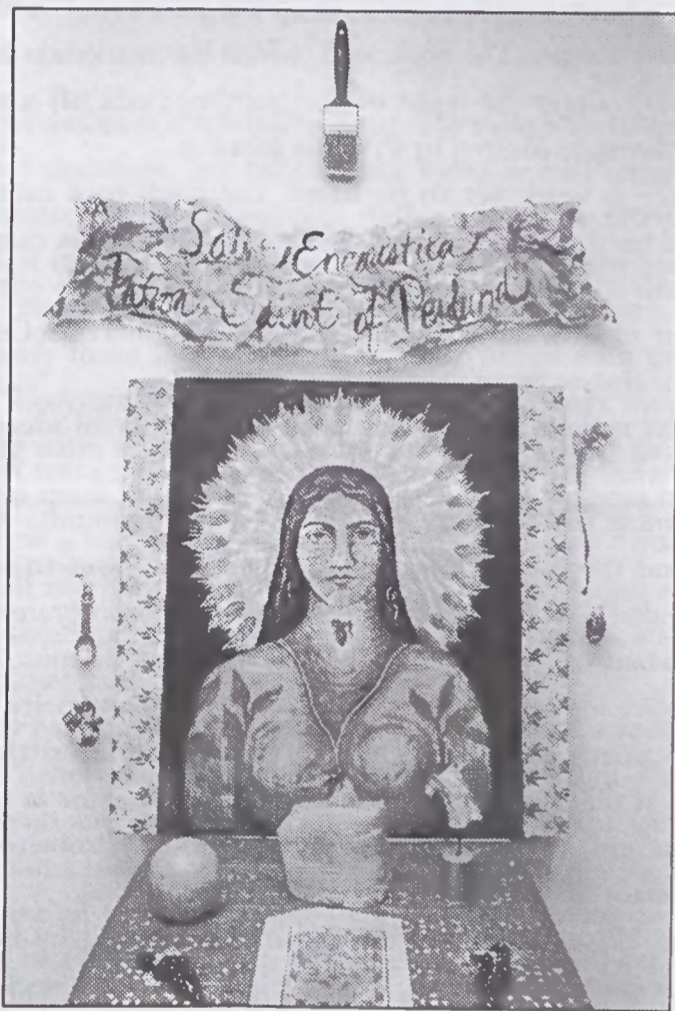


Archie Brennan was here last year with Susan Martin-Maffei teaching a rare eight-week class in traditional tapestry. Archie has been working on a series based on figure drawings; this is the piece he was weaving during the class, plus the drawing he started with.

