

# Groveswood Gallery in Asheville, NC

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old-world setting and rich craft heritage. This site once housed the weaving and woodworking operations of Biltmore Industries, an Arts and Crafts enterprise that played a significant role in the Appalachian Craft Revival during the early 20th century.

Today, Groveswood Gallery offers two expansive floors of finely crafted furniture, ceramics, jewelry and more, contrib-

uted by over 400 artists and craftspeople from across the United States. The gallery also boasts an outdoor sculpture garden and presents rotating exhibitions throughout the year. Free parking is available on-site.

For further information check our NC Commercial Gallery listings, call the gallery at 828/253-7651, or visit ([www.groveswood.com](http://www.groveswood.com)).

## Woolworth Walk in Asheville, NC, Features Works by Cathy Nichols and Sylvia McCollum

Woolworth Walk in Asheville, NC, will present an exhibit of works by Cathy Nichols and Sylvia McCollum, on view in the FW Gallery, from May 1 - 31, 2018. A reception will be held on May 4, from 5-7pm.

Nichols is a full-time encaustic artist, oracle card & stencil designer and the author of *Storytelling Art Studio: Visual Expressions of Character, Mood and Theme in Mixed Media* as well as the 'star' of the Storytelling Art Collection of DVDs. For many years, you may have also seen her paintings on Sherpani's Modern Vintage line of Elements handbags.

In 2014, Nichols moved to Asheville from New York on a quest to survive and thrive as an artist and mom. Yet, her commitment to the artistic life began several years earlier when she pinned up Ghandi's quote, "Be the change that you wish to see in the world" next to a 4x4 foot canvas and tore up her applications to law school. She had tried many "legitimate" professions - scholar, teacher, PR professional - before staring down that blank canvas in her living room. Yet she was still the same girl in the back of math class staring out the window daydreaming. So, she gave herself a blank canvas and permission to fill it up with what she really wanted to see. Since then, her paintings have become a place for her to restore the sense of wonder, love and freedom, she remembered from childhood. They are a place to daydream, and a space left open for magic.



Work by Cathy Nichols

Nichols likes to use all kinds of "non-regulation" stuff in her paintings such as fire-tempting beeswax cooked on a hotplate, torn paper, melted oil sticks and song lyrics. Growing up, her grandmother called her "Sunshine Girl," and maybe this is why she can never resist sprinkling in a few rhinestones at the last minute. Plus, let's face it, glitter is fun. Her paintings are little packages of joy shipped out from her to you.

Sylvia McCollum's jewelry designs express universal themes of strength, hope, joy, boldness and humor by incorporating timeless symbols within the shapes, textures, accents and stones to evoke and



Work by Sylvia McCollum

compliment the passions of the wearer. Many of her designs incorporate circles. As a two-time breast cancer survivor, she uses circles in her designs to symbolize life, endless hope, and courage. After her first diagnosis in 2009, she developed Circles of Hope. In 2015 when she was diagnosed again, she developed Circles of Hope and Hearts of Love. McCollum's latest collection is called Circles of Hope and Faces of Courage. This collection uses carved buffalo bone as faces paired with various stones, which are chosen because of the metaphysical properties the stones possess.

McCollum uses a variety of processes, stones, textures and patinas to get the perfect design for that special treasure for the wearer. All her work is created in her studio in the Asheville area. It is completely fabricated by her with minor assistance from her two Shi Tzu girls, Luci Moon and Zoey. They provide comedy, emotional support, and inspiration. McCollum uses a variety of silver and gold to transform her thoughts into wearable art. She also uses a variety of stones, textures and patinas to obtain just the design for that special treasure.

McCollum has learned the skills of design and metalsmithing from classes that she has taken all over the United States. Her stones come from many wonderful stone cutters, most purchased when she makes her yearly buying trip to the International Gem and Mineral Show in Tucson, AZ. She loves the process of creating a vision of a special piece of wearable art with a unique meaning, then using her skills as a silversmith to create the piece from the raw elements. In doing so it is her hope that the owner will draw from the piece all the joy, meaning and passion she put into creating it.

For further information check our NC Commercial Gallery listings or call the gallery at 828/254-9234.



"Jigsaw" by Catherine Thornton

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## Sunset River Marketplace in Calabash, NC, Offers Works by Anne Cunningham and Ann Parks McCray

Sunset River Marketplace, the eclectic art gallery, in Calabash, NC, will present *Anne & Ann: Abstracting Nature in Metal and Oils*, a dynamic two-woman exhibition of works by Anne Cunningham and Ann Parks McCray, on view from May 4 - June 16, 2018. A reception will be held on May 4, from 5-7pm.

According to an artists' statement about the works, Anne Cunningham and Ann Parks McCray often unknowingly mirror each other's art. It's only after a studio visit or glimpse of a Facebook photo that they realize they've done it again. These two beach girls are called by the ocean and revel in being surrounded by light. They capture this appreciation in their art, McCray in highly textured oils on canvas and Cunningham through metal dyes and acids on metal. "Abstraction" might be their shared middle name as both artists extract the energy of an experience, location, or feeling more than represent its reality.

Sharing thoughts and being inspired by each other's vision, these two kindred spirits often visit each other's studios for art-filled conversations and observations. Both love texture and discovering new ways to create unusual surfaces. Establishing layer upon layer in their art, Ann and Anne enjoy exposing what is underneath, the hidden aspects of their creativity, to express nuanced light and mystery. Both of these artists work quickly and intuitively, trusting the process while recognizing the incalculable joy and privilege of living through art.

Since 1990, Cunningham has been on an exciting exploration using metals such as copper, brass, and aluminum to create free-form wall sculptures. She says, "Every day is an experiment - discovering new ways to texturize and shape the metals, layering with papers, weaving cut



Work by Anne Cunningham

strips, applying inks, dyes, chemicals and paints."

With no constricting boundaries, her work continues to change and evolve. Cunningham's work is represented by distinguished galleries around the country and in private and corporate collections such as S.A.S. Institute, Duke Medical Center, Bank of Birmingham, Marriott International, and United Health Care, Salt Lake City. Cunningham's work has been voted Best of North Carolina Artists, First Place in Mixed Media.

According to oil painter Ann Parks McCray, marrying beauty with function to harmonize space is one of her personal goals. She believes one's visual experience is psychologically and emotionally significant to a positive life experience and that art inspires and comforts, heals and rejuvenates—that the human heart rests in beauty. Convinced art is meant to work as well as please, her art hangs in healing spaces in Texas, Ohio, North Carolina, and Montana.

McCray explains her work stylistically as "Post-Impressionist with a modern twist," similar in feel to works appearing "after Monet and before Kandinsky." These two artists are primary influences as are Vincent Van Gogh, Paul Cezanne,

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The deadline each month to submit articles, photos and ads is the 24th of the month prior to the next issue. This will be May 24th for the June 2018 issue and June 24th for the July 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)).