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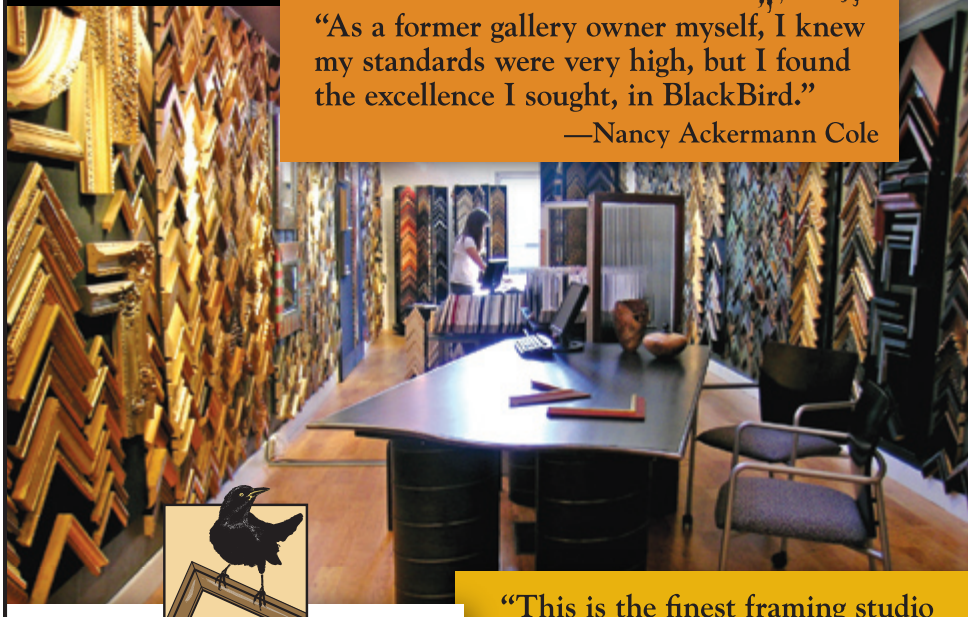
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## studio stroll

### Patterns

ART, HABITS AND MOVEMENT IN THE RIVER ARTS DISTRICT

BY GREG VINEYARD

My involvement with art and design over time has led me to look at patterns both IN things and OF things. Not just visually, but also regarding River Arts District

Artist-watching.

The hugemon-gous Compact Edition of the Oxford English Dictionary is about as big as a Farscape leviathan. Its two volumes are encased in a box with a built-in drawer for a magnifying glass. Because the print is the size of ants. Really tiny ants. In the voluminous "P" section, I found various definitions for "pattern": 1) "a decorative or artistic design"; 2) "a model... or outline"; 3) "an example... deserving imitation".

Another word that comes to mind here is "habit". As in, ways artists go about their business. We designate the necessary incremental working times that each of our activities requires, so that when we throw open our doors to the public each morning, the goods are, well, good! A potter may plan to throw cups on the wheel one day, trim and attach handles the next, do finishing work twenty-four hours later, then decorate, bisque-fire, glaze, high-fire, unload and finally prepare them for sale. It takes an established pattern to be ready, whether daily, or for the Studio Stroll.

Each artist in every medium in the River Arts District has a full set of complex steps they go through in order to make an item. As members of the District, they also have the calendarized habit of meeting monthly to discuss topics and vote on actions, as well as to coordinate and promote the Strolls. This development of "models and outlines" guides the group through each year's activities and festivities, and provides a roadmap

so that newer members can jump in and help out (and eventually take the reins).

The visiting public has established patterns, too. Many come back Stroll after Stroll to browse the galleries, meet working artists and decorate their homes and lives with everything from clothing and textiles to ceramics to paintings and sculpture in all sorts of mediums. Calendars are marked for the second full weekends of June and November, ads and maps in publications are saved and long weekend trips to



A selection of "patterns" from the River Arts District.

Asheville are booked.

I also think about the word "movement". If you could watch the River Arts District from an aerial viewpoint during a Stroll weekend, you would see fascinating patterns amongst the 14 or so buildings — at first seemingly random. Like worker ants, artists arrive early (more ants! what's with the ants?!), and then visitors, like more ants than can fit at a sugar picnic, descend upon the area. They come by foot, bike, car and Trolley. Maps in hand, they march from building to building, visiting the artists' colony, ever-increasing in density as they follow in each others' circuitous footsteps. It is a phenomenon that forms its own sort of living design. And it's cyclic, happening every second full weekend of June and November.

