



## Crafts Fair of Southern Highlands

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years to come, and this year they can do the same at ([www.craftguild.org/craftfair](http://www.craftguild.org/craftfair)).

Cultivating the crafts and makers of the Southern Highlands for the purpose of shared resources, education, marketing, and conservation. The Southern Highland Craft Guild, chartered in 1930, is one of the strongest craft organizations in the country today. The Guild currently represents nearly 800 craftspeople who reside in 293 counties of 9 southeastern states. During the Great Depression, the Guild cultivated commerce for craftspeople in the Appalachian region. This legacy continues today as the Guild plays a large role in the Southern Highlands craft economy through the operation of four craft shops and two annual craft expositions. Educational programming is another fundamental element of the organization, fulfilled through integrated educational craft demonstrations at retail outlets and expos, free educational community events,



Works from Audrey Laine Collection

and an extensive public library located at its headquarters at the Folk Art Center on the Blue Ridge Parkway.

For further information visit ([www.craftguild.org/craftfair](http://www.craftguild.org/craftfair)).

## Southern Highland Craft Guild in Asheville, NC, Presents Annual Haywood Student Show

The Southern Highland Craft Guild in Asheville, NC, is presenting 14 Haywood Community College students in the *Haywood Graduate Show 2021*, on view in the Folk Art Center's Main Gallery, through Aug. 22, 2021.

The show continues the historical relationship between the Southern Highland Craft Guild and Haywood, an educational center of the Guild.

One of the most anticipated shows of the year, the class of 2021 represents works of wood, metal, clay, and fiber. This new generation of craft is led by instructors Amy Putansu in fiber, Brian Wurst in wood, Emily Reason in clay, and Robert Blanton in metals & jewelry.

The main gallery of the Folk Art Center is adorned with hanging tapestries, pierced and soldered jewelry, clay dinnerware, woven textiles and apparel, and wooden furniture--soon to be heirlooms for one's home. Students of the Haywood program come from all over, with or without prior experience of craft, and sometimes pursuing it as a second or third career. The course



Work by Ariella Szemkus

of study is challenging, combining craft concentrations with supplemental classes in design, drawing, craft history, business, marketing and photography.

Haywood Community College and the Southern Highland Craft Guild share a history that documents the role of craft education in preserving traditional culture,

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creating economic opportunity and fostering professional practice. All of the artists represent the vitality and creativity of craft practice today, which is the ultimate purpose of both institutions.

Many Haywood graduates have become individual members of the Southern Highland Craft Guild and have served the Guild in various capacities. Instructor Brian Wurst of the Professional Crafts Wood program says, "Our students benefit so much from the opportunities that the Guild offers its education partners, and we in turn are thrilled when they grow into active participants themselves and continue that tradition of giving back. The *Graduate Show* spotlights the program's best work, and it's a delight to see it so well displayed and in such a beautiful venue as the Folk Art Center."

Haywood Community College is located in Clyde, NC, just west of Asheville. The college's Professional Crafts Program began in recognition of the region's strong craft heritage. It was envisioned that students would learn the basics of craft media and how to transform that craft into a business. The clay studio was the first to open in 1974. With the addition of jewelry, wood and fiber studios, a comprehensive curriculum was in place by 1977.

The Haywood Community College Professional Crafts Program, *Graduate Show, Class of 2021* is a free exhibit at the Folk Art Center on the Blue Ridge Parkway



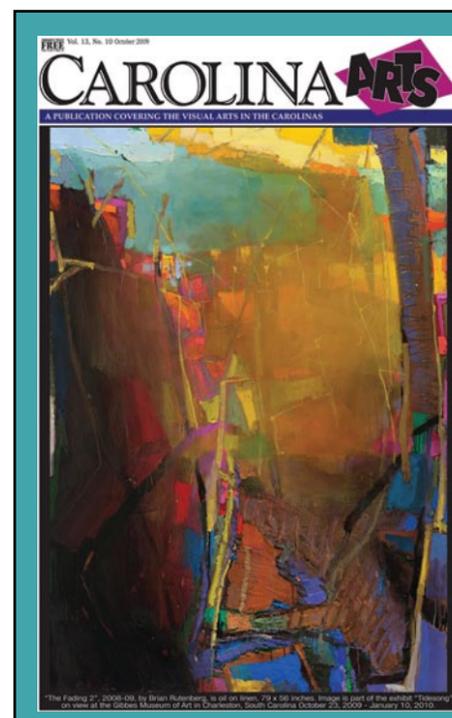
Work by Wiley Cotton

in East Asheville.

The Southern Highland Craft Guild is a non-profit, educational organization established in 1930 to cultivate the crafts and makers of the Southern Highlands for the purpose of shared resources, education, marketing and conservation. The Southern Highland Craft Guild is an authorized concessioner of the National Park Service, Department of the Interior. The Folk Art Center is located at Milepost 382 of the Blue Ridge Parkway, just north of the Highway 70 entrance in east Asheville, NC.

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, call the Guild at 828/298-7928 or visit ([www.craftguild.org](http://www.craftguild.org)).

You can contact us by calling 843/693-1306 or by e-mail at - [info@carolinaarts.com](mailto:info@carolinaarts.com) but do it before the 24th of the month prior to our next issue.



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