

September 9, 2005 Chapel Hill-Carrboro 2nd Friday Gallery Walk

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The big news for Chapel Hill-Carrboro's 2nd Friday Art Walk is the addition of the Ackland Art Museum to the roster. A gift from the Ackland Art Museum Guild allows the museum to stay open through 9 p.m. for each month's art walk, providing a downtown link from University Mall's participating galleries to Carrboro venues.

Tonight, the Ackland's "Art After Dark" will celebrate the 150th anniversary of founder William Hayes Ackland's birth with a live jazz birthday party and cake.

Highly recommended is its newest show, "Three Sides to a Sheet of Paper," highlighting the Ackland's extensive collection of art prints. Great works by the great masters - Durer, Rembrandt, Blake, Goya, Matisse, Picasso, Warhol.

Tyndall Gallery at University Mall presents new work by local favorite Jane Filer. Filer's new paintings have a lighter palette of brighter yellows, yellow-greens (the same color as new spring leaves) and fiery red. Uncovered collaged fabrics emerge more boldly through her highly worked surfaces, and the horses, birds, people, winged beings, roads, abodes, arched bridges, suns and moons of her world seem to organize themselves along more strict geometries this time around. A set of playful hand-painted papier-mache masks, "Crazy Cat," "The Queen," "Man Mask," "Helmet Head" and "Handy Man" (he has hands growing from the top of his head) amplify in three dimensions the mythology of the paintings.

A very new piece, "Humming Birds in Fire Weeds," with its warm palette of orange, pink, and red pulsing with all-over black accents seems to veer toward the

completely abstract field. New directions?



Jane Filer's "Hummingbirds and Fireweed"
42"x 42" acrylic on canvas

In Carrboro's Carr Mill, Wootini, a fascinating "toy" store, purveys art with a comic book/graphic novel sensibility translated into custom-designed toys = fun objects for grown-up kids (Collect Them All!). The happening 2nd Friday scene there has great energy, and this month features "Take That Back," the art, books, toys and tees of artist Andrew Bell.

Branch Gallery, beginning its second season, offers "She Was in an Awful Fix," new work by Julia Elsas - handmade books and screened panels and paintings by this artist who often combines sewing with drawing on paper. Look for Elsas, a Branch stable artist, at the the North Carolina Museum of Art "Crosscurrents" show opening later this month.

Not on the 2nd Friday Art Walk, but still in Chapel Hill, Somerhill Gallery's ambitious "The Big Picture" gives gallery photographers a chance to address large format work. Owner Joe Rowand creates an almost museum feel with a lively hanging and wall signage that includes a pertinent 1936 quote from Maholy-Nagy, "The illiterate of the future will be those ignorant of photography," as well as his own musings about the nature of the photographic medium.