



artconnections

Be an Asheville Art Insider!

Updated 2019

Tips & reminders for great art destinations in and around Asheville

One of my favorite things to do is to help people discover the thriving arts scene in western North Carolina! As a native (yes, I was born in Asheville) I've observed many changes in Asheville and the surrounding towns. Now is a great time to live here and take part in the excitement and discovery people enjoy when they come to the area. This list of art related places is intended to give you a start in learning what makes this region a special place in the arts world! And I'd really like to meet you and show you around myself! Let me know if you use these tips and find them helpful! ~ Sherry

Downtown:

First Fridays in Downtown Asheville: Every first Friday night, from April through December, galleries stay open until 8pm. *Lexington Glassworks, 81 S Lexington Ave.*, has started having concerts at their location! And every Friday in the evening, you can also catch the Drum Circle event in Pritchard Park, weather permitting.

There are between 20-30 **Art and Fine Craft Galleries in Downtown Asheville!**

To see a listing go to: ashevilledowntowngalleries.org.

Blue Spiral 1: 38 Biltmore Ave. This gallery is a must see when you come to Asheville! It's near the center of downtown and close to restaurants, music venues and breweries. But best of all it is where you'll see incredible artwork from Southeastern US artists and get a feel of the vast talent in the region. Be sure to tell them I sent you and enjoy seeing all the exhibitions and art offered here.

Mountain Made: in Grove Arcade, 1 Page Ave. Want some local music on CD? This craft gallery has a great selection of CD's by local musicians, and books by local authors. Mountain Made specializes in representing locally made art and crafts; and it's located in an architectural gem in the middle of downtown.

Fun Fact: *Edwin Wiley Grove, who built the Grove Arcade, was instrumental in the development of Asheville in the early 1900's and has his name all around town: there's the Grove Arcade and the Omni Grove Park Inn; Grove Park (a subdivision in N. Asheville) and Grovemont (a subdivision in Swannanoa); Grovestone (a quarry); Grovewood Rd and Edwin Place; also Grove named streets for his wife and daughter, Gertrude Place and Evelyn Place (all streets are near Omni Grove Park Inn).*

Mora Designer Jewelry: 9 W. Walnut St. Mora is wonderful jewelry store featuring both established and young emerging artists; you'll see a wide variety of wearable jewelry art with both traditional and unconventional materials. After visiting Mora, you'll know the latest trends in jewelry!

Notice the downtown outdoor sculptures and learn the artists' names who created them:

- **Energy Loop** – College St, across from the Federal Building, **by Dirk Cruser** – Originally from NJ, Dirk moved to Swannanoa, NC when in his forties, and lived there until his death in 1996; his sculpture was the first commissioned public art piece for Asheville (1983) and was originally placed in City-County Plaza.
- **Large Fountain** - Pack Square behind the Vance Monument, **by Hoss Haley** – Hoss was living in Asheville, but moved an hour away to the Penland School area in 2016. Hoss also made the stainless steel pergola for the stage at Roger McGuire Green in front of City-County Plaza. His artwork can also be found in Momentum Gallery, 52 Broadway St.
- **Ceramic Tiles**, around the stage at City-County Plaza **by Kathy Triplett**, Weaverville, NC, multi-media artist. Triplett has worked on many public installations over her career; her tiles can also be found outdoors near the entrance of the Asheville Art Museum.
- **Daydreamer**, mural & tile installation, wall mounted on the north side of Aloft Hotel, 51 Biltmore Ave. Artists **Ian Wilkinson and Alex Irvine** collaborated to create this artwork featuring a woman gazing out of an arch-topped windowsill. The installation pays homage to the Art Deco architectural of Asheville as well as the rich clay (and ceramic art) found in the region.
- **On the Move**, metal sculpture **by Kenn Kotara**, Asheville artist. This sculpture on the corner of Market and Walnut depicts modes of transportation during the Art Deco era. Turn the wheel and the sound of trains, planes and cars project from the surrounding landscape.
- **Shopping Daze** – Corner of Haywood St. and Walnut St., near Malaprops Book Store, **by Tekla and Dan Howachyn**, artists from Black Mountain, NC. The 3 Ladies shopping, circa 1940's, represents the era of downtown Asheville department stores including Ivey's and Bon Marche'.
- **The Appalachian Dancers**, bronze figures at US Cellular Center, **by Gary Alsum**, Loveland, CO. These sculptures reference the significance of Appalachian Culture and the legacy of Mountain Folk Dancing Traditions.

