

# Market urges support for artists

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04.07.11 - 04:28 pm



By Cliff Bellamy

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DURHAM -- Brian Allen has "one foot in the 15th century, and one in the 21st." Allen used to write the code that makes printer fonts like Bookman and Times New Roman look the way they do. He also prints invitations, literary broadsides (he did one for poet W.S.

Merwin's visit last year), and cards using an 1850s hand press.

Visitors to this weekend's Durham Art Walk Spring Market can watch Allen at work with the press in his studio in Golden Belt on East Main Street. He is among about 200 local artists -- who work in everything from abstract painting to watercolors to fused glass to handmade jewelry -- who will be at 40 venues in and around downtown. As in years past, visitors can start their trek at the Durham Arts Council building on Morris Street.

Organizers want to emphasize the word "market" in the title as much as the walk. "We want people to buy the art. ...We're trying to get people to shop," said Barclay McConnell, artist services manager for the Durham Arts Council, which organizes the event every spring and fall.

The Art Walk originated as a way to attract more people from Durham and the region to the downtown area, and help businesses downtown. Even with the new restaurants and arts facilities downtown, the area still needs the kind of traffic this event can provide, she said.

A plethora of visual artists brought some of their work, or photos of their work, to an informal pre-Art Walk gathering at Bull McCabe's pub last week. Painter Bruce Mitchell, whose studio is his house (known as the circular house) on South Duke Street across from Orchard Park, said he is a little off the Art Walk map, but is hoping to get some of shuttle traffic. Downtown revitalization has helped business, but visual art is not an endeavor that attracts impulse buyers. "Most of the people who go on these walks by predisposition are not art buyers," Mitchell said. "Very seldom do you get an impulse buyer. It's a relationship business."

Catherine and Neil Palomba are a husband-and-wife team who create what they call "heavily textured abstract paintings." They began painting separately, but soon

realized they worked better together. Every canvas passes between them several times before becoming a finished work. Visitors can see the process at their studio at Golden Belt. They have participated in all Art Walks, and have had some good sales, Catherine Palomba said.

Reuven Fields of Chapel Hill, who makes large metal sculptures, calls Durham "my best client."

LéGrant Taylor of Garner will unveil a new series of prints titled "Express Yourself" at the market. He calls the series a look back at the 1960s. He studied printing technology but said he is largely self-taught. He calls his style a blend of realism and folk art. "I would like to say it's developing," he said of his style.

Jewelry maker Mamie Wilkins will be participating in her second Art Walk. "I take old vintage and antique parts ... and I mix [them] with modern technology," with the idea that the necklace or piece might still be handed down as a family heirloom, she said of her work.

Leigh Griffin also makes jewelry. She likes to use stones with a rough edge, and has developed a method of attaching the stones to copper or sterling silver. Karen Casey makes pendants, earrings and other jewelry from layers of fused glass, fired at high temperatures.

Judy Keene creates large, abstract oil paintings that she said struggle for a classical feeling. "I rework paintings a lot," she said. "I massage and blend color so that colors retreat and advance."

Among the other artists whose work will be for sale are Beth Palmer (paintings), Eduardo Lapetina (abstract paintings), Jamie B. Wolcott (posters and illustrations), Freeman H. Beard (watercolors), Joanne Penning (watercolors), Jeanmarie Griffin (re-made items), and Jeanne Peters (jewelry).

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WHAT: Durham Art Walk Spring Market

WHEN: Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sunday, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

WHERE: Durham Arts Council, 120 Morris St., and other venues and businesses in and around the downtown area

ADMISSION: Free  
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## OTHER EVENTS DURING DURHAM ART WALK SPRING MARKET

For a full schedule, visit [www.durhamartwalk.com](http://www.durhamartwalk.com)

Visitors who buy a spring plant at the Durham Arts Council, 120 Morris St., will be eligible for raffle prizes, including original work from participating artists.

“Upcycled” art projects from N.C. State and The Scrap Exchange will be on view at The Scrap Exchange, 548 Foster St.

Little Jimmy and the Glendales will lead a participatory drum piece titled “Drumming for a Rain Dance,” to raise money for cancer awareness, at the corner of Foster and Hunt Streets, Saturday from noon to 5 p.m. Drumstrong: Drumming to beat cancer, will take place at Durham Central Park, Sunday from 2 to 6 p.m.

Food trucks will be selling their goods on Morgan Street next to the Arts Council building.

A “Surprise Art Happening” will take place on the streets of downtown Durham, presented by See Saw Studio’s Teen Designers, Saturday and Sunday, at the Durham Arts Council and CCB Plaza.

Mallarme Chamber Players will perform “Mozart & More” at Hayti Heritage Center, 804 Old Fayetteville St., Sunday from 3 to 5 p.m.

W.G. Pearson Honors Harp Ensemble will perform in the Durham Arts Council lobby Saturday from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Scene of the Crime Rovers Marching Band will perform in and around the streets of downtown Saturday beginning at 4 p.m. until.

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