

Sculpture, storytelling on tap for arts

SPECIAL TO SCENE

BLACK MOUNTAIN - Two big events are set for this weekend at the Black Mountain Center for the Arts. The center is at 225 W. State St. in Black Mountain. To learn more about these and other events, and for tickets to the night of storytelling, call 828-669-0930 or visit BlackMountainArts.org.

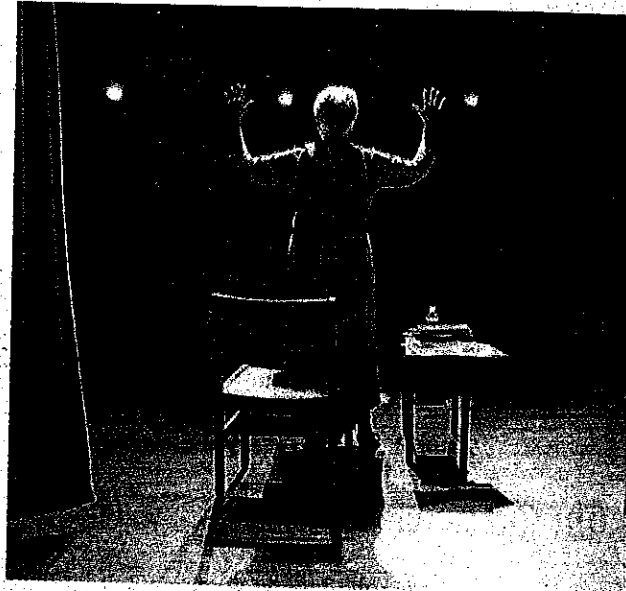
Burr's 'Orchestration'

The center welcomes artist Julia Burr to the Upper Gallery with a free public opening reception for her installation "Orchestration" at 6 p.m. April 7. The show runs through May 12 and is open 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday at no charge.

This will be Burr's fourth show at the center in the past 15 years. "Her evocative work challenges viewers with its

power, simplicity, intricate attention to detail and humor, illustrating core emotions of yearning, love, celebration, freedom and loss," according to a statement from the arts center. Burr's work has included kinetic wood and steel abstractions, steel figurative work and a small-scale installation that used the gallery floor to create a "stream" surrounded by mixed media figures.

"Orchestration," the center states, "expands on her last installation with a full immersion into Burr's world. The artist hopes to surround the observer with the natural world and the lessons it has to teach us about death and the dying process. Imbedded and protruding from an organic 'nest,' dozens of amalgamated mixed-media pieces tell the story



MARY CATHERINE FREEMAN/COURTESY OF BMCA

Connie Regan-Blake plays host to "A Slice of Life" April 8 at the Black Mountain Center for the Arts.

of the journey, the orchestration that comes from participating in the dying process." Some of the works combine parts of

musical instruments with natural elements, and Burr collaborated with local composer Zach Cooper and chamber ensemble

Pan Harmonia on the sound component of the installation.

Burr was recently selected to create the first piece of public artwork for the Black Mountain Greenway, now installed on the behind the Bi-Lo. She has live in Black Mountain for almost 20 years, after a career in Hollywood doing props and special effects for movies, TV and commercials.

Storyteller Connie Regan-Blake

Storyteller Connie Regan-Blake will host "A Slice of Life: An Evening of Stories" at 7:30 p.m. April 8, featuring her "Taking the Stage" storytelling workshop participants. Admission is \$10 in advance and \$15 at the door. This show will highlight a variety of stories and storytelling styles

center

featuring tellers Mary Lou Wilson, Elena Diana Miller, Charlie St. Clair, Christine Westfeldt and Kirsten Mitchell — plus Regan-Blake herself.

Regan-Blake has been crafting and sharing stories since the early 1970s, performing in collaboration and as a solo teller as well as leading workshops and coaching for other storytellers with her company, Storywindow Productions.

"A Slice of Life" is the result of Regan-Blake's most recent "Taking Your Story to the Stage" workshop which focuses on storytelling performance. Each participant is asked to come with a story that is almost "stage-ready." The story and performance are polished through group and partner exercises and individual feedback designed to smooth rough edges.