

BEAT FROM THE STREET

FROM THE DESK OF ADRIAN BROWN

In just six short months since its opening last November, **Outsiders Art & Collectibles**, Durham's only gallery specifically dedicated to exhibiting and selling works by Southern outsider artists, has become 'the place to shop.'

Pamela Gutlon's longtime passion and appreciation for Outsider Art was inspired by her mother, Audrey Chase, an active art supporter in Durham and avid collector of the genre. Gutlon's previous position as Director of Operations at the John Hope Franklin Center, where part of her job was to oversee the facility's two galleries, led her to conceptualize and open the Outsiders Art Gallery.

Outsider art is often identified as the creative work of artists who are self-taught and not formally trained. Often these artists have little or no contact with the mainstream art world or art institutions. The movement has been gaining popularity since the term "outsider art" was first coined in 1972 and has steadily moved to the forefront as a recognized and celebrated art form and sought out genre by collectors.

"There was no gallery in Durham specifically focused on bringing the works of these artists to our community", said Gutlon, founder and proprietor of Outsiders Art & Collectibles.



While exposing outsider art to the community is important to Gutlon, she is even more passionate about the Durham community in general.

"I have always believed in Durham and that businesses should find ways to collaborate with each other instead of compete with each other and my goal is to bring together the various entities within the Durham business community," she said.

For example, Outsiders carries and sells work from other galleries including the Ginger Young Gallery in Chapel Hill and Mike Smith's At Home Folk Art Gallery in Greensboro. In addition to 'sharing art,' each of the monthly open houses held at Outsiders Gallery has been co-hosted by another Durham establishment. To date, Guglhupf Bakery & Café, Rue Cler, Durham Catering Company and the Chapel Hill Wine Company have partnered with Outsiders Gallery.

In that same vein, Gutlon has already rallied Durham Catering Company, Adrian Brown of the Durham

Chamber of Commerce & others to help Student U celebrate the beginning of its Year Round Programming with a special event and fundraiser to be held at Outsiders. Student U is an academic enrichment program currently serving 200 6th-9th graders in the Durham Public Schools. Through summer enrichment and after school tutoring and mentoring, Student U students gain the academic and personal skills needed to succeed through middle and high school. "These kinds of events make Durham the best city to work and live in," Gutlon said.

**Gallery hours are
Thursday - Saturday from
12 to 5 p.m., and by appointment.**

To schedule an appointment for a showing call 919.451.3231 or email pgutlon@outsiders-art.com.

To view a small sampling of the works featured visit www.outsiders-art.com.