Additional support has been generously provided by the UNC Asheville Howerton Distinguished Professor in the Humanities.

Special thanks to Susan Rhew Design, Nona Mia Italian Kitchen, and our outstanding crew of volunteers, generous with their time and good cheer.

Cover images:
- Ruth Asawa, Untitled Hanging Wire Sculpture (S.373/50), ca 1954, black and brown iron wire, 87 x 8 x 8 inches. Black Mountain College Museum + Arts Center Collection. Gift of Lorna Blaine Halper.
- Peter Voulkos, Large Vase, 1953, stoneware, 16 x 10 x 10 inches. Black Mountain College Museum + Arts Center Collection. Gift of Joseph Fiore.
WELCOME

Welcome to the ReVIEWING Black Mountain College 5: Shaping Craft + Design conference! This is the fifth annual international conference organized by the Black Mountain College Museum + Arts Center hosted on the campus of UNC Asheville. Each year the Board of Directors selects a focused topic relating to BMC. Crucial to this process is evaluating the topic’s relevance today, the need for continued scholarly discourse on the topic, and the potential for new contributions to understanding the many facets of Black Mountain College (BMC).

I am honored that the Board supported my recommendation, recognizing the need to further evaluate the College’s influence on craft and design movements while focusing on the roles craft and design played at the College. We are excited to see how presenters and attendees develop new perspectives on topics both familiar and unfamiliar towards repositioning craft and design more centrally in dialogues about Black Mountain College’s legacy.

It is only in the past decade that scholarly research has expanded relating to craft and design at Black Mountain College. Our understanding of history is often based on the research available around a topic and how that history is disseminated. As a result, our understanding of artistic practice during the mid-20th century is still being revised to incorporate more on the areas of craft and design.

This conference and the related exhibition would not be possible without the support of the Windgate Charitable Foundation and the NC Arts Council. I sincerely thank these two organizations for supporting our movement to expand the understanding of how this important, experimental liberal arts college shaped craft and design.

I also thank BMCM+AC Program Director Alice Sebrell for her ongoing dedication to this organization and for her extraordinary support during this conference and the related exhibition. A huge thanks to staff members Bridget Elmer, Erin Dickey, and Sarah Bonner as well as conference committee members Marilyn Zapf and Rick Gruber and the wonderful crew of volunteers who are helping the conference run smoothly. Additionally, I appreciate the support of the Black Mountain College Board of Directors, in particular Connie Bostic and Brian Butler, who go above and beyond again and again. Lastly, I thank UNC Asheville for their continued support in hosting this annual conference and the UNCA Reuter Center for allowing us to use their wonderful facility.

Katie Lee Koven
Conference Chair; Exhibition Curator
10:00 am | Black Mountain College Museum + Arts Center | Coffee & Conversation

11:30 am | Carpool departs from BMCM+AC for tour of Black Mountain College campuses – YMCA Blue Ridge Assembly; Farm and barns of Lake Eden Campus – $10 per person.

FRIDAY

2:00 – 2:50 pm | Reuter Center, Mannheimer Room
Welcome and Western North Carolina BMC Resource Overview – Katie Lee Koven, Heather South, and Gene Hyde

3:00 – 3:30 pm | Reuter Center, Room 230
Poetry Performance – Ted Pope – Lake Full of Lightening: cyphers from, Varve

3:00 – 4:15 pm | Concurrent Sessions
Reuter Center, Room 205
Language as Material/Materiality of Language
Jeff Davis – Charles Olson: Morphology and Form in the Maximus Poems
Tim Keane – Projectile, Percussive, Prospective: Charles Olson’s Designs for Poetry at Black Mountain College

Reuter Center, Room 206
Black Mountain College and the Southern Highland Craft Guild: What Were the Connections? Andrew Glasgow, Jerry Israel, Christopher Benfey

4:30 – 5:30 pm | Reuter Center, Mannheimer Room
Featured Speaker
Ulrich Schwartz – »Mutterpilz« – Bauhaus, Black Mountain and Beyond

6:00 – 7:30 pm | Black Mountain College Museum + Arts Center
56 Broadway Street in downtown Asheville
Reception

7:45 – 9:15 pm | Black Mountain College Museum + Arts Center
Book Launch and Reading – Far From the Centers of Ambition
The two-volume set is published by Lenoir-Rhyne University, and grew out of its 2008 “Spirit of Black Mountain College” 75th anniversary celebration. The first volume, Confluence, edited by poet Lee Ann Brown and series editor Rand Brandes, brings together the work of poets, writers, artists and essayists associated with the experimental college and with the 2008 celebration. The second volume, Varve, captures the avant-garde poetry and art of Morganton native Ted Pope.

SUNDAY

10:00 am | Black Mountain College Museum + Arts Center | Coffee & Conversation

11:30 am | Carpool departs from BMCM+AC for tour of Black Mountain College campuses – YMCA Blue Ridge Assembly; Farm and barns of Lake Eden Campus – $10 per person.

