



FIRED WORKS

ceramic exhibition and sale



April 9th - 17th, 2021
Macon, GA

A publication of Macon Magazine
Image: Ginger Birdsey

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GET FIRED UP FOR GEORGIA'S LARGEST POTTERY SHOW

April 9th - 17th, 2021

Amid the global pandemic, Macon Arts Alliance has figured out how to have a safe and successful event. The Round Building in Carolyn Crayton Park boasts natural ventilation, high and spacious ceilings, and bountiful light that seems to bring the pottery to life. It is the perfect location for this yearly event.

"This is our third COVID ceramics event," said Julie Wilkerson, executive director of Macon Arts Alliance. "We are once again doing everything possible to keep those who come safe while at the same time providing an online shopping alternative for those not comfortable coming in person."

This year's featured artist is Ginger Birdsey, a Macon native who currently lives in Atlanta. Along with Birdsey, fifty master potters from around the southeast will bring thousands of functional and decorative pieces. Selected pieces will be available for purchase online at maconarts.org/shop.

"Our most recent two events, the 2020 Fired Works in June and Fire & Ice in November, allowed us to



2 Above: Shoppers at Fired Works view work by master potter Alicia David.

pay over \$40,000 in commissions to our artists," said Wilkerson. "Many of them have not had another show since 2019, so this event is especially important for them."

The event will be open daily from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., with a virtual preview held via Facebook Live at 4 p.m. on Thursday, April 8. Online sales open at 10 a.m. on Friday, April 9.

At 11 a.m. Tuesday, April 13, Mary Pinson (marypinson.com) will demonstrate how to use diverse pieces from the show to create beautiful floral design arrangements. The event is free and open to the public and will also be a Facebook Live event. Finished works will be available for purchase.

Fired Works highlights the rich history of pottery-making in Central Georgia and its connection to the Ocmulgee River Region. Whether it is the deep red mud or 'white gold' kaolin, potters around the world prefer Georgia clay. The nearby Ocmulgee Mounds National Historical Park is an excellent resource for the history

of pottery-making in the area with its noteworthy exhibit of functional pottery crafted by Native American artisans thousands of years ago. The park is one of this continent's richest sites for early artifacts and is where the oldest piece of stamped pottery found in North America was discovered in 1933. Fired Works celebrates the artists who continue this tradition today.

Macon Arts Alliance fosters support for the advancement of arts and culture in Central Georgia. We strive to be an innovative leader of a thriving regional arts community. We value strategic partnerships that strengthen the diversity and vibrancy of arts and culture for tourists, residents, artists, businesses and civic organizations. Macon Arts Alliance is the designated Arts Agency for Macon-Bibb County and is charged with implementing the 2020 Cultural Plan for Macon. Macon Arts Alliance is funded in part by the Macon-Bibb County Hotel/Motel tax and through generous private support from foundations, corporations, and individual contributions.

Image: Meg Campbell



FIRE WORKS PARTICIPATING ARTISTS

Lauren Bausch
Derek Belflower
Ginger Birdsey
Andrea Boswell
Lori Buff
Meg Campbell
Yen-Ting Chiu
Sheila Chrzan
Glen Dair
Alicia David
Sara Farmer
Brian Fort
Wade Franklin
Marise Fransolino
Camren Gober
Kathyne Gould

Kirby Gregory
Nancy Hostetter
Roger Jamison
Tammy Josephson
Kathy King
Suzanne Kleese-Stamps
Emily Knapp
John Lowes
Anna Marino
Ester Mech
Nancy Mehrpad
Noah Miller
Sandra Morato
Sheridan Nadeau
Kyle Osvog
Mariella Owens

Ronan Kyle Peterson
Lynnette Phillips
Adrina Richard
George Kris Robson
Helen Rogers
Lora Rust
Elizabeth Sabatino
Jim Sandefur
Pamela Summers
Dorothy Taylor
Bo Thompson
Doug Tobin
Keaton Wynn
Tripti Yoganathan



Ginger Birdsey

2021 Fired Works Featured Artist

Would you like to introduce yourself?

