

Hot Works Asheville Fine Arts Show Coming

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The [Asheville Fine Art Show](#) opens May 20 and 21, with 115 juried fine art and fine craft artists at the US Cellular Center – many of whom will be selling their personal and originally handmade artwork in Asheville for their very first time. Among them is award-winning digital artist Eddie Myers.

Myers creates art using computer software in much the same way as a painter uses brushes and palette knives and sculptors employ chisels or MIG welders. In fact, Photoshop and Paintbrush are tools of Myers' trade.

Because of its dependency on computer technology and software, digital art has grown exponentially in use, popularity and acceptance over the past ten years alone. Myers likens to the strides made by digital art to what the world experienced in the years following the introduction of the typewriter. “The typewriter changed everything,” Myers notes. “It drastically improved communication, modernized cities and even opened doors to the pursuit of creating career equality.” And typewriter technology has paved the way for even more rapid and pervasive change in the form of word processing and personal computing.

Because of similarly life-changing advances in photography and computer technology, digital artists are able to produce truly world-class work that astonishes colleagues and collectors alike. But Myers goes a few steps further. His pieces incorporate layered planes and textural components that have a decidedly sculptural effect.



His newest composition is a case in point. Called Patent Pending, it is a well-conceived, sprawling artistic commentary on the role played by Thomas Alva Edison in the invention, perfection and commercialization of the electric lightbulb. “In Patent Pending, I’ve surrounded Edison by his sources of inspiration, some fictionalized and other real.” Among the names thrown out by Myers are inventors and researchers like Joseph Wilson Swan, Henry Woodward and Nikola Tesla.

It’s a solid piece of art, not only in terms of concept, theme and Surrealist overtones, but workmanship as well. Made of solid oak, the installation weighs in the aggregate more than 200 pounds.

Myers loves exhibiting his creations at art shows and fairs like the Asheville Fine Art Show because it allows him to see the reaction on viewers’ faces when they ask him if he works in oils or acrylics and he tells them, no, they’re digital. “You can see the shock [and] confusion in their faces,” he chuckles. “That’s the fun part.”

His painting, The App-aratus, is another of those works. It depicts a girl who has dropped the telephone call and embraced a new device that can not only make phone calls, but can take photos, send messages and even find your way home if you get lost. “She is stepping off the cliff with her eyes shut, trusting where she is going but not fully understanding how this small communication device will transform mankind,” Myers tells.

By virtue of the research involved and painstaking, time-consuming sculptural elements of his pieces, his output is limited. “And some of them are mechanized, which takes even more time.”

In 2010, Myers decided that more needed to be done to win acceptance of digital as a true fine art medium. So he began displaying his work at nationally-ranked outdoor art shows around the country. Back then, digital was rarely recognized as a legitimate, stand-alone category. That has changed now, for the most part, and Myers has won a number of awards for his body of digital work in recent years, including Best of Show at the 2016 Estero Fine Art Show, Best of Category (Digital) at the 2013 Disney’s Festival of the Masters, the

Judges Selection at the 2013 Winter Park Autumn Art Festival, and Best of Show at the 2014 St. Stephens Miami Art Show. His Award of Excellence at last weekend’s show is just the latest recognition not only of his talents, but the digital art category as well. Hot Works’ Asheville Fine Art Show is a high-quality boutique show; it provides art enthusiasts and collectors with access to purchase accomplished artists’ works in a wide variety of media and motifs that you just won’t find anywhere else. In choosing participants, Hot Works focuses on originality, technique/execution (craftsmanship) and booth presentation. Hot Works has an outstanding national reputation, with all shows being voted top 100 in America including Boca Raton, Florida; Estero, Florida; and Orchard Lake Fine Art Show in West Bloomfield, Michigan.



The Asheville Fine Art Show takes place May 20 and 21 in the US Cellular Center in downtown Asheville. Event hours are 10 am to 5 pm on both Saturday and Sunday. \$8 adult one-day admission (\$10, two-day pass; 13 & under are free) helps to pay for the cost of producing the art show, and supports Institute for the Arts & Education, the associated 501(c)3 non-profit arm which focuses on visual arts, diversity, community enrichment and fostering art education among youth.

While at the show, be sure to visit the Youth Art Competition, which is a dedicated 10'x20' space within the show. As part of our commitment to bring art education in the community, the program encourages students in grades K-8 or ages 5-13 to create and enter his/her original and personally made art, and exposes him/her to the entrepreneurship of doing art shows for a living. On Sunday, May 21 at 3pm, you can see the Youth Art presentation with \$250 in awards!

[Click here for a chance to win your VIP passes to the show from Rewind 100.3.](#)