

PENLAND GALLERY

The Penland Gallery has been open for limited hours this winter and will return to its regular schedule on March 5. The gallery will present five special exhibitions this year.

Cumulative Effect:

Penland Metals Instructors, Summer 2002

March 12 – April 28; reception: March 15, 7 – 9 PM

4 Hands/2 Ideas/1 Object: Artists' Collaborations

May 14 – July 7

Reception: May 31, 7 – 9 PM; gallery talk at 7:00 PM

R.S.V.P.: The Dinnerware Invitational

Craft work for the table: a collection of glassware, plates, bowls and cups, flatware, and otherware.

July 16 – September 1; reception: July 26, 7 – 9 PM

The Relevance of Making

Artists whose work has responded to or been changed by recent national and world events.

September 10 – October 20

Reception: September 27, 7 – 9 PM; gallery talk at 7:00 PM

The Core Show 2002

Work by Penland's current core students.

October 29 – December 15; reception: Nov. 1, 7 – 9 PM

GRANTS

Penland received several grants in 2001 from the North Carolina Arts Council and Carolina Power & Light Company (CP&L) to support the school's community education programs. In addition to \$65,000 for general operating support, a North Carolina Arts Council grant of \$2,500 went to the *Local Imagination* program which provides half-day craft workshops for individuals and families in the surrounding community.

Grants of \$15,000 from the Council and \$10,000 from CP&L are supporting Penland's *Hands On Learning* program which benefits Mitchell County elementary, middle, and high school students. This year more than 750 students and 60 teachers will participate. An additional grant of \$5,000 from the Mitchell County Board of Education is supporting this program.

"CP&L is committed to supporting the communities that we serve and believe that education is the key to the future prosperity of our region," said CP&L Community Relations Manager Nancy Thompson. "We believe that by building on children's creativity, Penland is doing an excellent job in the community by supporting arts education in the Mitchell County schools."

Robin Dreyer



CP&L's Nancy Thompson visiting a *Hands On Learning* class.

STAFF NOTES

Lisa Grindstaff, one of Penland's important telephone voices, left the job of registrar last summer. Lisa brought a special energy and personality to the Penland office during her ten years, first as receptionist and then as registrar. Even on a hectic day, she could always make that student in Toledo feel like they were being listened to and that the problem they were calling about could be worked out. Our new registrar is Polly Cameron who comes to the job with years of experience as a camp registrar. She's got the registration process humming.

John Rennick, a former core student who had been working for several years in the kitchen moved into the role of head chef this fall, with excellent results. For the first time anyone can remember, the kitchen is beginning a new year with every position filled by returning staff. The rest of the kitchen crew is Polly Hall, Jann Welch, Geoff Young, Crystal Thomas, and of course, Pearl Grindstaff.

Robert Chiarito returned to the area last summer and was our 2001 coffee house manager. He's recently taken a full-time job nearby and we are looking for a new coffee maven for the year. Kaeta Ritter was Robert's assistant in the coffee house and will be returning for another year of excellent steam work. Bridgette McCurry has joined the housekeeping staff.

Kevin Wiberg was an outstanding development associate during 2001, bringing organizational and writing skills to the office and previously untapped theatrical skills to the scholarship auctions. He decided to return to Vermont where he has lived for many years, and we are currently looking for someone to fill this job.

There are a number of changes in the studio coordinator area. David Hurwitz has left the wood studio coordinator job; he will be staying in the area. David made improvements to the studio and secured a number of significant donations of equipment. Gregg Johnson who has lovingly cared for the textiles studios for many years, is also leaving, after some major restructuring of the coordinator jobs.

Kenny Pieper is leaving his long, wonderful service as glass coordinator to work full-time in his new studio in nearby Celso. He is launching his career by taking a new line of work to the ACC Baltimore show. Simone Trivisano, long-time Penland student and assistant coordinator, will be the new glass coordinator.

