

Olde Mill Gallery Lecture Series

Three lectures are planned for the first half of 2008 for the Olde Mill Gallery and Studios. The lectures will begin at 7 p.m. in one of the larger studios which will be arranged as a lecture hall. Light refreshments will be provided along with the opportunity to meet the 37 artists and see their art work exhibited in the gallery.

Everest, Not Everest: An Examination of Appearance and Identity Jeff Botz, Photographer Thursday, February 28, 2008

Jeff Botz is an awarded professional photographer who emulates the style of Ansel Adams. A native of New Jersey, he now resides in Marshville, North Carolina. His background in photography and printing exposed Mr. Botz on a daily basis to the working methods and vision of photographers and gallery directors at the world level. Prints he has made are in the collections of the Museum of Modern Art, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, Art Institute of Chicago and the Amon Carter Museum, among others.

Mr. Botz is the first to ever develop a photographic survey of the world's tallest mountain and its surrounding region. It is a portrait in the broadest sense: its goal is to define the mountain as well as its physical and cultural context. The appearance strand, comprised of high resolution black and white photos, uses Everest as the epicenter of the survey from which the photos show the other major mountains, glaciers, rivers and base camps in the region.

The educational and photographic lecture will explain why the mountain is called Everest and why it has another more appropriate name.

Motown and More Curtis McNair, Artist and Graphic Designer Tuesday, March 18, 2008

Curtis McNair was born in Scotland County, North Carolina but moved with his mother as a young child to Detroit, Michigan. He attended Alger School which had a profound influence on him and the many other artists who are products of that educational institution including Aretha Franklin and Sam Cooke.

During a brief two-year period in the military, he traveled throughout Europe in Special Services as a member of the Wing Victory Chorus in the Army 5th Division. Along with other men, he was part of a quartet who traveled extensively singing popular songs of the day and was scheduled to appear on the Ed Sullivan Show.

After the army, Mr. McNair returned to Detroit and graduated with honors and a Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree from the College of Art and Design, Center for Creative Studies. From his many professional experiences, he has an artistic expertise that covers a wide range of commercial and fine arts.

Mr. McNair worked in the Corporate Design Department as a graphic illustrator for Chrysler Corporation from 1964 to 1968. He was then the art director and design artist for Motown Recording Corporation until 1972. While at Motown, Mr. McNair assisted in developing concepts and coordinating photographic sessions for entertainers such as Stevie Wonder, Diana Ross and the Supremes, Smoky Robinson, The Jackson Five and Marvin Gaye, to name a few. His album cover designs still garner him praise. One of his covers for Marvin Gaye is still considered one of the best album designs in the world.

From Motown, he opened and operated his own printing business, Gott Graphics and Printing. His expertise was noticed by the City of Detroit and he was invited to join the City's Public Information Department team. While there, from 1983-1988, he worked as a graphic artist and was later promoted to supervisor over the Printing Division for that department.

In later years, Mr. McNair, who has won numerous awards for his work and maintained membership in several professional organizations related to his field, has been an art teacher in the Richmond County School System and been an exhibitor of his design and fine art pieces throughout the region. He has been highlighted in publications such as *The Fayetteville Observer* in January 2003.

Now retired in Anson County near Wadesboro with wife, former assistant superintendent of Durham County School Donna, he is catching a second wind and returning to his first love, art and is ready to allow the creative juices to flow once again from pen, pencil and brush to canvas.

Colonial Background in Voice and Painting
Barbara Funderburk, Artist and Author
Thursday, May 1, 2008

Barbara Funderburk is a native of North Carolina who holds degrees from Wake Forest and East Carolina universities. A former photojournalist, she has worked in television as a writer and producer, in public relations, and has taught English and history in public schools. Later, she served as a registered nurse in home healthcare and in training and human resources in hospital settings. Her paintings have been exhibited in galleries and art shows and are included in several private and corporate collections. Ms. Funderburk lives in Monroe, North Carolina.

The farms and rolling countryside of North Carolina's southern piedmont area is one of the subjects that Ms. Funderburk has brought to life in a series of magnificent oil paintings as well as a book entitled *Count Their Lives in Womanyears*, which includes pictures of her paintings, old recipes, stories and poetry. Her paintings are bold and subtle depictions of life as it was and her writings tell of ordinary people living remarkable lives.

Ms. Funderburk, dressed in authentic colonial dress of the ordinary woman, will use her oil paintings to tell wonderful stories that will bring to life this region's cultural history.