works by Balsam Abo Zour, on view from Oct. 20 - 31, 2022. A reception will be held on Oct. 20, from 5-7pm.

Balsam is a Lebanese artist living in



Work by Helmut Barnett

Barnett moved to Abilene, TX, with his family in 1957. After finishing high school in Chicago, Barnett served four years in the US Air Force and then earned his Bachelor of Fine Arts at the University of Texas in 1974. He lives in Austin with his wife and works out of a 100-year-old studio in the heart of downtown. A dedicated and disciplined artist, he often works 50 hours a week, including weekends, and still finds time to swim laps every day.

Bender Gallery is a contemporary fine art gallery in downtown Asheville, NC, and Asheville's first international art gallery. They specialize in figurative and abstract work by regional, national, and international painters and sculptors.

For further information check our NC Commercial Gallery listings, call the gallery at 828/505-8341 or e-mail to (Info@bender-gallery.com).

Asheville, well-known lately for her charming and unconventional ceramic sculptures. Before that, Balsam created magical surrealist paintings which were more political and designed, she says, to "scratch your

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LIBBY SHAMFER (DETAIL)

upstairs [artspace]

SINGULAR IMPRESSIONS

Eleanor Baugnies
Phil Garrett
Hague Williams

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Barbara Fisher
Libby Skamfer

A POTTERY DISCOVERY

Work by Estell Osten

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upstairsartspace.org

Hours: Tues – Sat
noon – 5pm

brain."

For this show, Balsam has explored the world of contemporary rural landscape paintings - some inspired by Western North Carolina barns and the landscapes around them. Balsam's unique "take" on this subject is to mix her imagination with reality.

Barns are commonplace in rural America, but Balsam first encountered them while shepherding goats on her family's farm in Lebanon. "When I see an old farm, I feel nostalgia for what I used to have," she says.

During her time in Bozeman, MT, Balsam was inspired by "the sky, the land. There's lots of barns there. The first barn I painted in my life was there. I watched deer in the snow laying down and eating the grass around it. When I came to Asheville, the colors of the sky reminded me of Bozeman. It's beautiful."

When it comes to barns, Balsam states, "I understand that kind of building. The smell,



Work by Balsam Abo Zour

the landscapes, the birds, the animals ... It's beautiful for me."

For further information check our NC Commercial Gallery listings, call the gallery at 941/587-9502 or visit (markbettisgallery.com).

Western Carolina University in Cullowhee, NC, Offers Glass Works From Its Collection

Western Carolina University in Cullowhee, NC, is presenting *Cultivating Collections: Glass*, an exhibition highlighting the WCU Fine Art Museum's ever-growing collection, on view in the Western Carolina University Fine Art Museum at Bardo Arts Center, through Dec. 9, 2022. A reception will be held on Oct. 13, from 5-7pm.

In this exhibition, student researchers worked closely with the Museum's curator to gather information about the glass works in the permanent collection and to determine future collecting directions. The works on view convey the stories of bold innovators and speak to the importance of Western North Carolina in the history of glass.

The *Cultivating Collections* series began in 2019 with WCU students enrolled in Exhibition Practicum, an annual course designed to familiarize students with the intricacies of museum spaces. Students developed an exhibition from start to finish by interviewing artists, selecting works for dis-



David Nichols, "Yellow Platter", glass, 15 x 15 x 2.25 inches. Gift of David and Laura Bragman. Photo by Tina Thames.

play, and writing labels about the Museum's objects. Each year their curatorial work focuses on a new area of the collection, which includes over 1,800 works in a wide range of media by artists of the Americas. Input from students brings a fresh perspective to the Museum's holdings and unlocks the potential for the Museum to create a more

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