



Southern Highlands Craft Guild

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for basic living, as a means of shelter or protection. Pieces of Egyptian furniture from around 2500 BC survive as literal examples of man's ability to create objects of beauty from wood. Being one of Appalachia's indigenous resources, trees formed items for the early settlers of this region, such as tables, chairs, bowls, coopered barrels, as well as wagons and homes. Over time, woodworking transitioned into a leisure activity through whittling and carving.

This free event not only educates the public on the rigors and talent that goes into woodworking, but serves the mission of the Guild in preserving a longtime culture and heritage.

The Folk Art Center is located at Milepost 382 on the Blue Ridge Parkway in east Asheville. Headquarters to the Southern Highland Craft Guild, the Center also houses three galleries, a library, a craft Shop and a Blue Ridge Parkway information desk and bookstore.

The Southern Highland Craft Guild is a non-profit, educational organization



WNC carvers at Wood Day 2022

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 info check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, call the Guild at 828/298-7928 or visit (www.craftguild.org).

American Folk Art in Asheville, NC, Features Works by Kent Ambler and Doug Frati

The American Folk Art in Asheville, NC, will present *Against the Grain: Kent Ambler & Doug Frati*, on view from Aug. 7 - 28, 2024. A reception will be held on Aug. 9, from 5-8pm.

As the old adage goes, you ought to write what you know. For Doug Frati and Kent Ambler, the thought-process behind the artwork they create is much the same and the two men have quite a bit in common besides their chosen substrate of wood. Both have built truly beautiful lives for themselves, in which they pursue their artistic passions surrounded by lush forests full of wildlife and draw inspiration from the natural scenes around them. "Against the Grain" celebrates the ever-popular work of these two kindred spirits: the striking wood carvings of Doug Frati and the richly layered woodblock prints of Kent Ambler.

Maine native Doug Frati resides on his family homestead in a rural town on the banks of the Sebasticook River. When



Work by Kent Ambler

he returned to the then long-abandoned farm in his adulthood, Frati set to work restoring the place, giving it new life and connecting with his family's past in the process. The barn that used to house livestock became his studio, imparting

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some of its soul to each of his creations. His current work is a direct reflection of where and how he lives. Many of his carvings are made of old wood salvaged from antique objects, broken and lost to barns and attics. One of his neighbors even operates a small sawmill, supplying Frati with custom lumber from time to time.

On 12 acres just outside of Greenville, SC, our resident woodblock printer Kent Ambler finds inspiration in the woods and wildlife that surround his home, but also in his beloved animals, his lovely wife, and their beautiful yard. From the time he was a boy, Ambler has spent his spare time on artistic pursuits, and there was never any question what he would end up doing with his life. In college, he was introduced to printmaking and discovered an innate feel for the art. Carving a separate block for each of his ink colors, Ambler's lush woodblock prints are built by one layer of color at a time. Once he is finished printing his numbered series, Ambler will cut up his woodblocks and create abstract assemblages with the pieces.

Featuring woodblock prints, relief



Work by Doug Frati

carvings, carved headboards and chests, and abstract woodblock assemblages, join us in the gallery to celebrate two kindred spirits of our folk art family: Doug Frati and Kent Ambler!

For further information check our NC Commercial Gallery listings, call the gallery at 828/281-2134 or visit (www.amerifolk.com).

Pink Dog Creative in Asheville, NC, Offers Works by Anatolii Tarasiuk

Pink Dog Creative in Asheville, NC, will present *Embrace the Journey*, featuring works by Ukrainian artist, Anatolii Tarasiuk, on view in the Pink Dog Gallery, from Aug. 23 through Sept. 22, 2024. A reception will be held on Aug. 23, from 5-8pm.



Work by Anatolii Tarasiuk

Anatolii Tarasiuk is an abstract artist, composer and videographer born in Ukraine in 1978. When he was 11 years of age, he became a pantomime actor in a professional theater. He started to paint when he was 15 years old and is a self-taught artist. In July of 2022, his family (wife and 3 sons) relocated from Kiev, Ukraine, to the USA. Today he lives and continues his art in the triangle area of North Carolina.

Tarasiuk's art style is abstract expres-



Work by Anatolii Tarasiuk

sionism with lots of color. He likes to use a palette knife because it draws more on spontaneity and pushes him beyond all that is known. He never has a plan or image in mind for the work when he starts. He lets whatever comes out flow, without judgment, and keeps creating until it is the heart and not the mind that finally tells him that a piece is done. His biggest inspiration is the vision of his art giving feelings of joy and hope to each viewer.

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