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Home • Garden • Style • Fun • Food • Happenings

Blythe Gallery

Welcomes
The Holidays
p11

Furniture Trends From Market p12

Fall Sourdough Pancakes p14

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about the cover



This month's cover was shot inside Blythe Gallery, Belmont. Pictured is a Snowy Owl, one of many unique ornaments at Blythe Gallery. One of several holiday displays at the Gallery, this particular tree was decorated by Trevor Bey of Holiday Creations; a designer who decorates for noted clients across the Southeast. See related story page 11. Photo by Rick Haithcox, www.rickhaithcox.com; cover graphic design by David James, www.rubicondesign.com

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our staff

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Blythe Gallery

Welcomes The

HOLIDAYS!

By David Hamrick



GA!: Nan, for those that haven't been yet- what is Blythe Gallery?

Nan: Our shop specializes in unique items for your home. You can find a beautiful antique English chest, a great transitional pottery lamp, art for your home and lots of unique Holiday decor. We are always searching for great antiques, well made new furniture and special accessories that personalize your home and bring it to life. Blythe Gallery is fortunate to be located in a wonderful old home on Main Street in historic Belmont. Each room is furnished with chests, chairs, lamps and accessories which gives our customer a feel for how these will look in their home. I believe this is helpful to buyers as huge showrooms can sometimes fool the eye when determining proportion.



GA!: What would do folks need to know, or would be surprised to learn, about Blythe Gallery?

Nan: Folks need to know that quality furnishings need not cost more than mass manufactured goods shipped into the states. We offer true antiques (items over 100 years old) but we also find vintage furniture made right here in North Carolina from the 20's, 30's and 40's that is made of solid, kiln dried, hand carved wood that is built to last.

I think folks may be surprised to learn that we sell lots of gifts! In fact we specialize in "gifting" and now offer a Gift registry for folks getting married, having a baby, husbands wanting hints for Christmas, and birthday wishes! Our vendors search for unique, clever, or beautiful items that are reasonably priced. We are

always searching for new and fun items for our customers. This year, the singing hats seem to be one of our best sellers. They are fun for all ages.

Many regular shoppers know it is near Christmas when Scotty's annual shipment of Benne wafers, cheese wafers and key lime cookies arrive. Yum! These unique cookies are made by a Charleston Bakery who has been turning out these goodies for over 100 years. A bag of these cookies makes such a great hostess gift, and they are already flying out the door.



Blythe Gallery • 117 N. Main Street, Belmont, NC 28012

704.825.8809 • blythegallery@att.net • Hours: Mon. - Sat. 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

NEWS FROM THE FURNITURE MARKET

by Anna McMahan
Hastings



Every April and October, I have the wonderful opportunity to attend the High Point Furniture Market. It is an exciting time when like-minded people come together from all over the world to see and discuss what's available in the world of interior design. It's always exhilarating and exhausting all at the same time!! One of the highlights of the week was seeing Kathy Ireland surprise Angelo Surmelis (Host of HGTV's "Rate Your Space") in his showroom where he was previewing his new line of home furnishings. Even Angelo seemed a little star-struck!

Of course, another highlight was getting to see the color and style trends up close and in person. And, thanks to Gaston Alive!, you, too, can be among the first to discover the current trends for interior design.

STUDS, STUDS AND MORE STUDS!

Everywhere I looked there were nailheads and metal studs. Nailheads have always been used on traditional upholstery styles. Now, we are also seeing them on more contemporary styles in a brighter, livelier fashion. But, it doesn't stop there. Nailheads, or studs, are appearing on casegoods (wood furniture), accent pieces and accessories. And, they're not just being used around the edge of pieces but they are being applied in patterns that truly make the pieces unique and interesting.

MARCHING TO YOUR OWN BEAT

Drum shades widely populated the showrooms, both in overhead lighting and lamps. They were seen in all sizes. In furniture showrooms, large drum chandeliers were used over dining room tables while oversized drum chandeliers were used as center lights over seating arrangements. And, the use of drum-shaped shades on the lamps dominated the scene, taking one back to the 60's.

THE 60'S, REALLY?

Yes, really. The drum-shaped lamp shades weren't the only thing which was reminiscent of the 60's. The use of metal on upholstered furniture and the clean, uncomplicated lines of the furniture designs easily took one back to the 1960's. However, many of these pieces easily mingled with the more transitional styles popular today. Some of my favorite items included the low barrel-shaped chairs. These can be pulled either toward the traditional or the contemporary side of design simply by the fabric used on them. In fact, great accent chairs are being offered by most of the furniture companies today. A couple of well-chosen accent chairs with coordinating throw pillows for your sofa can be a fairly inexpensive way to give your room new life.

LAYERS OF NEUTRAL

One of the predominate color palettes in the showroom settings was neutrals layered with neutrals. In these settings, there was no true color used. It was either a combination of varying shades of white and taupe or white and gray. These "non-color" schemes created a very soothing and relaxing, yet classic setting.



>>Article continued on page 28.

Join Us For An Exciting World Premiere Unveiling! Thomas Kinkadee's McAdenville Painting "The Lights Of Christmastown"

Only The Third North Carolina Painting By Thomas Kinkadee!



