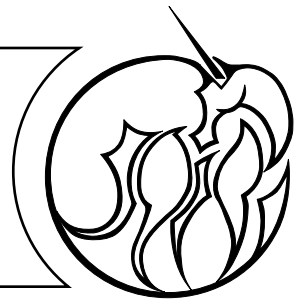


{ the avant-garde }

Katherine N. Crowley Fine Art & Design



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{a visit to tamarack: the best of west virginia}

by Colleen Anderson

Tamarack: The Best of West Virginia is the nation's first showcase of handcrafts, fine art and regional cuisine. It comprises a warmly decorated retail store, working studios for resident artisans, a fine art gallery, a theater, A Taste of West Virginia food court, and the Tamarack Conference Center. West Virginia envisioned a vibrant cottage industry in the state where jobs, market opportunities, training, and educational resources abound for West Virginia's artists, artisans, crafts people, and food producers, and our rich cultural heritage and artisan skills and traditions are preserved and strengthened for future generations of West Virginians. Governor, Gaston Caperton set the stage for Tamarack's conception, and in October 1989, the Parkways Authority issued a \$143 million bond; a small percentage of which was set aside to upgrade rest areas along the turnpike to fund tourism and economic development projects.

Director of Economic Development and Tourism, Cela Burge wanted to connect West Virginia craftspeople with turnpike travelers. West Virginia products sold in the new service plazas were a big hit. During the grand opening of the Princeton Center, complete with musicians and a big pot of apple butter cooking, Governor Caperton told David Dickirson, a member of the Parkways Authority's Board of Directors, that it would be wonderful to have a place with that type of atmosphere every day of the year. Thus, the idea for Tamarack was born.

During the next six months, Ms. Burge and her colleagues met with craftspeople far and wide; outlined a strategic marketing plan for developing the new center; began searching for architects; expanded warehouse facilities; and planned fact-finding visits to art and craft centers in several states. The Greenbrier agreed to assist with food service management.

In May 1993 architect Clint Bryan and his associates, Doug Bastian and John Harris, were awarded the project. Their proposed design was arresting, innovative and eminently functional. Artisans were involved in the construction of Tamarack by creating structural elements. A jury process to select products was enacted to insure quality and authenticity of West Virginia-made items.

At the official groundbreaking on August 8, 1994, visitors sampled food from The Greenbrier, including the fried green tomatoes that have become a signature of Tamarack. It's popularity as a gathering place and the more than fruitful partnership with The Greenbrier sparked the idea of adding a conference center. The grand opening for the Tamarack Conference Center was held on June 20, 2003.



Above, top to bottom: Figurative bronze sculpture; Functional woodworks.



Tamarack has continued to grow. More than 2,800 artisans from all 55 counties have become part of the Tamarack family.

Tamarack's highly acclaimed display team creates multiple visual effects using products created by a variety of artisans. Trends and traditions, as well as unusual specialty products are among the long list of artisan made Tamarack items. Metal, apparel, jewelry, souvenirs, wood, glass, furniture, pottery, outdoor decor, fine art, fine craft, musical instruments, music, books, and homemade specialty food items and candies are all on the Tamarack shopping list.

Tamarack's restaurant offers unique offerings and many options. Every item is made fresh while you wait. Among the many favorites are the fried green tomato sandwich and the rainbow trout.

Tamarack's Conference Center is well decorated to create a perfect backdrop for special occasions.

Throughout the year plays, dance performances, seminars, guest speakers, theater camp, movies, music, competitions and more are scheduled into the 178-seat theater, which may be rented by groups or individuals. Named after former Governor Hulett C. Smith, the theater is well-known for its acoustic perfection.



Above, top to bottom: Quilts on display in the main corridor; Handcrafted wares made of natural materials are arranged in a retail setting.

Fine art and fine craft, as well as paintings, photography, mixed media work and other stunning and imaginative pieces are on display and for sale in the David L. Dickirson Fine Arts Gallery. Six shows a year focus on themes which bring out the best in West Virginia's artists.

Featuring young West Virginia artists, the Youth Arts Gallery exhibits change every four to six weeks.

As part of it's 20th Anniversary Celebration in 2016, Tamarack debuted the Open Air Gallery. This outdoor sculpture garden features beautiful, one-of-kind pieces.

Guests can be a part of it all, with unique hands-on workshops. Offering a variety of hands-on classes in pottery, culinary arts, woodworking and mixed media art Tamarack's artisans are sure to make an unforgettable and most memorable experience. John DesMeules, resident glass blowing artist, both demonstrates his craft and guides students step-by-step through the process to help them complete truly unique and one of a kind hand blown glassware.



Above, top to bottom: Artwork in the David L. Dickirson Fine Arts Gallery; John DesMeules demonstrates the art of glass blowing to visitors.



{ a portrait of the artist:
john desmeules }

John DesMeules is one of the few expert glass artists still operating within the state of West Virginia. His combination of hot glass pieces and unique blend of sandblasting techniques renders his work in a class of its own.

Mr. DesMeules has been working with glass for 25 years, starting in Florida where he met his wife Susan. In, 1989, they welcomed daughter Holly, and moved to Susan's home state of West Virginia where John furthered his glass career in building his own business. The small town of Eleanor has been his home town, and work place, for the last 12 years and has become a family business with his daughter currently working for him. He has worked with and learned from some of the best known glass experts in the state.

Mr. DesMeules established his business, Glass Dimensions, in 1993. This business was first located in Hurricane, West Virginia before relocating permanently in Eleanor, West Virginia. In the Spring of 2011, Glass Dimensions moved its glass blowing and sculpting operations to Tamarack, located in Beckley, West Virginia.

