



## Asheville Gallery of Art in Asheville, NC, Offers Works by Cheryl Keefer

The Asheville Gallery of Art in Asheville, NC, will present *Recent Works*, by Cheryl Keefer, on view from July 1 - 31, 2013. A reception will be held on July 5, from 5-8pm.

The exhibition features oil paintings with vivid colors of reflected light in wet pavement, contrasted by rainy-day grays.

Inspired by the southern genre of her heritage and her old friends, Rembrandt, Sargent and Monet, Keefer paints on location/from life. "Painting simply verifies my God-given co-existence with man and nature."

The daughter of a legacy of Alabama teachers, preachers and farmers, Keefer became mindful of the joy of simple pleasures. Her appreciation for the land and its beauty has been reflected in her art since the age of 13, leading her to study art formally. She received a degree in Art Education from Jacksonville State University, a Masters in Art History from the University of Alabama, Birmingham, and graduate painting from Virginia Commonwealth University. Her work has garnered



Work by Cheryl Keefer

many awards and she is a teacher of plein air painting in both watercolor and oil.

Keefer is a member of the Western North Carolina Plein Air Painters, and the Portrait Society of America. She is often found painting in the streams, on the parkway, and by the mountain lakes of the region that is her home.

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, call the gallery at 828/251-5796 or visit ([www.ashevillegallery-of-art.com](http://www.ashevillegallery-of-art.com)).

## The NC Arboretum in Asheville, NC, Features Works by Matt Jones

The North Carolina Arboretum in Asheville, NC, is presenting *Twenty-first Century Clay: The Pottery Art of Matt Jones*, featuring works by Matt Jones of Jones Pottery in Leicester, NC, on view in the Baker Exhibit Center through Sept. 22, 2013.

Pottery as a craft and art form was traditionally associated with its function in the preparation and storage of food, but in most cultures a secondary decorative language was built alongside the function. In our area, decorative pottery began to supplant the utilitarian wares in the mid twentieth century. These decorative wares were made mostly to delight the senses of the growing middle class who could afford industrially produced and preserved food."

Decorative pots are for display, though some function as vases when there are fresh flowers available. A third type of pottery has emerged in North Carolina that Matt Jones calls "contemplative" pottery. As we have looked at pottery in



Works by Matt Jones

museum contexts and created collections throughout the state, we have become comfortable looking at pots as art objects, and potters have sought to make contemporary pots that can stand as such.

Jones grew up in Charleston, SC, and didn't discover pottery until his third year of college. After graduating with honors in art from Earlham College, Jones went on to apprentice with Todd Piker in Cornwall Bridge, CT, and Mark Hewitt in Pittsboro,

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NC. After three years of apprenticeship, he and his wife moved to Leicester's Big Sandy Mush valley in 1998, where he built the workshop and kilns

Jones' work has been recognized throughout the state as bridging traditional and contemporary styles, and he is frequently asked to lecture and exhibit pots in a variety of venues.

The central mission of The North Carolina Arboretum, an affiliate institution of the 17-campus University of North Carolina system, is to cultivate connections between people and plants.

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, call 828/665-2492 or visit ([www.ncarboretum.org](http://www.ncarboretum.org)).

Check more out on our website at ([www.carolinaarts.com](http://www.carolinaarts.com)).

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