I grew up in Macon, and come from a family of storytellers. My neighborhood consisted of my relatives; next door lived my grandmother and granddaddy and around the corners were aunts, uncles and many cousins. We lived in a safe protected place, played outside every summer night and caught a good number of lightning bugs. I walked to school (Clisby), went to then Miller High School and graduated from Mercer University. I traveled in later years but wound up living 80 miles from Macon, in Atlanta. It would seem I haven't gone too far, but the world and its universal sensibilities were in this small concentric circle.

What does "being creative" mean to you?

I taught art to kids of all ages. Starting at 8:30 a.m. with 6 year olds and ending the day with Advanced Art students. We all start out "being creative" and somehow it can become buried along the way if it is not encouraged and nourished. Every kid I ever taught was creative and it took many forms as they grew up. We associate being creative with the visual or performing arts but there are so many ways to be creative, that is, being present in this world, alive to all around us, curious and always asking "what if."

Can you describe a time when you first realized that creating was something you absolutely had to do?

One of my earliest memories was sitting on the floor in my daddy's studio (he was a painter, maker and fixer of all things). All around me were different shapes of colored paper, glue, paint, pens and pencils. I was like a kid in a candy shop with permission to play and do and make all I wanted. I was so happy and free. Holding on to that feeling is what keeps me at the table, in the chair, head down and happily focused.

What inspires you?

I am moved by nature in all forms, walking on the beach looking at how the sand forms, the colors and textures of the driftwood, walking in a field of waving grasses, seeing how the trees move and grow. I have a friend who knows every name (Latin, too) of plants and trees in the woods or at the coast. She is an inspiration. When I was little, I spent summer days looking intently how the roots and vines dip in and out of the water, imagining creatures and small people living there. In my garden, deep looking into flowers the tangled vines and wormy dirt, create a visceral response.

Reading a poem by Mary Oliver or Stanley Kunitz, especially, can be a stimulating moment to my thinking about our relationship to our outer and inner canvases. Clay is a natural material found in the earth. It is as if I am one with nature's soul having a conversation about real and imaginary landscapes we live in.

What kind of creative patterns, routines, rituals do you have?

Walking every day with my dog Rosie gives me the opportunity to explore the details of the urban

world. I listen to the sounds of the bird's songs, the traffic, see what house is being renovated, look at new plantings or connect to a neighbor's hello. I have several bird feeders; feeding them in my backyard garden and getting them to know me, digging in my garden, planting shrubs and flowers and watching the growth, witnessing the ever changing of seasons, accepting the dying and anticipating new life.

What's your favorite thing you've ever created?

I could say my children, both of whom have happy lives. I could say my garden, for it has given me great pleasure for many years. I could say some great dinner cooked and enjoyed. I could say my home, surrounded by the things I love and the family memories in it. I could say the paintings and ceramics I have made. So perhaps, I will say my good dreams and memories that have nourished me and given me a wealth of knowledge to prime the pump of creativity is a thing I cherish.

What are you trying to communicate with your art?

I invite you to hear the cardinal sing, smell the roses, imagine bubbles full of stardust in your hair as you engage with my art and me. My work evokes memories of universal feelings of loss of innocence, aging and regeneration. I use images of nature and animals and humans fusing them to witness our changing lives. Engage with my art and I hope you find a moment of sadness, a smile or a good laugh or remember one of your dreams or memories. I hope you ask questions, become curious about fantasy and reality and how the two can connect you to who you are.

Which creative medium would you love to pursue, but haven't yet?

I would like to learn how to weld.

What's the best advice you ever had about how to be more creative?

I had a teacher who, instead of telling me what to do, told me in a voice of childlike wonder of the circuses she went to in France, the girl on the horse, the faces of the clowns, the magic in the air. Listen to your 6-year-old self. She will tell the truth and teach you how to play.

Who is your favorite artist, and what draws you to them?

Frida Kahlo because she used her entire emotional self in her art. The Surrealists because they fused the imaginary with real life. Picasso because he broke rules and took risks. Klee because he never let his child leave his side.

What is your dream project?

To live a good life, and to keep playing and asking questions.



