



Photo: "Bell Form" by Benjamin Strear, 6"x13"x13" cherry, turned, carved and dyed
Arrowmont Residency graduate

Blue Ridge Residencies Exhibition

Dates: February 5-May 9, 2008
Gallery Hours: 1-5pm, Tuesday through Saturday
Location: Center for Craft, Creativity and Design
1181 Broyles Road, Hendersonville

One explanation for the vibrant professional craft community in the Blue Ridge Mountains is the opportunity for young artists to explore their medium in a residency at one of the well-established craft schools. Many of these residents complete their residency, and become permanent residents, opening studios and further advancing their medium in a part of the country so many professional craft artists call home.

The Blue Ridge Residencies Exhibit introduces ten artists who are completing, or have recently completed, a residency at one of four residency programs - Arrowmont School of Crafts, EnergyXchange, Odyssey Center for the Ceramic Arts or Penland School of Crafts. Their work in sculpture, clay, glass, furniture and mixed media represents artistic experimentation and development during their residency, as well as excellence in craftsmanship, concept and execution.

To become a resident in any of the four programs, craft artists must compete with dozens of applicants for the opportunity to work in campus studios with access to and significant support from the school. They are able to work in a community of artists, totally focused on experimenting with creative direction and creating a body of work. Residency programs and craft artists represented in this exhibit include:

Arrowmont School of Crafts, Gatlinburg, TN residency program is represented by **Jill K. Baker Gower**, mixed media; **Benjamin Strear**, wood sculpture; and **Brian Taylor**, clay. The Residency program began in 1991, with five artists selected each spring for an eleven-month program designed to provide pre-professional, self-directed artists time and space to develop a major body of work in a creative community environment of students and visiting faculty.

EnergyXchange, Burnsville, NC residency program is represented by recent graduates **Emily Reason**, clay and **Pablo Soto**, glass. The residency program is designed for artists who have completed their schooling and training. They are selected in a competitive process, for the maximum three-year residency, by media-specific jurors, to move into a fully equipped professional shared studio space with use of methane energy fueled glass furnaces and clay kilns, and receive small business classes important to a craft entrepreneurial business.

Odyssey Center for the Ceramic Arts, Asheville, NC residency program, an educational program of Highwater Clays, Inc., is represented by recent graduate **Joy Tanner**, and current resident **Lori Theriault**, both working in clay. The purpose of the Odyssey residency is to provide advanced, motivated, self-directed students with an experience that will accelerate their personal development in the ceramic arts. The two-year residencies focus on individual direction and experimentation and emphasize knowledge of studio procedures, materials and techniques.

Penland School of Crafts, Penland, NC residency program is represented by **Anne Lemanski**, mixed media, **Vivian Beer**, furniture, and **Thor Bueno**, glass. The residency program was founded in 1963 by Bill Brown, Penland's second director, to create an opportunity for craft artists to hone their skills, to develop markets, to experiment, to develop new work, or possibly to move from a career in teaching to one of full-time making. Seven to eight artists at a time are selected for three-year residencies that provide low-cost studio and housing on the Penland campus.

ARTIST TALKS will be presented by artists in a slide/talk about their work and their residency experience. Talks take place at the Kellogg Center, adjacent to the Craft, Creativity and Design exhibit gallery, 1181 Broyles Road, Hendersonville.



Photo: "A Century of Hair, 1900-1999" by Anne Lemanski, Penland residency graduate

In February, **Anne Lemanski**, who recently completed at residency at **Penland** will give a **TALK at 1pm, Saturday, February 9 followed by a reception**. In her work in the exhibit, "A Century of Hair, 1900-1999," Anne re-examines 20th century American history, particularly as it relates to women. Each sculpture is an iconic hairstyle of the specific decade it is depicting. The content and material used for each piece is relevant to women of the time period. Traditional women's handicrafts, such as quilting and embroidery, drive the aesthetics of her sculpture.



Photo: glass vessels by Pablo Soto, recent resident EnergyXchange.

In March, glass artist **Pablo Soto**, a recent resident at **EnergyXchange** in Burnsville, will give a **TALK at 1pm, Saturday, March 8, followed by a reception**. Pablo Soto's glassblowing career began at Alfred University in 1999, and he has studied at Haystack School of Crafts, Pilchuck Glass School and Ben Moore, Inc. EnergyXchange gave Pablo an opportunity to blow glass in an environmentally friendly studio that uses methane to power the glass furnaces. His aesthetic is rooted in form and function. In his residency he searched how to convey a sense of beauty, color, function and design within the vessel form.



Photo: Sake set, by Lori Theriault wheel thrown, altered, layered shino glazes, fired in reduction,.

Odyssey Center for the Ceramic Arts current resident **Lori Theriault** will give a **TALK** at **1pm, Saturday, April 19**, followed by a reception. Odyssey Center is an educational program of Highwater Clays, Inc. providing residents with valuable studio space, and firing of work in a variety of kilns. Lori is drawn to art and functional ware that makes the viewer want to touch, either through surface texture or a firing effect on a finished pot.

The Center for Craft, Creativity and Design is an inter-institutional center of the University of North Carolina located five miles west of Main Street, Hendersonville, then right from Hwy 64 W, onto Broyles Road, for two miles to 1181 Broyles.. For *accurate* directions to the Center for Craft, Creativity and Design, see www.craftcreativitydesign.org/who/location.php Call 828-890-2050 for more information.