



Courtesy of David Huff Creative

## MAKE IT NEW. MAKE IT YOURS.

### BECOME AN INSIDER

As we get closer to reopening the Museum, we're seeking volunteers to play an active role in its success. Options include staffing the Welcome Desk or Museum Store, as well as assisting with special events and education programs. Volunteer benefits include increased knowledge in the arts, and opportunities to meet new people and develop valuable skills. There are many ways you can be a part of the Museum team!

- Visitor Services
- Special Events
- Museum Store
- Education Programs

For more information, go to [ashevilleart.org/volunteer](http://ashevilleart.org/volunteer).

### DID YOU KNOW...

94% of people who volunteer say it improves their mood, and 78% say it lowers their stress levels. (source: happify.com)

### BOOK IT

The *Appalachia Now!* catalogue is now available to preorder. The 64-page book, published in conjunction with the opening special exhibition *Appalachia Now! An Interdisciplinary Survey of Contemporary Art in Southern Appalachia*, includes descriptions and images from the 50 featured artists, plus a foreword by Executive Director Pamela Myers and a statement from Jason Andrew, guest curator. Reserve your copy and read an excerpt online at [ashevilleart.org](http://ashevilleart.org).



### OUR AMAZING SPONSORS

As we look forward to our grand reopening events, we'd like to recognize our Opening Celebration sponsors who make this monumental time for the Museum extra special with their generosity:

- Opening Celebration Gold Sponsors: Wells Fargo and Beverly-Grant
- Opening Celebration Silver Sponsors: Jill and Joe Lawrence
- Member Preview Bronze Sponsor: Dorothy Hamill Charitable Fund
- After-Party Bronze Sponsors: Room to Dance, Hotel Arras, AC Hotel, and Aloft

Sponsorship opportunities are still available! Call 828.253.3227 x117 for details.

### IN MEMORIAM

The Museum regrets the loss of longtime Member Paul Vanek.

Asheville Art Museum Assoc.  
P.O. Box 1717  
ASHEVILLE, NC  
28802-4717

**ASHEVILLE ART MUSEUM**  
2 South Pack Square | Under Construction

For information call 828.253.3227  
[mailbox@ashevilleart.org](mailto:mailbox@ashevilleart.org)  
[ashevilleart.org](http://ashevilleart.org)

## POP(PY) CULTURE

Donald Sultan's colorful, contemporary still lifes—flowers, lemons, butterflies, playing cards, and dice, to name a few—are recognizable to many, with his artwork represented in collections around the world. The Whitney Museum of American Art in New York, the Tate Gallery in London, the Art Institute of Chicago, and the Museum of Contemporary Art in Tokyo all have examples of his work. What you may not know is that Sultan is an Asheville native.

Noting his important connection to the region, the Museum is excited to announce a generous gift from the artist of a suite of prints and a painting, as well as the loan of a sculpture that will debut with the reopening of the Museum. *Big Yellow Poppies*, a painted aluminum sculpture, will bring a bright, golden presence to the Museum's rooftop sculpture terrace.

"We are very thrilled to have *Poppies* as the first installation on our rooftop sculpture terrace," says Executive Director Pam Myers. "An artistic homecoming such as this could not come at a more important time for the Museum."

## MAKE IT HAPPEN! SERIES

As we install art in the Museum's plaza, atrium, and rooftop sculpture terrace in anticipation of our grand reopening, we're offering Museum Members exclusive behind-the-scenes access to artists and curatorial staff! Watch your email for dates, details, and registration information.



Donald Sultan, *Big Yellow Poppies*, 2015, 3/4-inch thick painted aluminum, 72 x 72 inches, Courtesy of The Artist and Lococo Fine Art Publisher.



# ONE MUSEUM. TWO PHOTOGRAPHERS-IN-RESIDENCE. THREE QUESTIONS.



## RALPH BURNS

With more than 45 years of experience as a documentary photographer, Ralph Burns still managed a lot of firsts with this residency in which he took formal portraits of workers. “I have never done ‘studio photography’ before, nor have I used strobes to any extent, nor recorded any project digitally (or even fully in color), and portraits were new for me. But, I figured, why not?” However, this project is not his first with the Museum. He’s had two solo exhibitions here, a number of group exhibitions, and his work is part of the Collection.

Asheville Art Museum: **How do you feel about the Museum opening, having documented the project since the beginning?**

Ralph Burns: I’m excited to see what occurs in these exhibition spaces over the next few years. The galleries are truly superb—and suffused with an incredible light and mysterious potential—and linked together, they create a magnificent art-exhibition venue that feels open and creatively unlimited. We all should feel very fortunate.