Above: Ginger Birdsey



FIR ED WORKS EVENT SCHEDULE

Shop online at maconarts.org/shop

Round Building at Carolyn Crayton Park
115 Willie Smokey Glover Drive, Macon, GA
Free Admission. \$5 donation is suggested

Fired Works Hours:
April 9th - 17th
10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Thursday, April 8th
VIRTUAL PREVIEW
Time: Facebook Live at 4 p.m.



Friday, April 9th
ONLINE & IN-PERSON SALES OPEN
Time: 10 a.m.

Tuesday, April 13th
FLORAL DEMO WITH MARY PINSON
Time: 11 a.m.

Thursday, April 15th
HAPPY HOUR
Time: 4 - 6 p.m.
Sip wine while you shop!



Safety Precautions at Fired Works:

Macon Arts Alliance cares about the health and safety of our employees, artists and patrons. We will be following CDC and government guidelines regarding cleaning and physical distancing at Fired Works. Gloves and hand sanitizer will be available on-site, as well as a hand-washing station. We offer contactless payment through PayPal and Venmo, and otherwise encourage payment by credit card. Admission fee of \$5 has been eliminated to reduce contact; a suggested donation of \$5 at check out is appreciated. We respectfully ask that patrons who have fever, cough or are not feeling well take advantage of our online Fired Works store. The online store offers curbside pick up at the Round Building during Fired Works hours or after the event at The Gallery at 486 First St. from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Tuesday – Friday. Shipping and delivery options are available for an additional fee.

Top: Elizabeth Sabatino; Bottom: Derek Belflower

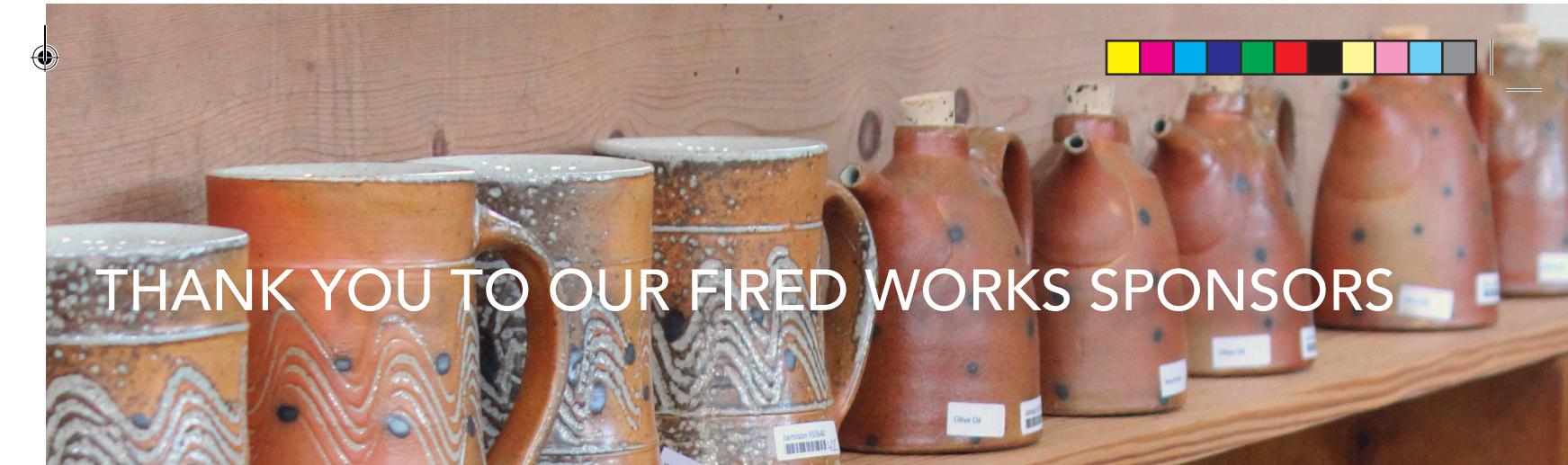


Image: Roger Jamison



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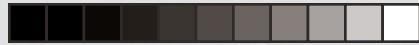
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Special Thank You: Elam Alexander Trust and Griffith Family Foundation



FIRE & ICE

The third annual Fire and Ice exhibition and sale will be held at the Round Building in Carolyn Crayton Park from November 12th - 20th. This show features special seasonal ceramic and glass pieces, perfect for the holidays.

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