***Fun Fact:** Bascom Lamar Lunsford (born in Mars Hill, NC in 1882) was a significant figure in WNC history. Lunsford, a lawyer and a folklorist, was the originator of the Mountain Dance and Folk Festival held every August (first Thursday – Saturday). Lunsford was involved in local politics, and was a reading clerk of the NC House of Representatives. In 1939 Lunsford was invited to the White House by President Roosevelt, there he performed his music for King George VI.*

- **Deco Gecko** – West side of Pritchard Park (Patton Ave & Haywood St), **by Harry McDaniel**, Harry is an Asheville sculptor who has had many large public art commissions. He has created and installed public sculpture in FL, NC, KS, MI, MD, and VA. McDaniel was inspired by the buildings around Pritchard Park in his design of Deco Gecko, particularly the S&W Cafeteria designed by architect Douglas Ellington.
- **Blackwell Bench**, beside the Asheville Museum of Science (AMOS), 43 Patton Ave - **by Joe Miller** from Brasstown, NC. This sculpture honors Elizabeth Blackwell, MD, the first woman in the United States to receive her medical degree. Dr. Blackwell lived in Asheville in the mid-1840's. Artist Joe Miller's work can also be seen at the NC Arboretum (20 min

drive SW of downtown Asheville), he collaborated with David Brewin on the lovely gates located near the formal gardens that include fish, birds and a stream.

- **Passage**, very tall leafy, tree-like iron sculpture at the Federal Building, 151 Patton Ave., **by Albert Paley**; one of the present-day most noted sculptors in the nation, Paley works out of Rochester, NY.

East:

Folk Art Center: take Hwy 70 a few miles east to the Blue Ridge Parkway, at Milepost 382 (very close to the entrance ramp) is a perfect place for visitors to see daily craft demonstrations, exhibitions, the permanent collection in the library, and the gallery of exceptional works from Southern Highland Craft Guild members. Open 9-6 daily (winter 9-5). This is also a good place to get information on area hiking trails and waterfalls!

The Red House: Art studio and gallery located in Black Mountain, a short 20 min drive east of Asheville. Here you'll find the headquarters of the Swannanoa Valley Fine Arts League where members have a rotating schedule of exhibitions, as well as studios open to the public.

West:

Eclectic Haywood Rd shops: Dining and Murals! You shouldn't miss driving along Haywood Rd. in West Asheville to see all the independent shops and restaurants. It's a feast for the taste buds as well as eyes with interesting murals along on the buildings. This area of Asheville was once its own separate town and had everything along Haywood Rd that one might need. Now it's a haven for young artists, and is a plentiful source of top restaurants to explore.

River Arts District (RAD): This one of the places that you can easily get overwhelmed and miss what you're most interested in – call me for a tour and save time!

There is so much to see in the RAD! Two of the places I really enjoy are:

Curve Studios: 6 Riverside Dr. Visiting Pattiy Torno and Mary Timmer is a treat for anyone wanting a new piece of clothing or a lovely pair of earrings. Pattiy's clothing is fashionable and comfortable; Mary's jewelry is classic with excellent craftsmanship.

Fun Fact: While you're at Curve Studios, you can also visit the nation's only chair caning museum, *The Silver River Center for Chair Caning*, upstairs in the middle building of Curve.

Graffiti Garden*: Foundy St, behind 191 Lyman St. (Riverview Station). If you've missed going behind Riverview Station on Lyman Street lately – you have to go see the murals. That's all I have to say about that.

* my name for the area – not sure that there is an official name, but this area is the first (and maybe only) place in NC to have a permit to allow graffiti 😊 and they have a skateboard park!