Whether you are into the definition of pattern as art, or as a concept about artists, the Studio Strolls are "an example deserving imitation", so check it out November 13-14 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. See you there!



### GREG VINEYARD

Greg Vineyard is an artist, creative consultant, and writer in Asheville's River Arts District who trusts that all artistic expression has a purpose.

His colorful, tactile and out-of-round meditation/tea bowls, carved keepsake boxes and animal/word tile assemblages are about contemplation, connectiv-

ity and communication in a spiritual procession of awareness, service, esteem, healing, humility, peace, joy, serenity, light and love.

His studio and his work can be found at Constance Williams Gallery, 9 Riverside Drive, in CURVE studios and garden, across from 12 Bones. Open every day 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Visit [www.CURVEstudiosNC.com](http://www.CURVEstudiosNC.com)



# river arts district studio stroll

## CONSTANCE WILLIAMS

Constance Williams creates engaging landscapes, tree scenes and abstracts using the ancient Greek wax painting method known as “encaustic”, which is comprised of pure beeswax, damar tree resin and wax paint colors.

Her luminous works are a continuous exploration of both technique and color, revealing swirling layers and bright, rich hues. Wielding a blow torch, she keeps the surface heated, fluid and textural as she adds and subtracts dozens and dozens of layers of color.

Constance is also a clay sculptor and entrepreneur. Above her gallery, she hosts several clay and mixed-media artists, who, along with four additional local artists, provide an even more engaging experience for visitors. Ever-involved in community service, she is the current President of the 140-plus member River Arts District Artists, who work in over a dozen historic buildings just down the street from downtown Asheville.

Her work can be seen at her gallery every day from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. She is a featured artist at the Grove Park Inn through December 27, and at Cholke



dCapri Gallery, in Rockville, Illinois from November 5 into 2011.

**Visit Constance Williams gallery, located at 9 Riverside Dr. The middle building in the CURVE studios and garden tri-plex, across from 12 Bones Smokehouse. Phone (828) 225-1762 or visit [www.constancewilliams-gallery.com](http://www.constancewilliams-gallery.com).**

## About the Studio Stroll

Saturday & Sunday, November 13-14

Twice a year, every second weekend in June and November, Asheville's River Arts District artists open their studios to the public for two days of festivities known as the Studio Stroll. The next Studio Stroll will be held November 13-14, 2010.

The River Arts District Studio Stroll, begun in 1994, is the biggest and easiest to navigate tour of working artist studios in the region. More than 120 studios are open, including painting, pottery, glass, photography, drawing, jewelry, quilts, encaustic, ironwork, sculpture, clothing, book arts, weaving, woodworking and more!

Explore studios inside the revitalized old factories and warehouses along the French Broad River, just minutes from downtown. Local artist/entrepreneurs welcome everyone into their studios to learn more about their process and their art.

Open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. both Saturday and Sunday! Ride free on the Asheville Historic Trolley between studio buildings. Board at the Asheville Visitor Center on Montford Ave. or hop on anywhere along the route.

IF  
YOU  
GO

An information booth will be located at the five-way stop where Clingman Ave. meets Lyman St. For more details visit [www.riverartsdistrict.com](http://www.riverartsdistrict.com) or call (828) 280-7709.

## RIVER ARTS STUDIO BUILDINGS

- \* 240 Clingman
- \* 347 Depot
- \* Cotton Mill Studios
- \* CURVE studios
- \* Fine Arts League
- \* Odyssey Center
- \* Phil Mechanic
- \* Riverside Studios
- \* Riverview Station
- \* Roberts St. Studios
- \* Roots
- \* Studio 375
- \* The Wedge
- \* Warehouse Studios

## JANTON ART STUDIO

American born Stephen R. Janton (b.1959) states, “I am a realist painter who enjoys the challenge of painting the human form. I have been so influenced and impressed by the Old Masters, the Dutch “Little Masters” and the best of the French academic painters of the nineteenth century. They carried oil painting to its highest pinnacle of technical perfection.”