Preliminary Sketch
(Painting Will Be Full Color)

Will Be Unveiled At The Brand New
Legacy Park In McAdenville

Thursday December 1st, 4:30 P.M.
At The Tree Lighting Ceremony

Thomas Kinkadee's brother Patrick will be on hand to unveil this new painting-sure to be a holiday treasure for years to come! Following the unveiling "The Lights Of Christmastown" will be available for sale in the Gallery; pre-orders can be picked up at this time as well.

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COOKING



Tall Sourdough Pancakes

The leaves have turned and family begins to gather. Evenings are spent around fires and mornings carry a chill which keeps us under the covers a bit longer. The sun isn't up but everyone still needs to be ready to go to either work or school. Breakfast is the most important meal of the day, and I love to have some variety. If you have never worked with sourdough starter this is an easy entry, if you have your own, perfect-it's a great excuse to get it out and feed it.

Sourdough traces its ancestry back to the early Egyptians, but is more popularly known from the California and Alaska Gold Rush days. Prospectors earned the moniker of 'Sourdoughs' and fiercely guarded their particular batch of starter as each one develops a unique flavor. An easy method of starting your own is mixing two cups of flour with equal parts of water, three tablespoons of sugar and a packet of yeast to get the process going. The starter needs to sit out for 2-3 days to get the initial fermentation. Always keep starter in glass or crockery and stir with wooden utensils. Feed a starter a cup of flour and water weekly or store it in the refrigerator. (Many books written on the subject)

Using your starter is easy; feed it the day before and if refrigerated remove two days in advance to warm then feed.

Pancake Ingredients:

1 cup Sourdough Starter
1 egg
¼ cup of pumpkin – I used canned pumpkin
100% pure not pumpkin pie mix
½ cup of milk
½ tsp Baking Soda
½ tsp Baking Powder
½ tsp Cinnamon
¼ tsp Nutmeg
Dash or two of Salt

Topping Ingredients:

1 apple – seeded and sliced
¼ cup of brown sugar
½ cup of dried cranberries
½ cup of apple cider
½ cup of Walnuts (Optional)

Sauté topping ingredients till cider begins to thicken. Then combine all pancake ingredients to preserve some of the bubbling action of the pancake dough. Cook as normal pancakes but these will be thinner (1/4 inch thick) vs. a 'flapjack' style (1/2 inch thick) pancake. After topping the pancakes you can drizzle with maple syrup. I used a bit of whip cream to top and dusted with some additional cinnamon.

Ciao, Glenn and Glenn

WITH THE
GLENN'S

*Sourdough
Pancakes*



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by Ben Dungan
bdungan@charter.net

away as Japan. In fact, a few years ago, they traveled over there for a brief tour.

Plane tickets can be expensive, but jumping online to watch and hear your favorite band doesn't have to be. Each band that uses Stagelt.com performs a 30-minute set of music with an optional 20-minute encore.

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The music industry has been turned upside down by the internet. And while the record executives may be losing money, it's the music lover that is ultimate winner.

The internet has opened doors that never existed. Especially for the musicians who don't have the luxury of having a major record label behind them.

The indie artist today has more ways to reach the consumer than ever before. And the Charlotte duo of Jamie & Steve are taking full advantage of it.

Jamie Hoover and Steve Stoekel have been making and creating music for over 30 years. They make up one-half of the long-time Charlotte pop band, The Spongetones.

Jamie & Steve are hard at work completing their second project as a duo. And even though the Spongetones have dialed back their musical commitments the last few years, Jamie & Steve continue to play and record and new music. They even perform live from time to time – on an internet browser near you.

That's right. Jamie and Steve have been organizing mini-concerts online through a website called Stagelt.com. Stagelt.com bills itself as "an online venue for live and interactive virtual concerts providing fans with a front row seat to a backstage experience".

As longtime members of The Spongetones, both Jamie & Steve have fans not just in their backyard, but as far

Evan Lowenstein, of the 90's pop duo Evan & Jaron, launched Stagelt.com to give musicians another way to interact with their fans, as well as give them an additional revenue stream that they had not had before.

Lowenstein was looking to raise a family, and that meant he'd have to reduce his touring schedule as a result.



That's where the idea came from. And in a short time, the website has over 3000 bands signed up using their services.

And if Jamie & Steve have it their way, this will be a great way to cultivate

a new fan base, as well as continuing to interact with their long-time Spongetones fans - all without having to load up the tour bus.

***To learn more about Jamie and Steve,
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Stagelt.com performance, visit them
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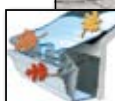
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>>Article continued from page 12.

POPS OF BOLD COLOR

On the other hand, there is another trend towards bold pops of true color against a fairly neutral background, especially a white background. This is a fun and energetic look. It also creates a palette that is easy to modify as one's mood or trends change! The key is to make sure the larger pieces in the room are white or neutral and the bold color is brought in through throw pillows, accessories and accent furniture.

All in all, it was a great market, leaving me inspired and looking forward to sharing these design trends with you. Just remember, your style never goes out of style. Let's decorate!

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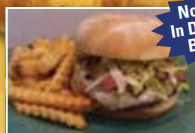
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