**Was there anything in particular you were trying to say with these portraits?**

I had nothing that I was “trying to say.” For me, photography, and much of what I think of as visual art, exists mainly for the viewer... I try not to freight my photographs with imposed or didactic meaningfulness; I try to share them right out of the camera, right off the surface of the film. I want the viewer to look at them that way, and to be free to see what it is that they see, and to feel what it is they feel (and besides, I always learn more that way).

**What do you find special about this project?**

I was struck not only by the immensity and complexity of the construction project itself but also by the number of workers and trades onsite. It also struck me how invisible all these men and women were, these people who seem to move about in the shadows of our culture while building and holding together everything we have. It was then that the idea for this project came to me. It was clear to me that I had to photograph as many of them as I could.



## DAVID HUFF

You wouldn’t know from looking at his images that David Huff only found photography midlife. If you’ve seen a candid photo of the new Museum or the building process shared through our print or online media, there’s a very good chance Huff was the person behind the lens. His innate ability to connect with people instantly comes through when you meet him and in the presence of his work. (It doesn’t hurt that he came with his own construction helmet and vest!)

Asheville Art Museum: **How do you feel about the Museum opening, having documented the project since the beginning?**

David Huff: This new space is going to raise the bar for arts in Asheville, and that’s saying something. The modern design itself is a beautiful addition to Asheville’s architecture. There is so much light! The rooftop is going to be a real draw. This is going to be a very cool place to visit and view art.



**What is it about photographing architecture (and the people involved) that you like most?**

I try to capture the feeling of the buildings and the energy of the people who work within them. We connect with photography, like we do with all art, through our emotions. People have to feel something about an image in order for it to work. I ask myself, “What is the drama taking place in this scene? What about this image is going to make people connect with it?” I love looking for that angle and telling the story.

**What do you find special about this project?**

This was an intimate project for me because I was given exclusive access to a building as it was being built and to the people who were building it. I was very aware that I was stepping into their workspace, and I wanted to respect that. I’d ask myself how I would feel if a stranger were photographing me at work. The advantage to a zoom lens is that I often photographed them without them knowing it. Even then, I only took the shots that I felt honored their work. It has been a privilege to document this for posterity. I hope that people look back 100 years from now and say, “Wow, that’s how they did it back then.”



## MY BIG BLACK AMERICA

At the end of May, we had the pleasure of hosting artist Wesley Clark as he installed his work *My Big Black America* in the atrium. It was the first artwork installed in the new Museum as well as Clark’s first work in a public collection. As part of the Make It Happen! Series, the Museum held an afternoon Art Break for Members. Clark says being in the Museum’s Collection is a dream come true. “More importantly, the acquisition of *My Big Black America* is a statement of recognition and respect for the industrious contributions of African Americans in this country, now placed prominently in the annals of an American institution,” he adds. “When visitors view this work, I hope they see themselves in it—their past, present, and future—and see themselves as part of the larger community without division by state, city, or neighborhood.”

ABOVE: Wesley Clark, *My Big Black America*, 2015, stain, spray paint, latex, and salvaged wood, 192 x 120 x 14 inches. Museum purchase with major support from 2017 A.R.T. members Ron & Nancy Edgerton, Kevin Click, Butch & Kathy Patrick, Rick & Maggi Swanson, and Monty McCutchen & Terri Sigler, and additional contributions from 2017 A.R.T. members Miller & Constance Williams, 2017.39.01. © Wesley Clark

## MEMBER MOMENTS

“I first came to learn about the rich programming at the Museum through participation in the book discussion group. My world in Asheville opened up with each ‘gem’ we read and discussed, which prompted me to join the Museum, sign up for workshops, lectures, day trips, and other special events. As an art lover and literary person, my life has been greatly enriched because of the Asheville Art Museum and the dedicated people who work there.”

—Kristina Aaronson, Member since 2017

“A few years ago we agreed to help sponsor a Sol LeWitt installation in one of the spaces in the old Museum. The thrill of walking into that room, surrounded by Mr. LeWitt’s precision artwork painted directly on all the walls, was overwhelming!”

—Ladene & Russell Newton, Members since 1994,  
Collectors’ Circle members since 2008

Have a Member Moment to share? Email [lgrossman@ashevilleart.org](mailto:lgrossman@ashevilleart.org) with your meaningful Museum experience, and you could see it in the next issue of *Profile*!

more info at [ashevilleart.org](http://ashevilleart.org)