North:

Echoview Fiber Mill: 76 Jupiter Road, exit 15 off of Hwy 19/23 just past Weaverville.

Interested in industry? Know a knitter, weaver, or spinner? The textile industry has a fascinating history in our area. Here you can get a view of a modern, LEED-certified fiber-processing mill at Echoview. Visitors can watch the production from large windows on the 2nd floor, and Echoview offers a free tour every Tuesday afternoon. They sell wonderful yarns, socks, scarves and more!

Groveswood Village: 111 Groveswood Rd., next door to the Omni Grove Park Inn. You could easily spend a half-day here visiting the spacious Groveswood Gallery, the NC Homespun Museum, the Antique Car Museum, and the Sculpture Garden. This is a hidden Asheville treasure with fascinating history going back to the early 1900's.

South:

New Morning Gallery: 7 Boston Way, Biltmore Village. One of the first fine craft stores in Asheville. It has expanded over the years and now has approximately 13,000 square feet of showroom space. On the first Saturday & Sunday of August, New Morning Gallery sponsors the Village Art & Craft Fair, a block over from the gallery, on the lawn of All Souls Cathedral.

Asheville, and Western NC, is a fine craft lovers dream...there's so much here!

Nicknamed "the Cradle of Craft" in our nation, Western North Carolina has:

- A rich and long history of craft makers living in the mountains of Western NC, beginning with the Cherokee, then the Scotch-Irish settlers in the 1700 & 1800's.
- Craft education opportunities since the 1920's and 1930's at John C. Campbell Folk School, Penland School of Craft & the former Black Mountain College; present day Universities with art degrees including sculpture, clay, metals and printmaking; area community colleges with craft programs – particularly Haywood Community College.
- Organizations such as the Southern Highland Craft Guild (founded in 1930) with the mission of "cultivating the crafts and makers of the Southern Highlands for the purpose of shared resources, education, marketing and conservation."
- Numerous galleries in Asheville and surrounding towns; including two galleries named **Top in the Nation** twice each – Groveswood Gallery and New Morning Gallery. Galleries support artists and help the tourism economy. In many cases much of what is represented is production artwork, but there's more to discover!
- 2200+ working artists living in Western North Carolina.

Here are some Western NC annual events you can also plan a trip around:

(easy to google and get dates and details)

Feb: National Arts & Crafts Conference, Omni Grove Park Inn

March: Penland School of Craft Community Day

Black Mountain College Museum + Art Center: {Re}Happening

April: Potters Market, Marshall High Studios

Glass & Metal Day, Folk Art Center

Fire on the Mountain, Blacksmith Festival, Spruce Pine

Weaverville Art Safari

May: Fiber Weekend, Folk Art Center
Montford Arts & Music Festival
River Arts District Studio Stroll
Kenilworth Art Studio Tour

June: Clay Day, Folk Art Center
Asheville Art in the Park

July: Craft Fair of the Southern Highlands

Aug: Biltmore Village Art & Craft Fair
Penland School Annual Auction
Wood Day, Folk Art Center
Come to Leicester Studio Tour
Mt. Mitchell Craft Fair, Burnsville

Sept: Weaverville Art in Autumn
Heritage Weekend, Folk Art Center
Caldwell County Sculpture Show, Lenoir
Henderson County Open Studio Tour
Art on the Island, Marshall
Art on Main, Hendersonville

Oct: American Craft Week in WNC
Craft Fair of the Southern Highlands
Asheville Art in the Park
Spruce Pine Potters Market
Hwy 80 Art Hop, Burnsville
Southeastern Animal Fiber Fair
Madison Heritage Arts Festival & Bascom Lamar Lunsford Festival

Nov: Weaverville Art Safari
WNC Pottery Festival, Dillsboro
River Arts District Studio Stroll

Dec: Toe River Studio Stroll
Southern Highland Craft Guild Holiday Sale

When you are ready to dive in and experience the vibrancy of the art and fine craft scene in greater detail, contact me for your personally curated Art Connections Tour. You'll be glad you did, you'll have added a true insider art connection to your adventure!

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