PRESENTERS

Jason Andrew is an independent curator and scholar who heads the Estate of Jack Tworkov. Recent projects include the exhibition and publication Jack Tworkov: Accident of Choice, The Artist at Black Mountain College 1952. His independent collaborative projects are presented through Norte Maar, a non-profit arts organization.

Michael Beggs is a curatorial assistant and photography researcher at the Josef and Anni Albers Foundation in Bethany, Connecticut. He is co-curator of an exhibition and co-author of the accompanying catalogue about Albers’ teaching and the work of his students, Josef Albers: Arte come esperienza / Josef Albers: Art as Experience.

Christopher Benfey is Andrew W. Mellon Professor of English and Acting Dean of Faculty at Mount Holyoke. Benfey served as the long-time art critic for the online magazine Slate, and is a frequent contributor to The New York Review of Books, The New York Times Book Review, and The New Republic, among many other publications.

Julia Connor is the author of several books of poetry and from 2000 to 2005 served as Poet Laureate of Sacramento. She teaches writing workshops and maintains a studio as part of the Panama Pottery Collective. Connor serves as Literary Executor to the Estate of M.C. Richards.

Jonathan Creasy is a poet and Ph.D candidate at University College Dublin. His writings have been published in Icarus, can-can, and University of Oxford’s Poetry Matters Magazine.

Jeff Davis is a poet whose books include Transits of Venus (2005), and Natures: Selected Poems, 1972 – 2005 (2006). He has presented papers on Charles Olson’s work at the 2012 Charles Olson Centennial Celebration in Vancouver, at ReVIEWING BMC3, and at the 2012 ALA in San Francisco.

ROBERT E. LEE HALL, YMCA BLUE RIDGE ASSEMBLY

Barns and Farm, Lake Eden Campus - Hazel Larsen

Lawrence Kocher, Conversation Chair, 1942
9:00 – 10:30 am | Reuter Center, Room 206 | Rethinking Concepts and Approaches to Material Studies
Mary Emma Harris – Work with Materials: From the Bauhaus to Black Mountain and Beyond
Jason Andrew – Ruth Asawa and the Transcendence of Craft
Michael Beggs – Josef Albers and the Craft of Photography
Arch Gregory – The Impact of the BMC on Jewelry Design

10:40 am – 11:55 am | Concurrent Sessions

Reuter Center, Room 230 | Architectural Legacy – Experiential Education
William Langdon – A. Lawrence Kocher, Architect and Design/Build Educator at BMC
Anna Goodman – Tracing the Legacy of A. Lawrence Kocher’s Design-Build Pedagogy

Reuter Center, Room 206 | Graphic Design & the Print Shop
Doris R. Gerstl – Xanti Schawinsky – A Multiple Personality?
Julie Thomson – The Art of Graphic Design: Alvin Lustig, Josef Albers, Ray Johnson, and the 1945 Summer Session
Tom Murphy – The Crafters of Black Mountain College’s Print Shop

Reuter Center, Room 205 | Film Screenings
Myrna Pronchuk – The Art of Chance and the Craft of a Better Universe

11:55 am – 1:15 pm | Lunch Break

1:30 – 2:30 pm | Reuter Center, Mannheimer Room | Featured Speaker
Jenni Sorkin – Black Mountain, Heart Mountain: Ceramics in Camp, 1942-1952

2:45 – 4:00 pm | Concurrent Sessions

Reuter Center, Room 230 | Architectural Legacy II – Experiential Education
Jonathan Rugh – Charles Burchard: Legacy in Architectural Education
David Silver – Molly Gregory Raises the Roof: Mary “Molly” Gregory, The Woodworking Program, and The Transformation of The Farmhouse at Black Mountain College

8:00 am | Reuter Center Lobby
Coffee, bagels and muffins

SATURDAY

Reuter Center, Room 206 | Pedagogy
Sponsored by The Center for Craft, Creativity & Design
Perry Price – A Process Reduced to Just the Essential: Black Mountain College and the Shaping of Craft Education
Jess Jones – Connections in Texture: the Pedagogy of Josef and Anni Albers
T’ai Smith – Anni Albers: Pedagogical Media

Reuter Center, Room 205 | Film Screening
Myrna Pronchuk – The Art of Chance and the Craft of a Better Universe

4:15 – 5:15 pm | Concurrent Sessions

Reuter Center, Room 206 | Transformative Women in Clay
Peter Held – A Chosen Path: The Ceramic Art of Karen Karnes
Julia Connor – Deep Listening: The Studio Crafts as Language Art

Reuter Center, Room 207 | The Legacy of BMC’s Educational Model
Astrid Kaemmerling – Intellectual Diaspora Black Mountain College: A Transnational Cultural Community

Reuter Center, Room 205 | Film Screening
M.C. Richards: The Fire Within – Directed by Richard Kane and Melody Lewis-Kane

5:30 – 6:30 pm | Reuter Center, Mannheimer Room | Keynote Address
Volunteer Recognition – Connie Bostic, BMCM+AC Board Member
Introduction – Jane Fernandes, UNC Asheville Provost
Christopher Benfey – Survival 101: Keeping Education Alive at Black Mountain College

6:30 – 7:45 | Reuter Center, Courtyard
Reception