

## Gallery picks

by Connie Morehouse

**B**ennett Strahan, who describes his paintings as abstract American impressionism, will be the featured artist at Studio Italiana for the month of June. He will unveil a collection of more than 20 works at the opening-night celebration on Friday, May 30 from 5:30 until 10:30 p.m. Many of the paintings Strahan will present were inspired by his travels on U.S. 64, the route he takes on frequent trips between homes in Lake Lure and Cimarron, N.M.

Strahan said the dyslexia that was misdiagnosed as borderline mental retardation during his childhood is the gift that has helped his art more than anything – especially when working in monotype. “I learned to see even two-dimensional objects, such as type on a page, in three dimensions, capable of being rotated in my mind and interpreted for a population without the gift of dyslexia, he said. But in the end, I paint what I see. It may be backward to you or it may not. Perhaps you’ll be the one who has to reverse it in your mind.”

Also an accomplished architect, Strahan is a graduate of the Frank Lloyd Wright School of Architecture.

### **Watermedia collage artist, Jane Todd Butcher exhibits at WICKWIRE fine art/folk art gallery**

In a one-woman show, “Nature’s Elements” Butcher’s paintings have been described as colorful, interesting and unpredictable. Meet the Artist at an opening reception on Friday, May 23, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. The show will continue through June 22.

Many of Butcher’s current works revolve around landscape and nature themes, in a style more impressionistic than literal. Elements combine in a unique style and in vibrant colors that have become her trademark. “Although my work is representational, dealing primarily with landscape,” says Butcher, “I prefer only to suggest a place or an image...”

Originally from the Midwest, Butcher

## Bennett Strahan

**Where:** Studio Italiana

**When:** Opening-night: Friday, May 30; 5:30 - 10:30 p.m.

**Info/Tickets:** (828) 250-0567

## Jane Todd Butcher

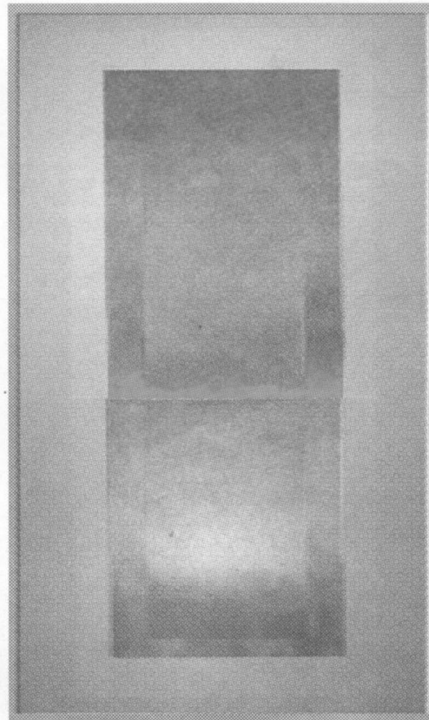
**Where:** WICKWIRE fine art/folk art gallery

**When:** Opening-night: May 23, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

**Info/Tickets:** (828) 692-6222

**E-mail:** wickwirebellsouth.net

earned a B.A. in Art from Illinois State University, after which she moved to Greenville, SC and has continued to study painting with many nationally known artists.



*Bennett Strahan's works can be found at Studio Italiana in downtown Asheville.*