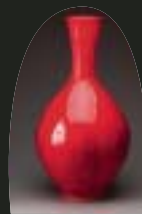


A Celebration Of



NORTH CAROLINA CRAFTS

A year-long recognition of artisans, schools and exhibitions

BY KAREN HOUSE

MOUNTAINS

Asheville Art Museum

Located in downtown Asheville, the museum has a permanent collection of 20th and 21st century American contemporary local craft, as well as heritage pieces and special exhibitions exploring the craft tradition.

Through June 20: "Thinking With Blood: Conflict and Culture in the New South," contemporary work by 12 Southern artists examines themes of what it is to be considered Southern.

Asheville Art Museum
(828) 253-3227
www.ashevilleart.org

John C. Campbell Folk School

(See photo, right) Observing its 80th birthday during the statewide celebration, the school provides weekend and week-long classes in crafts, from making banjos to learning about medicinal herbs. The 300-acre campus includes a history center, where 20th-century Appalachia is on display, and a craft shop that features the juried work of over 300 artists.

May 30-June 5: "Appalachian Heritage Week," featuring traditional mountain crafts, music and folk ways.

John C. Campbell Folk School
Brasstown, east of Murphy
(828) 837-2775
www.folkschool.org

From colorful blown glass and rich textiles

to intricate decoy carving and artful baskets, North Carolina is known around the world for its high-quality crafts. The "Celebration of North Carolina Crafts," as proclaimed by Gov. Michael F. Easley, showcases galleries, museums, art centers, schools, shops and individual artisans through a variety of events and exhibitions in 2004-2005.

The driving force behind the celebration is the North Carolina Craft Coalition. Its Web site, www.DiscoverCraftNC.org, points the way to workshops, museums and craft organizations across the state. Travelers in the mountains can also find studios, galleries and historic craft sites in the guidebook, "The Craft Heritage Trails of Western North Carolina," published by Handmade in America. For the craft roundup below, contact each organization directly for event updates.

Penland School of Crafts

Located in the Blue Ridge Mountains, Penland School is celebrating its 75th anniversary with specially-commissioned works. The school offers classes in books and paper, clay, drawing, glass, iron, metals, photography, printmaking, textiles, and wood. The school also offers a craft gallery and guides to surrounding studios.

Through April 25: "Penland Retrospect," a gallery exhibition to kick off the school's 75th anniversary, highlights school life and community history.

May 4-June 20: "New Uses of Materials," exhibition.

June 29-August 22: "Contemporary Iron," exhibition.

Penland School of Crafts
Near Spruce Pine,
northeast of Asheville
(828) 765-2359
www.penland.org

Museum of the Cherokee Indian

This interactive museum showcases the Cherokee tradition and rituals through their carvings, hand-crafted split-oak baskets, wood-fired pots, ceremonial masks, weapons, jewelry and music. Hands-on exhibits complement the museum's extensive artifact collection and archives.

Museum of the Cherokee Indian
Cherokee
(888) 665-7249
www.cherokeemuseum.org

Southern Highland Craft Guild

For 75 years the Southern Highland Craft Guild, located on the Blue Ridge Parkway, has promoted crafts made by artists living in the mountainous regions of the South. The Folk Art Center shop showcases traditional mountain folk art as well as contemporary American craft made by the Guild's 700-plus member artists. The Highland Craft Guild features

exhibitions and hands-on community events. Daily craft demonstrations are held April-December.

Through April 4: "Quilt National," 20 works in contemporary quilt art.

April 10-June 27: "Woodworking from Country Workshops."

April 24: "Day of Puppetry."

Southern Highland Craft Guild
Near Asheville
(828) 298-7928
www.southernhighlandguild.org

PIEDMONT

Gallery of Art & Design

The gallery offers new ways to view objects, revealing their use, meaning, cultural context, and intrinsic beauty. The permanent collection is strong in ceramics and textiles. Other highlights include significant pieces by North Carolina self-taught artists and the recently donated Luski Collection of glass and jewelry.

April 1-June 25: "Four Women in Clay."