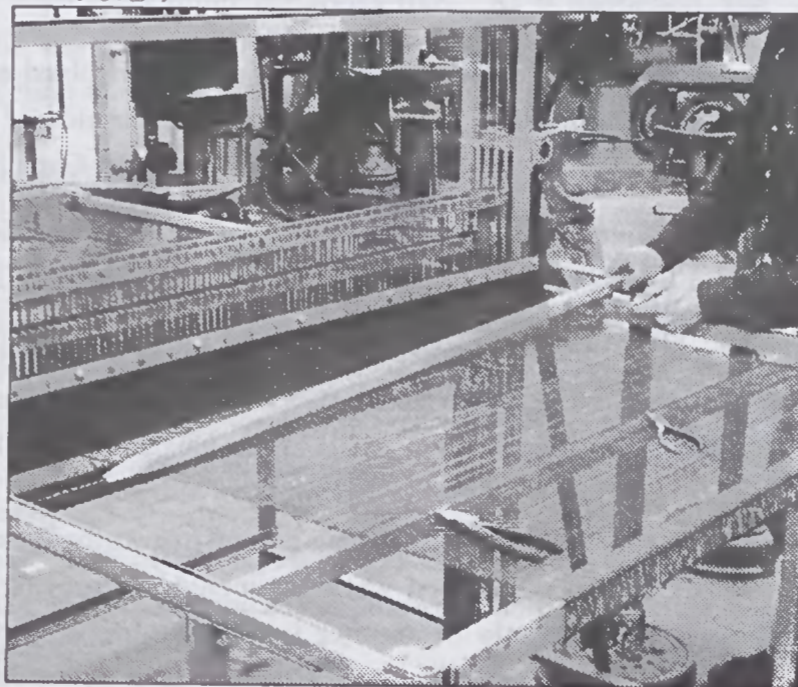


This shrine to one of the lesser known saints, Encaustica, presided over Crit Streed's encaustic painting workshop. She did a fine job of looking after things.



Taiwanese ceramic artist Ah Leon taught a summer workshop titled *The Art of Tea*. He wasn't kidding. In addition to covering traditional Chinese techniques for teapot construction and every aspect of function, the class included daily tea parties. Each morning the class would assemble and sample a new variety of tea, following the Chinese tea drinking protocol. While he filled pot after pot with boiling water and served his students, Ah Leon would tell stories and discuss aspects of his craft.

Courtesy of Jeffrey Funk



Jeffrey Funk, who taught the fall concentration in the iron studio, recently sent us some snapshots of his most recent project. It's a 4-harness loom constructed entirely of steel, which Jeffrey designed and built for weaving fire-screen materials. He recently made some treble-point twill in copper and steel.



They never believe us. You just can't drive a tour bus out of the Penland Gallery and turn right. This will happen every time.

#### PUBLIC ART IN SPRUCE PINE

After several years of bringing public art content into the Penland program, the school was recently presented with an opportunity to make a connection between craft and public art on a local level. Working with an area economic development group, Spruce Pine Main Street, Penland School has arranged for visiting artist Carlos Alves to create a mosaic seating area in downtown Spruce Pine using tiles made by the community. The tile images will celebrate Spruce Pine's mineral history.

Staff members Stacey Lane (who is liaison between Penland and the Spruce Pine group) and Amanda Lee along with resident artist IlaSahai Prouty have organized several events in the local community to gather history and images related to this history. At the Penland Community Open House on March 2, Carlos and volunteers will assist visitors in cutting and decorating tiles inspired by stories and images gathered from the community. Carlos will glaze and fire the tiles which he will then turn into a mosaic design applied to a commercially produced set of concrete table and chairs. The site is at the entrance to downtown Spruce Pine, so the installation phase should attract considerable attention.

The project has received support from the North Carolina Arts Council's *Creating Place* program and from the Toe River Arts Council. Spruce Pine Main Street has been very enthusiastic about this collaboration between artist and community.

#### PENLAND VOLUNTEERS

"So, why are you a Penland volunteer?"

"Well, I don't want to sound clichéd, but I think it's important to give something back."

I'm on the phone with my friend Chris Gardner who has been a Penland student many times over. We're talking about why he remains so connected to the school. Having majored in sculpture in college, Chris has always seen Penland as a place to continue his exploration of different media and to learn and grow.

Like many Penland students, Chris does not live within an hour's drive of the school, so finding ways to volunteer can be a challenge. Chris lives in Charlotte and he is a computer whiz. He is always cheerful and patient when answering my mundane queries about how best to operate my computer. I can count on him when I'm in need of some technological advice.

We at Penland realize there are many people who might like to donate some time to the school but feel they live too far away to remain involved. If you are in that category, you'll be glad to know that we are expanding the volunteer program to include folks who live further away. The first step will be to gauge how many people are interested, where they all live, and what tasks they would be willing to help Penland accomplish. We will be sending out a survey this spring to assess this interest, and then we'll set up systems to keep folks informed about volunteer opportunities. If you'd like to receive this survey, contact me at 828-765-7942 or at [services@penland.org](mailto:services@penland.org).

—Amanda Lee, Services Coordinator



Volunteer Stacey Kirby spent a week at Penland last fall diligently sorting letterpress type.