**King Penguins, 18" x 24"**

Oil on gesso panel by Stephen Janton

In addition, having grown up in Wilmington Delaware, Janton was exposed to the Brandywine School and the artists Pyle, the entire Wyeth family and his friend and guide George Weymouth. Portraiture and the human form have always been Janton's main interest and he has developed a good sense of form during his many years studying and

*Quality is the central issue.*

working as a Physical Therapist. His works in still life and landscapes tend to be more experimental with a sense of realism.

“I attempt painting what is real to me... what I see. In doing a portrait, I enjoy finding the composition that best describes the individual's personality and I include the person being painted in that process which makes for a more successful outcome. I frequently utilize the technique of a single light source in my portraits as it helps create greater depth. I rely primarily on the techniques of traditional oil painting but have tested my deepest level of patience by painting in egg tempera and appreciate the quality of skin tones created by the unique process.”

“Artwork should stand on its own merits — or fail on its own shortcomings if it does not succeed in registering favorably upon the viewer's sensibilities. Quality is the central issue, as it must be where art is concerned. I am doing my best and enjoying the process in my attempts at creating quality in my artwork.”

**Janton Art Studio, Riverview Station, 191 Lyman St., #211, in Asheville's River Arts District. Visit [www.jantonart.com](http://www.jantonart.com)**

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## JONAS GERARD FINE ART

Jonas Gerard Fine Art will be offering an interesting twist during the November Studio Stroll this year. The gallery will be featuring multiple genres of music and three incredibly talented artists. This will include Jonas Gerard's spontaneous and energetic body of work along with his Saturday and Sunday Painting Performance at 2 p.m., Carl Powell's magnificent glass sculptures, and Silvia Sabaini, whose narrative portraits are displayed beautifully in clay. This happening should be considered an extravaganza of talented artists, all in one place, and for everyone to enjoy!

In addition to the visually stimulating display, visitors will also have the opportunity to listen to the art and see the music as Jonas performs live to the tropical and Cuban sounds of Ahora Si. Come early and stay late to hear the soothing jazz sounds of 42nd Street & the Mark Guest Trio. There will be creativity in the air and dancing for those who love to live life to the fullest.

To top it off there will be lighter-fare goodies and wine to sip as one strolls through the gallery, becoming one with this amazing



**The Way I See It, by Jonas Gerard**

shift of energy and transformation. It is truly a gift of rejuvenation for the soul, artists, and anyone who is willing to take part.

**Jonas Gerard Fine Art is located at 240 Clingman Avenue, Asheville, NC 28801. Visit us online at [jonasgerard.com](http://jonasgerard.com) or call (828) 350-7711 for more information.**

## Sculptor Silvia Sabaini Figurative Exhibition

**November 13 at Jonas Gerard Fine Art**

Ceramic sculptor Silvia Sabaini will debut her exhibition *Narrative Portraits in Clay* at Jonas Gerard Fine Art on November 13. Sabaini is recognized for her compelling life-sized figurative portraits in clay. Her inclusive studies of gender, race and age provide a transcendent commentary on the universal spirit.

Her portraits exhibit the complex strain of existence and are fraught with themes of struggle for identity, recognition and voice. Her provocative blend of magical realism displays an archive of the mind: a catalog of everyday human expression nuanced with precision. She shapes her forms from red clay with sheer underglaze and clear coat.

Her minimalist materials emphasize strength in simplicity and shadow, presenting raw emotion stripped to its starkest form. Sabaini, who works mainly out of her studio at Odyssey Center for Ceramic Arts and serves as Odyssey's representative to the River Arts District Artists (RADA), is a self-taught artist. She warmly welcomes visitors to her open studio by appointment. Her work has been exhibited both locally and nationally.

Born in Chicago, Sabaini currently resides in West Asheville where she also keeps a home studio in which she practices painting. For more information on the artist, visit [www.silviasabaini.com](http://www.silviasabaini.com).

