

RIVERARTS

Chapel Hill artist brings "Surreal Geometric Abstraction" to River Arts District

BY GLENN GARSON

Warren Hicks chuckles, as he explains how life has poured him another wonderful adventure.

Warren is off to Macedonia next month, invited by the National Gallery of Macedonia, to attend the Art Colony at Kicevo, Macedonia. While Warren may be out of the country, a sample of his current works will be featured at Bella Vista Art, in the River Arts District, with an opening reception July 7, 5-8pm at 240 Clingman Ave. in the River Arts District.



Artwork by Warren Hicks

Hicks took some time out to talk to me about his art. "I have combined my personal inner angst with the geometric foundations from my work in architecture to create a style I call 'Surreal Geometric Abstraction.'" Hicks' vision combines striking colors and textural depth with an affinity for the Surrealists Ernst and Tanguy and the Abstractionists Kandinsky and Klee. "My paintings are very personal projections of the twisted thoughts churning in my head. Everyone sees something different so I leave the interpretations to the observer," he says as we stroll through the gallery.

I asked Hicks why he chose Asheville

to showcase his art.

"I've had great success in the Triangle area but I wanted to branch out. Asheville has a great reputation as the newest 'hot spot' art destination and Christin Zelenka, the gallery director at Bella Vista, has been really fun to work with." Then he adds, "I love going to their openings because you get this eclectic mix of great local and national artists, mixing with the crowd, who are a blast to talk to, and really have some great insight and experience."

Hicks' works, as well as new glass pieces by Glass Artist Judson Guerard, and new Landscapes by Karen Weiles will be on display in the River Arts District during July at Bella Vista Art Gallery (www.BellaVistaArt.com).