



Blue Spiral 1 Gallery

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to life, enhancing color, form and imagery. While Lonas etches his shimmering stylized trees, feathers, nests, waterfalls and animals from aluminum panels coated in matte black, Bernstein carves and polishes colorful, translucent cast glass to unveil abstract sculptures inspired by the natural world.

Bernstein received his BA degree from the University of North Carolina and his MFA degree from Rochester Institute of Technology (NY). He has been the head of the glass department at the Worcester Center for Crafts (MA) and taught at the Cleveland Institute of Art (OH), Rochester Institute of Technology (NY), the studio at the Corning Museum of Glass (NY), Penland School of Crafts (NC) and Pilchuck Glass School (WA). His work is in collections throughout the U.S. and abroad. Bernstein currently works from his studio in Western North Carolina.

A Tennessee native, Lonas studied art history at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville, and was for many years a respected portrait painter before transitioning to his current style. His work has been widely exhibited and is featured in notable

private, public, institutional, and corporate collections, among them a series of large-scale commissions for Nordstrom department stores. Lonas currently works from his studio in Asheville.

On view in the Upper Level Gallery, from Sept. 2 through Oct. 26, 2022, is the exhibit, *Asheville Oblique*.

Ken Carder presents kinetic wood sculptures paired with abstract paintings of Asheville, painted by Tennessee artist Steve Ward. This collaboration began with Steve creating interpretive paintings of Carder's digitally altered screengrabs of Asheville locations. In response to the absence of figures in these urban paintings, Carder constructed kinetic wooden sculptures out of dying ash trees that threatened to fall on his studio. Through improvised abstraction, both artists demonstrate abstract works that invite the viewer to observe the architecture and natural resources of our vibrant city through a lens askew.

For further information check our NC Commercial Gallery listings, call the gallery at 828/251-0202 or visit (www.bluespiral1.com).

physically demanding, and optical glass is expensive. However, these elements are all necessary to create Oaks' unique visions.

Oaks transcends his peers in the glass world in that he creates standout sculptural art that is not only beautiful, but filled with contemporary themes, pop culture references, and strong emotions of conflict and discord. Oaks also has a unique approach to color which is added at the end of the process. Oaks explains that the finished form

dictates his choice of color which he applies with restraint to strategic planes of the finished sculpture. The results are breathtaking works full of emotion and relevant to contemporary culture. The work is fresh, original, and unlikely to be replicated by other artists.

Born and raised in the suburbs of Minneapolis, Oaks took an interest in the arts at an early age. He started playing music

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Bender Gallery in Asheville, NC, Features Works by Karsten Oaks

Bender Gallery, Contemporary Fine Art & Sculpture in Asheville, NC, will present *A Clear Choice*, featuring works by Karsten Oaks, on view from Sept. 3 - 25, 2022. A reception will be held on Sept. 3, from 6-9pm.

Bender Gallery is excited to present *A Clear Choice*, a solo exhibition of stunning abstract sculptures by internationally recognized master glass artist Karsten Oaks. Using specialized optical glass, Oaks creates sculptures that bend light and color via their unique forms. Reminiscent of graffiti marks, his forms are instantly recognizable and are made with meticulous perfection. When viewing, a discernible object often appears from a momentary perspective creating a vision that allows the viewer to connect on a more personal level with the piece. This mystery inspires a deeply personal relationship between viewer and object and sets Oaks' work apart from that of his contemporaries.

It is no secret that Oaks is a highly skilled craftsman and an expert "coldworker" – someone that works with glass in a solid



Work by Karsten Oaks

(cold) state, using special tools to carve, sculpt and polish in order to finish a piece, as a form of adornment on a glass object, or to create solid sculpture in a reductive manner (picture Michelangelo chipping away at a huge block of marble to "expose" the Pietà). The process is labor intensive,

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