Anna Embree, coordinator of photo/printmaking/books and paper, will return to graduate school next fall to pursue a degree in book conservation. She has made many studio improvements in her year at Penland. We are currently reviewing applications for her replacement, who will begin in May.

STUDIO COORDINATOR RESTRUCTURING

In the interest of creating a greater level of stability in the studio coordinator jobs, more equitable workloads, and better compensation, we have done some restructuring which includes changing two positions significantly: iron and wood have been combined into one job, and drawing and painting has been combined with textiles.

Because these newly combined positions have significantly different skill requirements from the old positions, they were posted for applications. Chris Winterstein, formerly iron studio coordinator, will be the new iron/wood studio coordinator. Chris actually came to Penland for the first time as a wood student, and discovered iron while he was here. Elizabeth Allison will be the new textiles/drawing coordinator. She has a Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in fiber and material studios from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, and has taught textiles, drawing, and painting at the Evanston Art Center among other places.

RESIDENT ARTISTS

After one excellent year in the resident program, Travis Townsend decided to join his wife, Felicia Szorad, in Kentucky

where she began teaching last fall. We will miss them both. IlaSahai Prouty is doing a little bit of work with the nearby Spruce Pine Main Street project (see page 7) and a lot of work in her studio. She's been dividing her time into cycles of book-making, printmaking, and kiln casting glass. Right now, she's in a casting cycle.

Jerilyn Virden is currently experimenting with new clay forms. She recently participated in shows at Corning Community College in upstate New York and at Gallery W.D.O. in Charlotte, NC. Miyuki Imai had work in a recent show titled *A Natural History: Flora Fauna and the In-Between* at the College of Visual Arts Gallery in Saint Paul. Miyuki uses many gathered natural materials and has turned yards and yards of shelf space in her studio into what she calls the *free store* of source material for her work.

Susie Ganch is preparing for a move to San Francisco where she will be looking for studio space and is hoping to continue teaching. She recently participated in shows at the Society of Contemporary Crafts in Pittsburgh and the OXOXO-Gallery in Baltimore. Her work was featured in *Metalsmith* magazine's *Exhibition in Print*. Ann Marie Kennedy was part of a three-person show at the

Robin Dreyer



Kenny Pieper testing out his ACC booth in the glass studio classroom.

Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art in Chicago; She has been teaching various papermaking workshops and setting up a papermaking area at the Barns. She's currently working on a project in Durham, funded by a NC Arts Council grant, working with elementary school students to produce art work for patients at the Duke Eye Center.

Greg Fidler has been making glass at the nearby Energy Xchange Studios while he equips his studio at the Barns. He recently participated in the Caldwell County Outdoor Sculpture Show and won the purchase award.

All of the current resident artists (including Travis) participated in a beautiful show at the Penland Gallery in the fall and a current group show at Virginia Commonwealth University.

We will be welcoming two artists to the program this summer. Cristina Cordova who is completing her MFA at Alfred University in New York, makes primarily figurative ceramic sculpture. Marc Maiorana, a BFA graduate of Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, makes functional and sculptural forged work in a variety of metals.

CORE STUDENTS

As the spring Concentration session approaches, we bid farewell to four Penland core students, each of whom brought something special to the past two years. Benares Finan-Eshelman, mistress of evocative words on fabric, is currently teaching art locally at the Bee Log and Gouge elementary schools as part of a program sponsored by the Asheville Art Museum. She has applied to several graduate programs, and will be moving to Asheville to work until school starts. Ronan Peterson, Penland's premier maker of functional ceramic insect art, will be staying in the area, setting up a studio, and getting ready for his wedding to former core student and Penland housekeeping coordinator Kara Ikenberry. Ronan has been invited to the Winter Park Sidewalk Arts Festival in Florida this spring as one of five emerging artists whose participation is sponsored by the festival.

Also attending the Winter Park festival as a sponsored