

PRESS RELEASE



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Kentuck's February 19 *a la cARTE* Opens Clay Co-op with GumboFest Fundraiser, Features Receptions for Exhibits in Museum and Annex

The Mystic Krewe of Kentuck invites you to celebrate the Mardi Gras season with GumboFest, a fundraiser at the grand opening of the new Kentuck Clay Co-op, at *a la cARTE* on Saturday, February 19, from noon 'til 2 p.m., at the Kentuck Art Center, 503 Main Avenue, Northport. Kentuck will be serving up family-friendly Mobile Mardi Gras spirit with authentic gumbo from Wintzell's Oyster House. For a \$25 donation, revelers will enjoy gumbo in a take-home ceramic mug hand-made for the occasion by local potters including Kentuck studio artist Kerry Kennedy; a \$10 donation yields gumbo in a disposable bowl. Wintzell's is also providing bread pudding for dessert at either donation level.

The Kentuck krewe's motto for the event is "Carpe argillam"—translated from Latin, "Seize the clay."

In the children's area, the volunteers of the Kentuck for Kids Krewe will lead children in free take-home craft activities making miniature Mardi Gras floats, decorating Carnivale masks, and hand-building clay bowls.

***A la cARTE* will also host the opening receptions for this month's exhibitions in the Museum and Annex Galleries by Sarah Marshall and Rebecca Reynolds, postponed from Art Night by inclement weather.**

The Kentuck Clay Co-op is a pilot program creating a cooperative studio facility and learning community for hobby potters of all skill levels, from beginner to advanced, on the Kentuck campus in historic downtown Northport. Members pay a monthly fee to use the studio space and equipment and can participate in group kiln firings. Full information about the Co-op will be available at the February 19 open house, from noon until 2 and on www.kentuck.org beginning February 12. As the program progresses, Kentuck anticipates offering a full roster of workshops, project classes, and "Clay Day" experiences. The Co-op is a new outgrowth of Kentuck's three-prong mission to perpetuate the arts, engage the community, and empower the artist. For more information please contact Kentuck at 205-758-1257 or kentuck@kentuck.org.

The Kentuck Gallery presents "Between Here and There", an exhibit of recent work by printmaker Sarah Marshall. Marshall is currently employed as an Associate Professor of Art at The University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa. This exhibit presents work that explores flight as a metaphor for escape, belief, longing, and growth. The winged creatures that populate these images exist in a state of flux. As they change their skins, losing and gaining attributes, they

demonstrate the fragility and impermanence of the self and the many ways we respond to our environment.

The Kentuck Annex presents recent work by Rebecca Reynolds. A student at The University of Alabama part-time, Reynolds is working on obtaining her Bachelors of Fine Art. Her primary focus is block printing, though she occasionally works with other media. "Using color to create mood or atmosphere is very important in my prints, and I use the color reduction technique to achieve this."

Kentuck's *a la cARTe* series, now in its second year, engages the community and perpetuates the arts with conversation, artist demonstrations, Kentuck for Kids activities, and regional cuisine. More information is available at www.kentuck.org, or by calling Kentuck at 205-758-1257.

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