

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Asheville Based Contemporary Artists Group Exhibition: “OPENING EYES: New Asheville Painting” Recent Paintings at The Satellite Gallery.**

**The Satellite Gallery is pleased to present “OPENING EYES: New Asheville Painting” an exhibition of 6 Asheville based artists curated by Jeremy Phillips. The exhibit runs from June 1 through June 30 at the Satellite Gallery, 55 Broadway St, Downtown Asheville, NC. There will be an artist reception on Friday, June 1, from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. as well as a discussion panel led by *Aperture Magazine*'s Diana Stoll on Sunday, June 10, from 3-4 p.m.**

**OPENING EYES:  
NEW ASHEVILLE PAINTING**

**June 1-30, 2018**

This accomplished group of 6 artists, Mark Flowers, Nava Lubelski, Randy Shull, Ralston Fox Smith, Aaron Tucker, and Jeremy Phillips, who all live in Asheville, and whose work is shown and collected around the country, are putting on a group exhibit of recent work. The show is meant to highlight the riches of contemporary art being made right here in Asheville. These artists in particular share a common rootedness in the American modern art traditions that incubated at Black Mountain College and that have continued to define, inspire and challenge art making in America. The stunning work in this show demonstrates how alive and rich that vein continues to be. The Satellite Gallery has long been at the forefront of dynamic local contemporary art and is a perfect venue for this forward looking show.

Rich in ideas, this work features multiple surface layers, careful craftsmanship, constructed images that carve out, repair or even subtract space. Many of the works compartmentalize their surface space or subtly reveal what's underneath. The formal concerns of modernism are in play with stark abstraction as well as figurative hints. There is time in this work and a quest to be rooted in a particular history. As a whole the show invites the viewer to make connections between the various paintings. This work is addressed to your open eyes.

With over 40 years of exhibition experience, and numerous awards, **Mark Flowers** continues to push his vision forward. Here he continues his playful experiments in acrylic surface and blurred imagery with emotional new work that wrestles with masculinity in our #metoo moment. The work hints at film noir, expulsion, Chinese characters, and grass, among other things! The combined sections of each work create a deeper harmony.

New York City native, now Asheville based, **Nava Lubelski** has had her work exhibited in museums from Manhattan to Charlotte to San Diego. She offers 2 brand new large scale works combining painting, intricate stitching, lace, vibrant color and stark borders. These compelling pieces reflect an intense creating process of accident, destruction and repair.

Established Asheville art figure, whose work has been widely shown and collected, and with 28 solo exhibitions under his belt, **Randy Shull**, is currently exploring painted imagery evoking the abstracted shapes of his well-known furniture and painting combos. These striking shapes on printed backgrounds of Mexican murals were born in the Yucatán, where Shull has maintained a painting studio in the midst of a vibrant Mexican culture for twelve years.

After years of successfully working in surrealist and abstract landscapes, **Ralston Fox Smith** is showcasing powerful new minimalist geometric abstracts in oils. These sublime and strikingly clear compositions arise out from the chaos of our current social moment as a respite.

A painter's painter, **Aaron Tucker**'s joyful and heavily worked oil paintings in vibrant and delightfully applied paint reveal layers and depth beneath skillfully simple imagery. The ricochet between the childlike and the sophisticated in these paintings compels careful attention to the details.

Local teacher and painter, **Jeremy Phillips**, curates this show and contributes 4 new larger paintings that continue and extend his sgraffito infused "Interiors" series and a consolidation of the ideas that inform his painted riffs on the Tower of Babel.

Unapologetically regional, this show highlights Asheville contemporary artists. Asheville has long been known as a center for excellence in clay, glass, fiber, jewelry and other crafts. This tells half of Asheville's art history. The other half is grounded in the mid 20<sup>th</sup> century years when modern American art was being invented at Black Mountain College. Though no longer in existence, Black Mountain has been a kind of gravitational force drawing these artists not only to, as Josef Albers, the college's art program director, put it on his first trip to the area, the "beautiful view over the Blue Ridge Mountains," but to a place where the free artistic spirit and rigorous analysis that Albers personified and modeled continues to inspire. This show invites you to join these current Asheville artists in carrying this mantel forward.

More about each of these artists can be found out at their websites:

[jeremyphillipsart.com](http://jeremyphillipsart.com)

Mark Flowers: [mountainteastudios.com](http://mountainteastudios.com)

[navalubelski.com](http://navalubelski.com)

[randyshull.com](http://randyshull.com)

[ralstonfoxsmith.com](http://ralstonfoxsmith.com)

[aarontucker.org](http://aarontucker.org)

More can be found out about The Satellite Gallery at [www.thesatellitegallery.com](http://www.thesatellitegallery.com)

