

# TODAY

THE HOT SPOT



## GOING UP?

November is National Elevator Month – just as the cranky elevator in Wilmington's downtown public library is coming back on line. Which started us thinking – what's the least dependable elevator in town? The moodiest? The scariest? We're taking your nominations. (Come on, play along – it'll lift your spirits.) Call 343-2208 or e-mail ben.steelman@starnews.com. No escalators, please.

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# Sisterly love

## No Boundaries unites local artists with international 'siblings'

By Amanda Greene  
Staff Writer

**N**o Boundaries International Art Colony, a biennial event on Bald Head Island, is reaching across borders again.

This year, No Boundaries partnered with the Sister Cities Association of Wilmington to bring artists from three of the Port City's four sister cities: Eleanor Collins of Doncaster, England, Neville Crawford of Bridgetown, Barbados and Wei Ru of Dandong, China. (The fourth sister city is Fiumicino, Italy.)

In its fifth year, the colony of 23 artists, runs Friday through Nov. 16.

"It's a wonderful opportunity to let the rest of Wilmington to know that our sister cities are there, and we are having cultural exchanges with them now," said Deborah Cook, the president of Sister Cities Association of Wilmington.

In addition to the "Sister City" artists, No Boundaries also is bringing its first participant from Scotland. Rosie Newman of The Black Isle is coming as a result of a cooperative between this colony, the Art-Point Gumno art center in Macedonia and the Cromarty Arts Trust in Scotland.

During the two-week colony, artists paint, sculpt or weave across the wilds of Bald Head Island, setting up easels on the beach or along the many twisty lanes, carved just wide enough for a golf cart. In past years, the colony ended with a blow-out reception and a few teaching events. But there will be many more public colony events this year, said Pam Toll, a No Boundaries co-founder.

"Our mission has always been education," she said, but the opening of the new Cultural Arts Building at the University at North Carolina Wilmington has allowed No Boundaries to offer more teaching and exhibition opportunities. Four of the artists will teach classes at UNCW, Friends School of Wilmington and Dreams Center for Arts Education.

"It's good to support this colony," said Sergej Andreevski, a colony veteran from Macedonia. "It's positive for art, for culture and for children to learn about that."



### Eleanor Collins

DONCASTER, England

AGE: 32

**BACKGROUND:** Collins works from her studio at The Ropewalk Gallery in Barton upon Humber in North Lincolnshire, England, where she also serves as an education officer. She likes to work "large in oils and gloss on canvas."

From her artist's statement: "Collins' photographs invite us to share her insight into the continued purpose of the broken and discarded as they enter into a new context of artistic rebirth."

**COLONY EXPECTATIONS:** "What a privilege to spend time in the company of artists from around the globe and share a creative perspective in such a beautiful environment," she wrote in an e-mail. "I'm looking forward to leaving behind the inevitable distractions of everyday life and concentrating entirely on my painting for two and a half weeks."



### Neville Crawford

BRIDGETOWN, Barbados



AGE: 50

**BACKGROUND:** As an intuitive and self-taught artist, Crawford works in acrylics, watercolor, oils, clay, wood, pen and ink and pastels. The artist has had five solo exhibitions and 10 foreign exhibits.

**COLONY EXPECTATIONS:** "I am looking forward to being there as it will give me a chance to meet the artists and art lovers of Wilmington," he wrote in an e-mail.



### Wei Ru

DANDONG, China



AGE: 48

**BACKGROUND:** Working in oils, watercolors and gouache, Wei Ru thinks of his favorite artistic medium as "grey." He is a member of the Chinese Artists' Association, vice chairman of Dandong Artists' Association and honorary professor of Art and Design Department at Liaodong University.

**COLONY EXPECTATIONS:** "I major in paintings and paintings originated from the West," wrote his friend Li Shiqin in an e-mail, translating for Ru. So it is the best chance for me to learn from the Western artists in person."



### Rosie Newman

THE BLACK ISLE, Scotland



AGE: 41

**BACKGROUND:** Newman uses sculpture, painting, film and sound in her work in a studio she shares with six other artists in her village. She also teaches fine art at Inverness College, part of The University of the Highlands and Islands.

**COLONY EXPECTATIONS:** "I remember meeting fellow colony artist Sergej (Andreevski) last summer, and I remember his description of the colony and how all the artists had drawn in the sand together on the beach, and I pictured it so vividly in my mind," she wrote in an e-mail. "I had no idea, at the time, that I would get the opportunity to be one of those fortunate artists."



## SISTER CITIES REPRESENTED

Though Sister Cities International does not list strict criteria for what makes a sister city, most communities choose another city that is similar in population, demographics or economic status, SCI officials said.

### BRIDGETOWN, BARBADOS



A Sister City relationship was established with Bridgetown in 2004, reconnecting two cities that have historical ties. Some of the first settlers in the Cape Fear region were from Barbados. Bridgetown, which has a population of about 110,000, is the capital and commercial center of Barbados. Located on the Caribbean Sea, the city was founded by the British in 1628.

### DANDONG, CHINA



Located at the mouth of the Yalu River, Dandong is opposite North Korea. Like Wilmington, Dandong is a port city, but has a much larger population (over 700,000). Its manufacturing bases include paper, oakleaf silk, chemicals, medicines, machinery and cement. Dandong was Wilmington's first Sister City (1986) and has an active teacher exchange program for several years, with UNCW students going to Dandong for yearlong assignments.

### DONCASTER, ENGLAND



With a population of 290,000, Doncaster is the 15th largest city in the UK. A mining town until the 1980s, Doncaster has reinvented itself as a commercial and leisure center well known for horse racing. Doncaster was established as Wilmington's second sister city in 1989.

- Sister Cities Association of Wilmington

### SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Find a complete list of Colony Public events on 2D.