

Pink Dog Gallery in Asheville, NC, Features Works by Ben Knight

Pink Dog Gallery in Asheville, NC, will present *From the Artist's Lab*, featuring works by Ben Knight, from Apr. 9 through May 8, 2022. A reception will be held on Apr. 9, from 6-8pm.

Ben Knight, a Chicago native, has transitioned well to the country, small town living of Eastern North Carolina. As co-founder of the acclaimed restaurant Chef & the Farmer and a Producer & co-star of the Emmy & Peabody award winning PBS series *A Chef's Life*, he has established himself as a leader in small town investment and job creation while maintaining a thriving career in the arts.

Knight's career in the arts took him to NYC in 2002 from Chicago to study with Larry Poons at the Art Student's League of New York. Knight also studied at the Art Institute of Chicago and Cooper Union. Over 20 years of art production has helped Knight become part of collections across the country.

Knight currently resides in Deep Run, NC. He is an active member of the community, a board member of the NC Rural Center and the Boys & Girls Club of the Coastal Plains, a coach and father of 10 year old twins.

The study of color is a discipline, not unlike physics, or literature or mathematics. Color and its impact on our emotional, cognitive, and physical states as human beings is the cornerstone of human experience. Color is both the beginning and end of our entire being, our first introduction to the world and our last memory. It is not merely a part of our 5 senses, but what defines our initial emotional reaction to life itself.

Knight's most recent work explores the nature of our emotional responses to



Work by Ben Knight

primary colors. This basic and elemental relationship provides the foundation for human interpretation of much of our sensory experience in life. The process of layering thick applications of paint, or the physical manifestation of color, reflects the natural passing of time through the artist's journey of creating work. The use of primary colors is intended to awaken our buried memories and emotions related to our earliest experiences in life. Together, time and color intersect on the canvas creating a powerful and emotional connection to the work.

For further information check our NC Commercial Gallery listings or visit (www.pinkdog-creative.com).

Mark Bettis Studio & Gallery in Asheville, NC, Features Works by Nabil El Jaouhari

The Mark Bettis Studio & Gallery in Asheville, NC, will present *NAR* an exhibition of mixed media collage works by Nabil El Jaouhari, on view from Apr. 9 - 23, 2022. A reception will be held on Apr. 9, from 5:30-7:30pm

NAR, is the Arabic word for fire, chosen because of fire's capacity to destroy and create. Jaouhari's interest in personal identity and its construction, deconstruction, and ultimate reconstruction is at the center of the collection. The works of *NAR* are collages comprised of cuttings from the artist's older paintings in combination with wood burning and painting. Jaouhari's personal experience with the Lebanese Civil War, his immigration, and identity have found a striking medium in these collages.

All the works on display will be offered for sale. The reception will give guests the opportunity to meet and talk with the artist about his creative processes, learn what shapes and fuels his work, and ask questions. Refreshments and light hors d'oeuvres will be served.

The Mark Bettis Studio & Gallery is



Work by Nabil El Jaouhari

located on Roberts Street in Asheville's River Arts District.

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

22 London in Asheville, NC, Features Works From Private Collection

22 London in Asheville, NC, will present *Mirror Mirror*, an exhibition of contemporary art from the Collection of Hedy Fischer and Randy Shull, on view from Apr. 2 through May 28, 2022. Receptions will be held on Apr. 28 & 29, from 5-9pm.

Self-portraits have been made since we first glimpsed our reflections in water, but it was not until the mid-fifteenth century when the mirror was made from more reflective silvered glass, that artists can be frequently identified depicting themselves as either the primary subject or as an important character in their painting. They were the one model always readily available.

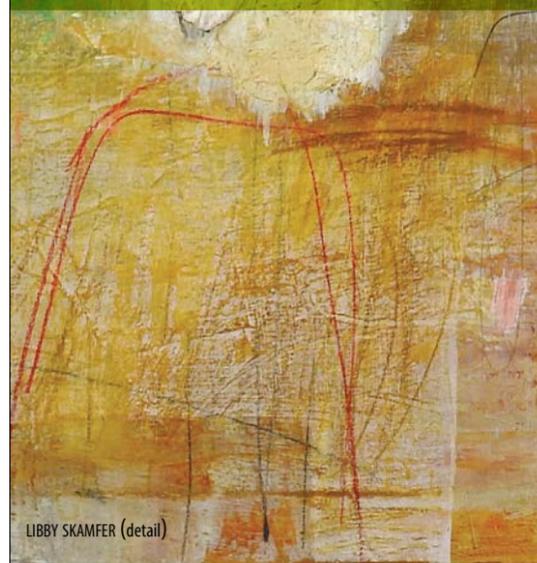
The twenty-four artists in *Mirror Mirror* assert themselves into their work in a variety of ways. Abraham Cruzvillegas, in *Blind* self-portrait listening to the Beatles while scratching a notched stick so to invoke the universal magic of the power of destruction, presents himself in the accumulated detritus from his daily life, turned into a massive painting that, each time it is installed, takes on the space in a new way.

