



artconnections

# Be an Asheville Art Insider!

## Tips & reminders for great art destinations in and around Asheville

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One of my favorite things to do is to help people discover more about the 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 to be a part of the excitement and discovery people enjoy when they come to the area. This is a list of art related places to give you a start in learning what makes this region a special place! And I'd really like to meet you and show you around myself! Keep that in mind and let me know if you use these tips and find them helpful ☺ ~ Sherry

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### **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! In the evening, you can also catch the Drum Circle event in Pritchard Park!

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

To see a listing go to: [ashevilledowntowngalleries.org](http://ashevilledowntowngalleries.org).

***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 north Asheville) and Grovemont (a subdivision in Swannanoa); Grovestone (a quarry); Grovewood Road and Edwin Place; also Grove named streets for his wife and daughter, Gertrude Place and Evelyn Place (all streets are in north Asheville 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 outdoor sculptures and learn the artists' names that created them:***

- **Energy Loop** – College St, across from the Federal Building, **by Dirk Cruser** – Originally from NJ, Dirk moved to Swannanoa 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 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 work can also be found in Blue Spiral 1 Gallery, 38 Biltmore Ave.
- **Ceramic Tiles**, around the stage at City-County Plaza **by Kathy Triplett**, Weaverville, NC, ceramic 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.
- **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 department stores including Ivey's and Bon Marche'.
- **The Appalachian Dancers**, bronze figures at US Cellular Center, **by Gary Alsum**, Loveland, CO. Sculptures reference the significance of Appalachian Culture and the legacy of Mountain Folk Dancing Traditions. Bascom Lamar Lunsford (born in Mars Hill, NC in 1882) was a significant person 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).
- **Deco Gecko** – West side of Pritchard Park, **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.
- **Blackwell Bench**, beside the Asheville Museum of Science, 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, 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 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).

**Black Mountain Studios:** 626 Old Lytle Cove Rd., Swannanoa. Open to the public Tuesday-Saturday from 10-6. See the studio of Maud and Austin Boleman, ceramic artists, with a lovely gallery representing their work, as well as other local and national artists.

## West:

**Asheville Bookworks:** 428 ½ Haywood Rd. An 'off-the-beaten-path' treasure for those who have an interest in artist-made books and handmade papers – they also have exhibitions and workshops! Open Tuesday-Saturday, afternoon hours.

**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 Patti Torno and Mary Timmer is a treat for anyone wanting a new piece of clothing or a lovely pair of earrings. Patti's clothing is fashionable and comfortable; Mary's jewelry is classic with excellent craftsmanship. While you're at Curve, you can also see the nation's only chair caning museum, The *Silver River Center for Chair Caning*, upstairs in the middle building at the Curve Studios.

**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. 😊

## 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 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, and Echoview offers a free tour every Tuesday afternoon. For a personalized tour to match your schedule, call me at 828.779.6806.

**Groewood Village:** 111 Groewood Rd., next door to the Omni Grove Park Inn. You could easily spend a half-day here visiting the spacious Groewood Gallery, the 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.

## There is so much fine craft in Asheville and Western North Carolina!

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 – Grovewood 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.

*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!*

Art Connections with Sherry Masters

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