**BY MELINDA TENNISON**



**Day After Day Her Head's in the Clouds, by Silvia Sabaini. Photo: Steve Mann**

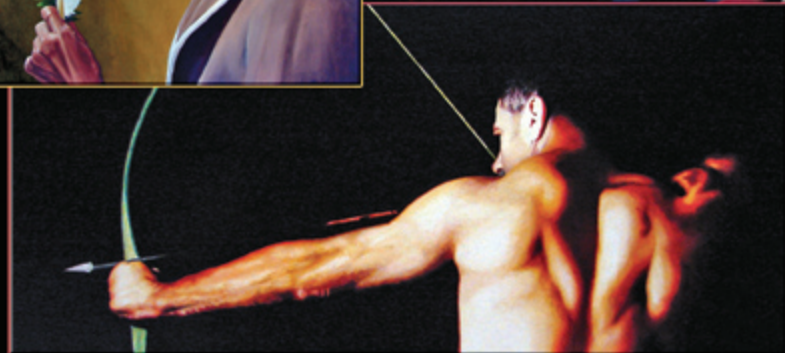
*Silvia Sabaini: Narrative Portraits in Clay* will be on display November 13 through December 11. Exclusively during Stroll Weekend, November 13-14 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., her work will be shown in conjunction with *Carl Powell: Glass Sculpture* as the dual exhibit *Form Over Function*.

**Jonas Gerard Fine Art, 240 Clingman Avenue in the River Arts District. For more information, please phone (828) 350-7711 or visit [www.jonasgerard.com](http://www.jonasgerard.com)**



**JANTONART.COM**

PORTRAITS AND PAINTINGS BY  
STEPHEN JANTON



**RIVerview STATION #211, 191 LYMAN ST. ASHEVILLE, NC  
305-588-4564**



# studio stroll

## Murals Beautify and Revitalize

*The Asheville Mural Project paints a mural on the Historic Cotton Mill Studios in the River Arts District.*

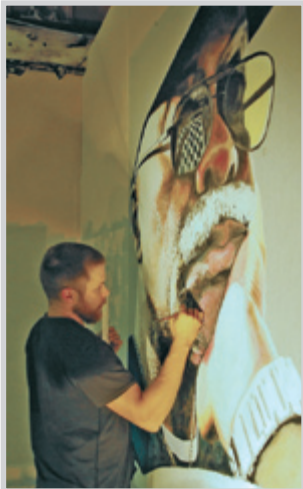
The Asheville Mural Project (AMP), a program of Arts 2 People, exists to beautify and diversify Asheville's urban landscape, providing artists and local community members with the opportunity to implement their own public art. AMP believes that murals enhance quality of life and create an artful metropolitan experience through the transformation of conventional architecture. The murals are both a testimony and celebration of a lively local arts culture.

AMP is making Asheville a city where the mural arts are celebrated by collaborating with local professional muralists to create the highest quality art which will serve as lasting monuments. In a recent article from Kent Ohio, inspiration from AMP's Lexington Gateway Mural helped inspire the development of their own city mural.

A new mural was just commissioned by the Historic Cotton Mill Studios in Asheville. Located in the River Arts District of Asheville, the Cotton Mill Complex was destroyed by a devastating fire in 1995. The building was purchased by potters Eileen and Marty Black (The Potter's Mark Ltd.) in 2002 and is now home to nine artists.

On the north side of the building burn marks are evidence that the fire reached far up the wall. The building was saved both by an operating sprinkler system and a shift in the winds away from the building.

Unfortunately, this was the side of the building on display to passersby's on the Smokey Park Bridge over the French Broad river. It made the River Arts District look like a burned out slum. After purchasing the building, Marty and Eileen began a facelift to improve the image and identity of the River Arts District. They started by cleaning and painting the burnt side wall so the view



AMP Director Ian Wilkinson working on the Lexington Gateway mural.

BY ERIN SCHOLZE

from the bridge would be more appealing, hopefully attracting more visitors to the area.

Investigating many possibilities the Blacks decided on a mural, but not just any mural, they wanted a "Trompe l'oeil". French for 'deceive the eye', Trompe l'oeil is an art technique involving extremely realistic imagery in order to create the impression that the depicted objects appear in three dimensions.

