

# NEWS

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Turchin Center for the Visual Arts  
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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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For hi-res images, visit <http://tcva.org/media>

## **Turchin Center Celebrates Three New Exhibitions: Andrew Fullwood, Tanja Softić and Les Caison III**

*Boone, NC* – The Turchin Center for the Visual Arts at Appalachian State University is celebrating the opening of three new exhibitions on December 5, 2014 featuring three very diverse artists: Andrew Fullwood, Tanja Softić and Les Caison III.

### ***Andrew Fullwood: Allurement*** **Mayer Gallery, West Wing** **Through March 21, 2015**

The Turchin Center for the Visual Arts at Appalachian State University will open an intriguing wood sculpture exhibit by Chapel Hill artist, Andrew Fullwood, on view December 5 through March 21, 2015. Originally a psychologist, sculptor Andrew Fullwood is a master carver from a family of five generations of furniture makers, originally from Hickory, NC.

“I’m known as the one who can’t make furniture,” says Fullwood, humorously. “I grew up with equally compelling interests in art and nature, the latter of which lead to a career as a physician.” Fullwood is a self-taught craftsman. “The processes and cycles (including attractions, instincts, birth, death) of natural creation are astonishing to me, as well as how life has so gorgeously diversified. Expressing elements of these cycles and creation of living things, whether they be a seed pod or a pregnant woman is a recurrent theme in my works,” says Fullwood. “My sculptures also reflect my great curiosity about our origins: organic, ancestral, and cultural. With my sculpture I want to generate curiosity and allurement. I like there to be an element of surprise. I enjoy exploring both abstract and realistic forms (usually human figures), and sometimes both blended together, a style I refer to as “organic surrealism”. Part of the challenge is to integrate opposing imagery and the tensions created therein. Treacherous forms search for harmonious cohabitation amongst nurture forms. A whale and a cocoon and pollen may all fuse together into

one form." <http://tcva.org/exhibitions/fullwood>

**Tanja Softić**  
**Gallery A, West Wing**  
**Through March 21, 2015**

The Turchin Center for the Visual Arts at Appalachian State University will open an exhibit by Tanja Softić, on view December 5 through March 21, 2015. An immigrant to the United States from former Yugoslavia, she explores questions of cultural identity, national belonging and experience of exile.

Softić's paintings, drawings and prints include elements of landscape, microscopic life forms, architectural details and renderings, obsolete geographical maps, astronomical charts and anatomical fragments as visual signifiers of a displaced existence.

"My work explores concepts of locating oneself in ever expanding notions of universe and society and the nature of memory," says Softić. "As an immigrant to United States from Bosnia, I am acutely aware of the inadequacy of established definitions of cultural or national identity. Our histories are recorded and pose the questions of how they shape our notions of identity, what is our place and our task in the web of life of the planet, what is cultural memory and to whom does it belong. These questions loom large, and there are no reassuring answers. My work aims to capture this state of flux, acknowledge the obsolescence of categories, and work with the tattered web of memory." <http://tcva.org/exhibitions/Softic>

**Les Caison III: The Things That Move Us Forward**  
**Gallery B, West Wing**  
**Through March 21, 2015**

The Turchin Center for the Visual Arts at Appalachian State University will open an exhibit featuring Appalachian State University alumni artist Les Caison III on December 5. The exhibit, *The Things That Move Us Forward*, will be on view until March 21, 2015.

By the time you get this I will have moved on," says artist Les Caison III. "A local periodical quoted me as saying "It's OK to take two steps back as long as you put your best foot forward". There is flaw in that logic to most - obviously you are going backward - fabulously backward. When you dance -- which is what the quote is referring to -- you move backwards, forwards, and around & around. Context and perspective -- choosing to get out there and dance is in fact moving forward."

"It is perspective and appropriate positive attitude that get us moving in the right direction," says Caison III. "These paintings explore using whatever we have to go forward." <http://tcva.org/exhibitions/caisoniii>

For more information on this event or for any questions, call 828-262-3017 or visit [tcva.org](http://tcva.org).

### **About the Turchin Center for the Visual Arts**

The Turchin Center for the Visual Arts presents exhibition, education and collection programs that support Appalachian State University's role as a key regional educational, cultural and economic resource.

The Turchin Center is located at 423 West King St., in Boone. Hours are 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Tues.-Thurs. and Saturday, and Noon-8 p.m., Friday. The Center is closed Sunday and Monday, and observes all university holidays. There is no admission charge, although donations are gratefully accepted.

For additional details about the Turchin Center, becoming a donor, the upcoming exhibitions, to be added to the mailing list or to schedule a tour, please call (828) 262-3017 or visit [www.tcva.org](http://www.tcva.org). You can also follow the Turchin Center on Facebook and Twitter @TurchinCenter.

### **Sponsors**

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