Trenton Doyle Hancock's *Torpedo Boy Steps and Screws Wearing Some Cutty Black Shoes*, sees himself as a superhero football star who tackles good and evil in his epically detailed painting.

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WHERE ART AND INNOVATION MEET



LIBBY SKAMFER (detail)

We're worth the wait!

Upstairs Artspace reopens June 2022 following a flood & major reconstruction.

Expect exciting new shows & programs to help celebrate a wonderful gallery's 45th anniversary!

upstairs
[artspace]

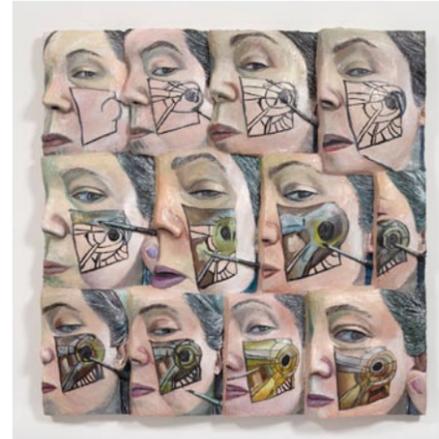
Upstairs Artspace
49 S. Trade Street
Tryon NC
828.859.2828

upstairsartspace.org

Aaron Fowler uses mirrors in *Blue*, his full-size depiction of himself, which refers to Barkley Hendricks' self-portrait, *Brilliantly Endowed*. By using mirrors as both the background and the self-portrait, Fowler pulls the viewer into the work, creating a new "painting" in each reflected view. Margaret Curtis renders her anxiety during one of the world's most challenging times, in her obsessive painting, *Portrait of My Anxiety* (Wallpaper).

As we continue to navigate this devastating pandemic, we have all been altered in both small and large ways. We were forced to stay at home, if possible, and learned to work from home, go to school from home and "see" our friends and family from a computer screen while remaining at home. This forced pause in our normal lives caused a great deal of self-searching among many of us. We have reevaluated ourselves, reestablished our priorities and realigned our goals. In short, we have done a lot of personal reflecting and inward gazing. What do we truly want from my life? With this new self-seeking, what can we learn from how artists have portrayed themselves and is there relevance to be found in their self-seeking for our own?

Mirror Mirror follows the successful *High Anxiety*, an exhibition at 22 London in 2020 which examined our unstable times through a multiplicity of artistic positions and voices. *High Anxiety* brought new perspectives to bear on themes such as identity, forced migration, politics, technology, pandemics and corporate culture. 2018's exhibition *SAY IT LOUD* illustrated the struggles and achievements of African Americans and challenged dominant historical perspectives with powerful work that is visceral



Gina Beavers, Painting Lee Bontecou's "Untitled 1967" On My Cheek", 2020, Acrylic and foam on linen on panel, 72 x 72 x 7 inches, Collection of Randy Shull and Hedy Fischer

and squarely focused on narratives of ethnic identity, institutional racism, gender and beauty through contemporary art. *SAY IT LOUD* traveled to Denison University Museum in Ohio.

In 2017 *¡Viva!*, examined important contemporary issues in Latin America through sculpture, painting, photography and video and traveled to the Projective Eye Gallery at the University of North Carolina, Charlotte, NC. The successful international video exhibit, *Love, Devotion and Surrender* in May, 2016 organized by Randy Shull & David Raymond and curated by David Brown included work from prominent contemporary video artists including Bill Viola and Tony Oursler.

For further information check our NC Commercial Gallery listings, email Randy Shull, at (randy@22london.org) or Hedy Fischer, at (hedy@22london.org).

Bender Gallery in Asheville, NC, Offers Works by Linda Gritta and Moni Hill

Bender Gallery in Asheville, NC, will present *Place and Presence*, a two-person exhibition featuring new works by Asheville artists Linda Gritta and Moni Hill,

on view from Apr. 2 - 30, 2022. A reception will be held on Apr. 2, from 6-9pm.

Gritta and Hill are abstract painters with *continued on Page 26*