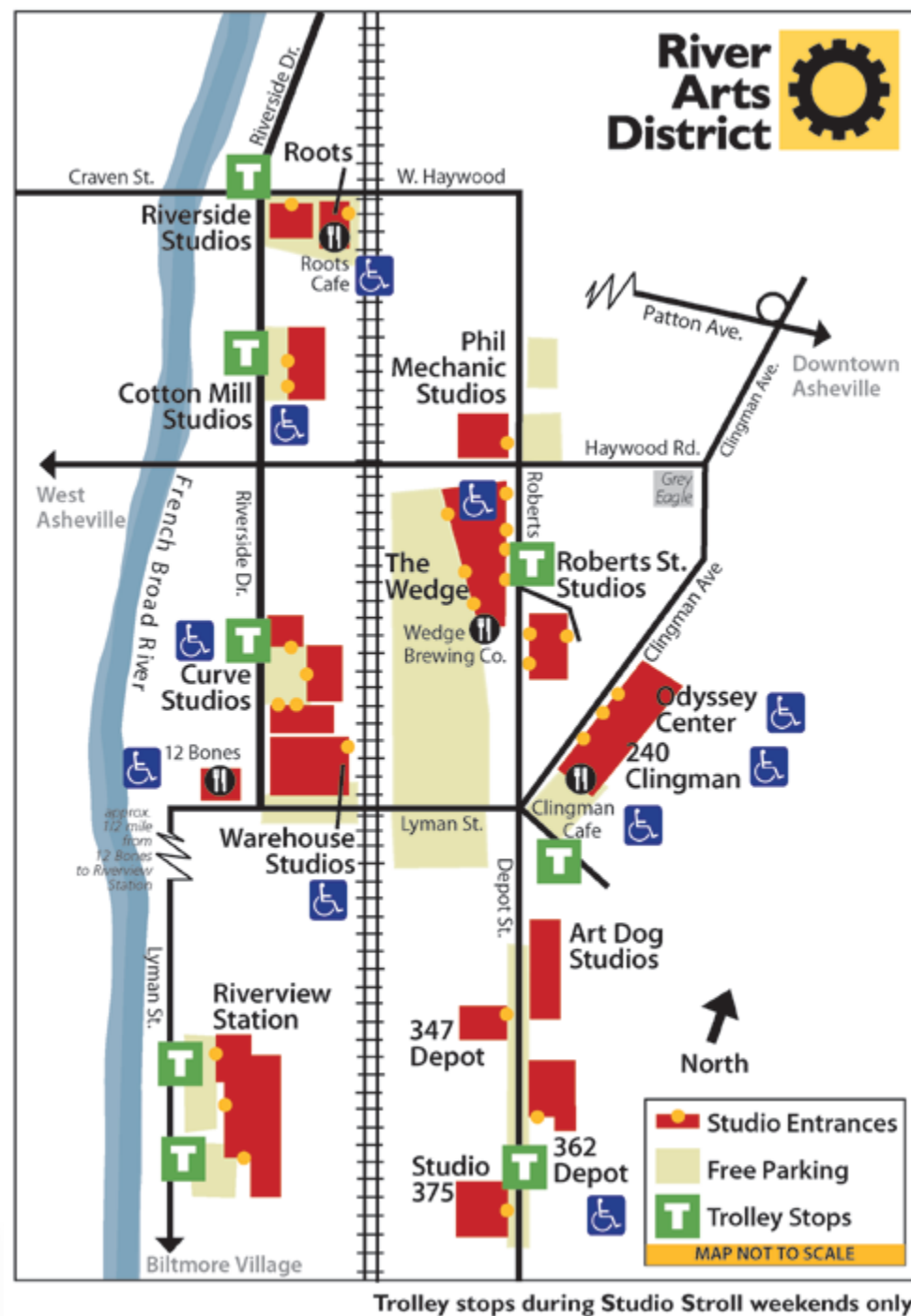
Ian Wilkinson, the Asheville Mural Projects director, came up with the ideal solution. Eileen and Marty hope that this will become a landmark and the beginning of many similar murals on the old buildings of the River Arts District, resulting in attracting many more tourists to Asheville and to the many studios located here.



Projection of what the new mural will look like on the Cotton Mill Studio building.

### About AMP's Director

Ian Wilkinson has been a professional muralist for fifteen years. He was the lead mural artist for the Holocaust Museum of Virginia. Ian painted murals depicting the Ipsen family's escape from the Holocaust, and worked directly with other Holocaust survivors to make detailed drawings that would be used to recreate key points in the museum. Wilkinson went on to earn his BFA in painting from Adams State College



in Colorado. Wilkinson shows his personal work in Santa Fe and private collections across the country. He specializes in portraits, realism, and large format work. Wilkinson is currently the Director of the Asheville Mural Project, which is a program of Arts 2 People. Wilkinson lives in Asheville with his wife Angeline, daughter Ella, and son Augustus.