April 1-June 25: "Mountain Made—Western NC Craft."

April 22: "Women and Ceramics," lecture.

Gallery of Art & Design at
N.C. State University
Raleigh
(919) 515-3503
www.ncsu.edu/gad

Hickory Museum of Art

The museum houses examples of American art pottery and contemporary art glass, as well as regional folk art and face jugs. Artists include Dale Chihuly, Stephen Dee Edwards, Ken Carder, Jon Kuhn, Charles Lisk, Albert Hodge and Don Craig.

May 8: 60th Anniversary Gala.

Hickory Museum of Art
Hickory
(828) 327-8576
www.HickoryMuseumofArt.org

The Mint Museum of Craft + Design

A showplace for contemporary studio craft, it offers a permanent collection of ceramics, fiber, glass, metal, wood and engaging traveling exhibits.

Through May 30: "The Artful Teapot."

Beads, canvas, clay, glass, paper, silver, wire, wood and soda cans are among teapot materials, which take human, animal, vegetable and even architectural forms.

The Mint Museum of
Craft + Design
Charlotte
(704) 337-2000
www.mintmuseum.org

Museum of Early Southern Decorative Arts

MESDA exhibits and researches furniture, paintings, textiles, ceramics, silver and other metal wares in Southern states before 1820. MESDA is located in Old Salem, a restoration of a 1700s-era Moravian community, with costumed interpreters describing its daily life.

The Museum of
Early Southern
Decorative Arts
Winston-Salem
(888) 653-7253
www.mesda.org

North Carolina Pottery Center

An information gateway to nearly 100 potteries in the Seagrove area, the center features displays of local potters' work and

maps to their studios. Staff acquaints visitors to the area's shops, as well as to potters across the state, and presents interpretative exhibits on the history and technology of pottery.

April 24: "Going, Going, Gone to Pots..." fundraising auction.

North Carolina Pottery Center
Seagrove
(336) 873-8430
www.ncpotterycenter.com

Piedmont Craftsmen

(See photo, below left) A gallery and shop representing hundreds of Southeastern member juried artists, Piedmont Craftsmen presents high standards of contemporary and traditional craft. Its gallery celebrates 40 years of craft offerings.

Piedmont Craftsmen
Winston-Salem
(336) 725-1516
www.piedmontcraftsmen.org

COAST

Core Sound

Waterfowl Museum

Exhibits at this museum and educational complex feature antique working decoys, contemporary decoys by local carvers, decorative carvings and other forms of waterfowl art (from stained glass to original paintings). A gift shop offers carvings, books and

waterfowl art. The museum will be celebrating its first anniversary in its new location in May.

April 8-30: "Junior Duck Stamp," exhibit.

May 28-3: First Anniversary events.

Core Sound
Waterfowl Museum
17 miles east of Beaufort
on Harkers Island
(252) 728-1500
www.coresound.com

Louise Wells Cameron Art Museum

Dedicated to preserving, archiving and displaying North Carolina art, the museum features art from the 18th, 19th, 20th and 21st centuries. Its collection includes Jugtown Pottery, hand-woven baskets, colorful ceramics and whimsical metal wire constructions of sea life.

Louise Wells Cameron
Art Museum
Wilmington
(910) 395-5999
www.cameronartmuseum.com

Pocosin Arts

Pocosin Arts offers exhibits and interdisciplinary education programs, field studies, workshops, classes, studio concentrations, and interpretive gallery experiences that build understanding of home-grown craft traditions. Classes include blacksmithing, weaving, spinning, pottery and soap making. Pocosin Arts exhibits 120-plus original works by 60 folk artists and folk art interpreters.

Pocosin Arts
Columbia
(252) 796-2787
www.pocosinarts.org



Top, L-R: Stoneware teapot by John Vasquez; Highlands Basket by Billie Ruth Sudduth; and Genie Bottle by Ben Owen III.

Left: Learning to make chairs at the Piedmont Craftsmen in Winston-Salem.

Below: John C. Campbell Folk School in Brasstown.

