


celebrating local makers

ASHEVILLE MADE

March 2018



Fiber Art's New Minimalism

(Borrowed from the Eighth Century)

RAD pioneer Porge Buck / Kimi Leger and the deep art of tattoo / Ex-Files Knives: cutting through the clichés



Alice Helm quilting at Purple Crayon.

Purple Crayon Provides Women Hobby Artists a Room of Their Own

Asheville hobby artist Pam Robbins recently opened Purple Crayon, a self-described “shared play space for women hobby artists.” Located near UNCA, the space is meant to provide an affordable option for women to explore art in community.

Robbins says that while many Purple Crayon members have their own home studio, access to a communal art space is often harder to come by. “They usually don’t have the space to invite friends to play with them in their studio,” she explains. “It’s hard to squeeze two easels, two sewing machines, or two tables into a room, even if it’s fairly large.”

The Purple Crayon space features multiple “creation stations” for artists in a shared room, as well as a lounge area and break room. Professional artists can also rent part of the studio to teach classes. Members receive free or discounted access to workshops on crafts such as mosaic coasters, needle-felted Easter eggs, and wirework necklaces.

Prospective members can visit Purple Crayon on the second Saturday of every month during an open house, 2-4pm. Robbins also offers private tours by appointment.

Purple Crayon, 9 Old Burnsville Hill Road, Asheville. Call 828-771-6148 or visit www.purplecrayonavl.com for more info.

Celebrate Zelda 2018 Honors Jazz Age Artist

The City of Asheville and Aurora Studio & Gallery celebrate the third annual Zelda Sayre Fitzgerald Day on March 10, with additional events March 9–16. Popularly known as the wife/muse of *The Great Gatsby* author F. Scott Fitzgerald, Zelda has posthumously emerged for her own talent as a visual artist — Asheville Art Museum holds several of her works — and for her writings (Scott allegedly published several of his wife’s stories under his own name). In recent years, books, plays, and a TV biopic starring Christina Ricci have resurrected and reimagined Zelda’s image: The Jazz Age’s most influential flapper is now viewed as a feminist icon.

Zelda became linked to Asheville through the last 12 years of her life, when she lived in the area while being treated for mental illness at Highland Hospital. Some scholars posit that her periodic breakdowns were caused or worsened by emotional abuse and an inability, due to a combination of marital and societal pressures, to form her own artistic identity. Lori Greenberg, founder and board president of Aurora Studio & Gallery, says she sees a link between Zelda and the artists she mentors, many of whom have been impacted by mental-health needs, addiction, or homelessness.

“I saw participating in ‘Celebrate Zelda’ as an opportunity to highlight not only the talents of Zelda Fitzgerald, but also the artists from Aurora Studio,” Greenberg says. “It is my hope that this series offers the community a more holistic perspective on the needs of those impacted by mental-health concerns.”

Zelda died on March 10, 1948, in a fire that destroyed Highland Hospital (the act of arson was committed by a nurse working there). This year’s March 10 festivities include an exhibit of Aurora Studio artists at Trackside Studio, a workshop on Zelda’s painting at Asheville Art Museum on the Slope, and a Roaring ’20s cocktail party at The Pillar Rooftop Bar. Celebrate Zelda events take place March 9–16 at venues throughout Asheville.

Call 828-335-1038, visit www.aurorastudio-gallery.com, or see *Celebrate Zelda 2018!* on Facebook for more information.

Artspace Survey Examines Needs of Asheville Creatives

Through March 26, Minneapolis-based Artspace Consulting is conducting a survey of Asheville’s creative community to quantify affordable housing and space options for the area’s makers. In partnership with the Center for Craft and the Asheville Area Chamber of Commerce, the Arts Market Survey will inform the future development of the River Arts District and other parts of the city.

Individual artists and creatives are being polled on their needs for housing and studio/work space, while cultural organizations and businesses are encouraged to express requirements for work, programmatic, and commercial space. All participants who complete the survey can opt into a drawing for \$250 in creative supplies.

“This is where the rubber meets the road,” says Center for Craft assistant director Mike Marcus. “It’s critical that everyone who considers themselves an artist, maker, musician, performer, designer, and/or ‘creative’ be counted, whether it’s their full-time pursuit or part-time passion.”

The Arts Market Survey is available at www.KeepAvlCreative.com. Call 612-333-9012 or e-mail Teri Deaver at teri.deaver@artspace.org for more info.