

# Bender Gallery in Asheville, NC

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when he was 10 years old and went on to play a variety of instruments. As the son of a trained chef, Oaks grew up learning an appreciation of working with his hands in a creative way and enjoys cooking to this day. When he was 16, a friend introduced Oaks to glassblowing as an art form, and he traveled to Tennessee to take his first classes. This sparked the beginning of Oaks' love of glass as his chosen medium to express his artistic vision.

Oaks received his BFA from The Appalachian School of Craft at Tennessee Technical University. He lives and works in Seattle, WA where he does freelance work for some of the most respected glass masters in the world as well as creates his own amazing singular sculpture.

For further information check our NC Commercial Gallery listings, call the gallery at 828/505-8341 or visit ([www.bendergallery.com](http://www.bendergallery.com)).

# Mark Bettis Gallery in Asheville, NC, Features Works by David Sheldon

The Mark Bettis Gallery in downtown Asheville, NC, will present *Conscious Contact*, a solo show of new painting and sculpture by David Sheldon, on view from Sept. 2 - 10, 2022. A reception will be held on Sept. 2, from 5:30-8pm.

Located in downtown Asheville at 15 Broadway Street, the gallery will serve refreshments and light hors d'oeuvres. David Sheldon will be present to meet and talk with guests about the new pieces he produced for the show. All the works on display will be offered for sale.



Work by David Sheldon

Sheldon will be showing vibrant landscape paintings, done with his usual impasto approach, along with new figurative works based on paintings he loves from art history. "I am attempting to not only pay homage to the originals, but to find my own place and identity in that relationship — to confront and release the mythos," Sheldon explained.

Rounding out the show will be a selection of his dynamic sculptural pieces. "I love the idea of channeling hidden, cosmic forces, at play in the universe around us,



Work by David Sheldon

into concrete form and expression," says Sheldon. "To work in three dimensions consciously is an enthralling experience, akin to creating 'spatial music.'"

About the show's theme, Sheldon says, "I desire to be in the moment, in real time and space with the painted object. So, 'conscious contact' means being present, in real time, with the artwork.

Mark Bettis Gallery's second location is at 123 Roberts Street in the River Arts District.

For further information check our NC Commercial Gallery listings, call the gallery at 941/587-9502 or visit ([markbettisgallery.com](http://markbettisgallery.com)).

# Pink Dog Gallery in Asheville, NC, Offers Works by Bevelyn Afor Ukah

Pink Dog Gallery in Asheville, NC, will present *Our Ecology, Shifting Our Gaze Inward*, featuring works by Bevelyn Afor Ukah, on view from Sept. 30 through Oct. 30, 2022. A reception will be held on Oct. 22, beginning at 7pm, with an Artist Talk at 8pm.

"However we choose to describe our bodies, there is a constant - we are here together on this magical planet. This exhibit is a journey to find myself present in my own body with all of the complex stories floating around about who is worthy, who is beautiful, who is valuable, and who is not. This body of work has helped me to ground in the fact that I am a profound miracle, as we all are," says Ukah.



Work by Bevelyn Afor Ukah

"Fat and black phobia continue to stew in our society, while black women's bodies are constantly berated and violated by a dominant, yet elusive gaze. While this gaze is exploitative in nature, it can feel like a betrayal to internalize these stories."

"I prompted myself to literally look into



Work by Bevelyn Afor Ukah

the mirror to fight through all of the negative stories that were floating around in my head. What helped was acknowledging the countless people, thoughts, beliefs and actions that had to exist for me to experience a breath of liberation, which is my creative practice. I have been particularly inspired by stories and parables from my African American and Nigerian ancestry and by Black women who have blazed beautiful pathways of expression, while reminding me that I do not need permission to be who I am," adds Ukah.

"Reflections on Saartjie Baartman's life have also inspired many works in this exhibit. Though little is written about who she was (as opposed to the trauma she experienced), I honor her for the lessons she has taught me through these reflections."

"My goal in this exhibit is to practice flipping violent narratives and acknowledging the magic that lives within our ecological selves," says Ukah. "In my belief, with

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38th Annual

# Asheville Quilt Show

September 30 - October 2, 2022

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