It is AMP's goal to make murals an affordable and lasting solution for beautifying and revitalizing buildings, homes, and businesses. The AMP team works closely with clients in the proposal phase of the project. AMP works hard to meet budgetary requirements and navigate the permit processes. All works are created using state-of-the-art materials. The AMP team offers a number of different service agreements for clients to assure our works will stand the test of time and weather. AMP also specializes in child directed murals and offers free lectures and workshops.



The symbol for the River Arts District is now featured on the north side of the Cotton Mill building.

To find out more about the Asheville Mural Project, please visit [www.arts2people.org/amp.html](http://www.arts2people.org/amp.html) or email Ian Wilkinson at [info@ianthepainter.com](mailto:info@ianthepainter.com).



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Bill Holman will discuss the state of water in North Carolina, including water quality and quantity issues. He will also describe the report he prepared and presented to the North Carolina legislature with Richard Whisenhunt.

Bill Holman, former Secretary of NC DENR, is now a scholar at the Nicholas School of the Environment at Duke University. Event takes place in the Ferguson Auditorium, AB Tech Asheville Campus, at 6 p.m.

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## studio stroll

### The Soul of Art

BY DENNIS RAY

The clay souls are massive and stoic. Their crusty brown surface pock-marked with dark crevices cast long shadows as they wait silently in the garden outside of the Curve Studio building catching the warmth of early morning sunlight. Their creator is local artist Cassie Ryalls who has her studio on the second floor of the building. The souls in the garden stand over five-feet, have no physical features, no arms or eyes, yet they capture the essence of human life and our need for connection.

In her studio Ryalls is preparing a dozen or so new clay souls for firing. These souls however are much smaller ranging from six inches to just over a foot. "The larger sculptures explore complex emotions/situations which really drives me," she says. "The small ones are more fun in playing with color, designs and glazes."

Her souls have become quite successful, selling exceptionally well since their introduction back in 2005 when she moved to Asheville. "They began as a project in college to capture human psychology through art."



Cassie Ryalls at work in her studio.

Her primitive design of the soul is that of something featureless like ancient mummies or shadows that have freed themselves from the two-dimensional world into ours, giving focus to the design not the caricature. This allows Ryalls to step beyond mere-craft and into fine art.

"Creating these souls is my way of sharing my life experiences with others," she says. "I am interested in the way that human beings relate to one another. I explore human relationships and interactions by stripping the figure of details that would lead to a specific identity. My figures are connected through anonymity and the very nature of existence."

People, Ryalls goes on to explain, are constantly seeking to express themselves as individuals. "The soul" she says, "or the person who we are is unique and original although our bodies are basically all the same."

It can also be said her work is as much about relationships as it is about individuality. Her souls together represent harmony and singly they represent solace. Ryalls's art souls portray relationships to each other in unique ways through their individual designs and colors.

Buyers choose souls that they feel best describe themselves or their loved ones. "I've had families come in and buy one for each family member." She decorates each one with one-of-a-kind designs and color arrangements. Like people, no two are alike.

"Buyers," she goes on and explains, "have walked passed a certain one of my souls and said, 'That's my dad or that's my son.' Sometimes they spend a long time searching for the right one and sometimes they find it right away."

Ryalls's art is the capturing of life at its simplest state. It is love at its most complex. Hope and truth wait in between.

To view Ryalls' work please visit **CURVE Studios & Garden, Riverside Drive, in Asheville's River Arts District. Phone (828) 388-3526, [www.curvestudiosnc.com](http://www.curvestudiosnc.com)**



Souls by Cassie Ryalls

Ryalls attended the prestigious Berea College in Berea, Kentucky where she studied Art and Psychology. Upon graduating from college, Cassie attended the Penland School of Craft in North Carolina to study glaze chemistry. While at Penland, she discovered the Odyssey Center for Ceramic Arts and became a resident there for the next two years. After the residency, Cassie attended the University of Florida for post-baccalaureate studies in Ceramics.

"In college I became mesmerized with clay," she says, "and have since used it as my main medium of art. I've always had a love of psychology and am interested in how people relate to each other."

Throughout history artists have used the human figure to show individuality and our relationships toward each other. Artists have drawn, painted and carved the image of the human figure since ancient times. The Ancient Egyptians, Greeks and Romans, as well as artists of the Renaissance, created the human figure for various reasons. Ryalls's use of the human form emulates a primitive design and because of that is both innovative and thought provoking. Her work non-the-less is spectacular.

natural beauty



18k sapphire and diamond pendant by Alex Sepkus

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