

# Toe River Arts Council - Burnsville

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sponding large clay sculptures on pedestals that anchor the room coupled with a balancing smaller series on the other side give you that opportunity of becoming part of the whole.

“My work is evolutionary. It represents my personal transition to freedom from the stifling existence of the female role in my family of origin,” says Webb. “The work reflects my journey from a childhood of fear- and shamed-based religious fundamentalism to the freedom of my own hard-won spirituality. The exhibit reflects my belief that one cannot find inner peace as the result of influences from others and that it cannot be genuine if it comes from someone else’s belief system.”

“*Conversions* expresses both the subject matter and the working modes involved in creating my sculptures...from drawings, both traditional and digital, to the ceramic pieces, and vice-versa,” adds Webb.

The arts council is a not-for profit organization founded in 1976 to connect arts and the community through programs and opportunities which enrich the individual, educate our youth, engage the residents, and contribute to building a thriving Mitchell-Yancey County region.

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

## Toe River Arts Council in Spruce Pine, NC, Offers Annual Studio Tour Exhibit

It’s only the very beginning of the holiday season in the mountains, but already leaves have turned brilliant and fallen, holiday get-togethers are being planned and the *Toe River Arts Studio Tour Participant Exhibition* is about to begin - Nov. 18 through Dec. 30, 2017, at their Spruce Pine Gallery in Spruce Pine, NC. It may be too soon to enjoy a real nip in the air, but not too early to visit the gallery and see work from all the artists on this year’s Holiday Tour (Dec. 1-3). A reception will be held at the gallery on Dec. 1, beginning at 5:30pm on the first evening of the tour.

With over 100 artists in the 58 studios submitting work, the walls and the pedestals will be filled from gallery front to back with new and exciting work. And this tour features 13 artists - new or returning after a multi-year hiatus.

The exhibit is always a highlight of the season. This year is no different with 52 clay artists, 20 glass, and eight wood workers. And hand-made bookmakers and basket weavers, guitar and flute makers, workers in pencil, pastels, and oils, and from behind the lens of a camera, photographers. Mediums run the gamut from concrete to paper mâché to polymer. Pieces are displayed geographically so one can plan a tour route or a visit to a particular studio the next day. A 44-page guide is available free and contains detailed directions and maps. And because most studios are open year-round (please call ahead), you can visit anytime. But, if you just can’t “do” the tour and can’t wait another moment, all the works on display at the Spruce Pine Gallery are for sale.

If the participant exhibition is the highlight of the season, then the opening night reception is the crown jewel. At 5:30pm



Work by Robbie Bell

on the first evening of the tour (Dec. 1), folks meander back after a day of touring to enjoy a glass of wine and some delicious appetizers provided by volunteer artist participants. They look over who they visited, who they missed, and who to visit on Saturday. The gallery is packed with visitors and artists sharing stories of their day and all the hopes for the weekend. It’s one of the biggest events of the year, and it’s all free and open to the public.

So, dates to remember. The exhibit Saturday, Nov. 18 through Dec. 30. (Gallery hours 10:30am to 5pm, Tue.–Sat.) The reception from 5:30 to 7:30pm on Friday, Dec. 1. And the Studio Tour, always the first weekend of the month - Dec. 1-3, 10am to 5pm all three days.

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## Asheville Art Museum On The Slope in Asheville Offers Gifts from Peter Norton

The Asheville Art Museum On The Slope in Asheville, NC, is presenting an exhibit of Peter Norton Gifts, on view through Jan. 21, 2018.

Every year since 1988, technology entrepreneur and art collector Peter Norton commissions an artist to create an original work of art that is then produced in multiples and sent to friends and select art institutions. The Asheville Art Museum is honored to be an annual recipient of the Norton Family Christmas Project since 1993 and is excited to present a selection of these gifts in a new exhibition titled *Unwrapped: Gifts from the Peter Norton Family Christmas Project*.

Committed to helping promote and launch the careers of his favorite artists, Norton often selects individuals who are up-and-coming in the art world, making the project an opportunity to introduce new talent to a community of curators. Though small in scale so they can fit in the mail, works by artists such as Sanford Biggers, Vik Muniz and Kara Walker confront big issues of racism and class disparity. The experience of these works promotes understanding and connects viewers with artists from across the globe.

The Asheville Art Museum On The Slope is the Museum’s temporarily location.

For further info check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, call the Museum at 828/253-



Takashi Murakami, Peter Norton Family Christmas Project, 2000, plastic and audio disc, 10 x 6.25 x 4.88 inches. Gift of the Peter Norton Family

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## Artworks Gallery in Winston-Salem, NC, Features Works by James Gemma and Mona Wu

Artworks Gallery in Winston-Salem, NC, is presenting *James Gemma: Mona Wu, Random Art - Chance Encounters in Monoprinting*, on view through Nov. 25, 2017. Receptions will be held on Nov. 3, from 7-10pm and Nov. 5, from 2-4pm.

James Gemma is exhibiting original abstract prints on paper, exploring complex and exciting relationships among shapes and color (and sometimes absence of color), and strongly utilizing geometric and other dynamic visual forms.

After completing advanced graduate degrees, Gemma pursued careers as university professor and later, consumer research professional. In addition, he studied art and printmaking at Salem College, and participated in numerous workshops including at Penland and The Huntington Museum of Art. He also served as Marketing Chair of Associated Artists of Winston-Salem, and in that role, initiated bringing internationally known artists to Winston to lead workshops and to give public lectures in coordination with Reynolda House Museum of American Art.



Work by Mona Wu

ing. The result is: Random Art.

A native of China, Wu studied Chinese painting and calligraphy in Hong Kong. She immigrated to the United States in 1971. In 1996 she received her BA in Art History from Salem College. She has also studied Printmaking at Wake Forest University from 1996-2013.

Wu was selected as Winston-Salem Artist-of-the-Year in 2003. In the same year she joined Artworks Gallery. Wu currently teaches Printmaking, Collage, and Chinese Art at Sawtooth School of Visual Art.

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, call the gallery at 336/723-5890 or visit ([www.Artworks-Gallery.org](http://www.Artworks-Gallery.org)).



Work by James Gemma

Mona Wu presents a series of monoprints with images focused on botanical matters. However the carefree approach to making random prints is the intended goal. Using cutout acetate shapes and randomly selected old carved wood boards, Wu makes these prints relying on her intuition for placement, ink application, layering of papers, etc. This fresh approach exemplifies the unpredictable nature of Printmak-