{all around the town}

The Columbus College of Art and Design, Beeler Gallery (<http://www.beelergallery.org/>)
"Season Two: Follow the Mud", October 10-March 15, 2020

The Columbus Cultural Arts Center (<http://www.culturalartscenteronline.org/>)
"Pasos de Arte 2019", August 9 - September 14

The Columbus Museum of Art (<http://www.columbusmuseum.org/>)
"In a New Light: Alice Schille and the American Watercolor Movement", June 14-September 29
"Blacklight Magic", Through September 8
"Jim Hodges", Through September 22
"Greater Columbus 2019", Through September 29
"Rodin: Muses, Sirens, Lovers", July 12-December 8

COSI (<http://www.cosi.org/>)
"Mythic Creatures", Through September 2
"Jim Henson: Imagination Unlimited", Through September 2

Dublin Arts Council (<http://www.dublinarts.org/>)
"Cypress Bark and Sandstone, Studies in Burnt Orange", August 6- September 13

The High Road Gallery and Studios (<http://www.highroadgallery.com/>)
"Works of Heart", August 2-September 28

McConnell Arts Center (<http://www.mcconnellarts.org/>)
"Central Ohio Clay Arts", Through August 18
"Art Quilt Alliance", Through August 18

OSU Urban Arts Space (<http://www.uas.osu.edu/>)
"Impermanent Durations: On Painting and Time (part 4)", August 6-September 21
"Self Reflection", August 23-September 14

The Pizzuti Collection (<http://www.pizzuticollection.org/>)
"Jim Hodges", Through September 22
"Evan Gruzis: Drop Shadow", Through September 22

Ohio Historical Society (<http://www.ohiohistory.org/>)
"World War I Display", Through November 11

The Riffe Gallery (<http://www.oac.ohio.gov/Riffe-Gallery/Exhibitions>)
"Natural Expressions", July 25-October 19

The Wexner Center (<http://www.wexarts.org/>)
"HERE: Ann Hamilton, Jenny Holzer, Maya Lin", September 21-December 29

{performing arts}

CAPA (<http://www.capa.com/>)
"The 50th Annual Summer Movie Series", June 14-August 11
"Dear Evan Hansen", September 17-22

CATCO (<http://www.catco.org/>)
"My Way: A Musical Tribute to Frank Sinatra", August 8-September 21, Studio Three, The Riffe Center

Columbus Symphony Orchestra (<http://www.columbussymphony.com/>) all performances at *The Ohio Theater unless otherwise noted*
"Masterworks Series: Twisted 3", September 26-29
"Masterworks Series: American Festival", October 11-12

{and beyond}

The Akron Art Museum (<http://www.akronartmuseum.org/>)
"Mernet Larsen: The Ordinary, Reoriented", Through September 8

The Museum of Fine Arts Boston (<http://www.mfa.org/>)
"Make Believe" fantasy images from 5 contemporary photographers, Through January 20, 2020

ICA Boston (<http://www.icaboston.org/>)
"Less Is a Bore: Maximalist Art & Design", Through September 22

The Cincinnati Art Museum (<http://www.cincinnatiartmuseum.org/>)
"No Spectators: The Art of Burning Man", Through September 2

Contemporary Arts Center (<http://www.contemporaryartscenter.org/>)
"Creatures", Through August 18

The Cleveland Museum of Art (<http://www.clevelandart.org/>)
"Allora & Calzadilla: Ecosystems", Through September 1

The Art Institute of Chicago (<http://www.artic.edu/>)
"Manet and Modern Beauty", Through September 8

Dayton Art Institute (<http://www.daytonartinstitute.org/>)
"Monet and Impressionism", Through August 25

Detroit Institute of Art (<http://www.dia.org/>)
"From Camelot to Kent State: Pop Art, 1960-1975", Through August 25

Indianapolis Museum of Art (<http://www.imamuseum.org/>)
"Samuel Levi Jones: Left of Center", Through September 1

Los Angeles County Museum of Art (<http://www.lacma.org/>)
"Beyond Line: The Art of Korean Writing", Through September 29

Minneapolis Institute of Art (<http://www.artsmia.org/>)
"Hearts of Our People: Native Women Artists", June 2-August 18

Metropolitan Museum of Art, NYC (<http://www.metmuseum.org/>)
5th Ave: "Ragnar Kjartansson: Death Is Elsewhere", Through Sept 2
The Met Breuer: "Phenomenal Nature | Mrinalini Mukherjee", Through September 29

Museum of Modern Art, New York (<http://www.moma.org/>)
"Gina Beavers: The Life I Deserve", Through September 2
"Simone Fattal: Work and Days", Through September 2

New Orleans Museum of Art (<http://www.noma.org/>)
"Bondye: Between and Beyond", Through October 13

Carnegie Museum of Art, Pittsburgh (<http://www.cmoa.org/>)
"Crossroads: Carnegie Museum of Art's Collection, 1945-Now", Ongoing

The Warhol, Pittsburgh (<http://www.warhol.org/>)
"The Chelsea Girls Exploded", Through January 12, 2020

San Francisco Museum of Modern Art (<http://www.sfmoma.org/>)
"Andy Warhol—From A to B and Back Again", Through September 2

The Toledo Museum of Art (<http://www.toledomuseum.org/>)
"Life is a Highway: Art & American Car Culture", June 15-September 15

The National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C. (<http://www.nga.gov/>)
"Oliver Lee Jackson: Recent Paintings", Through September 15

The Smithsonian American Art Museum & The Renwick Gallery, Washington, D.C. (<https://americanart.si.edu/>)
"Ginny Ruffner: Reforestation of the Imagination", Through January 5
"Sculpture Down to Scale: Models for Public Art at Federal Buildings 1974-1985", Through June 6, 2020

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