

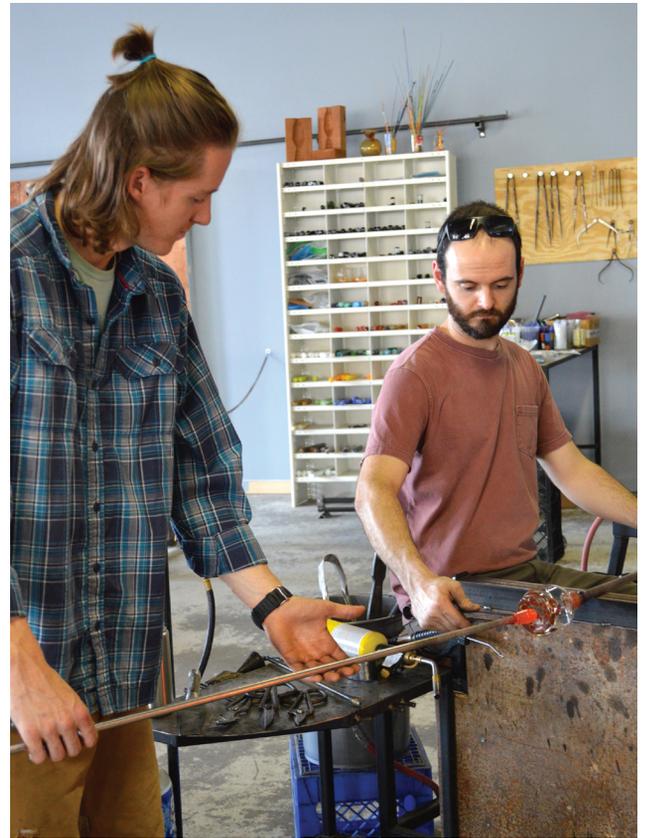
Lexington Glassworks

Best friends turned business partners, Billy Guilford and Geoff Koslow opened Lexington Glassworks last January in the space formerly occupied by Brown's Automotive. In addition to a gallery space, there's a hot shop with state-of-the-art equipment they designed and built themselves. Demonstrations take place every day except Tuesday.

Upon graduation from New York's Alfred University, Geoff moved to Austin to work at a production studio, and Billy went to Pittsburgh to work at a nonprofit school and studio. "That's where we really were able to refine our skills and establish the styles we work in," says Billy. Several years later, the two decided to open a glassblowing studio and gallery in Asheville not far from where they'd taken summer courses at Penland School of Craft.

"You can walk in, talk to an artist about the space you're putting a piece into, and get a piece that is totally custom for yourself," says Geoff. From handblown lighting to drink ware and decorative vases, Geoff and Billy's talents are evident in their broad range of work. Custom commissions and shipping options are always available.

Lexington Glassworks is located at 81 S. Lexington Avenue in Asheville. For more, visit lexingtonglassworks.com, their Facebook page, or call 828.348.8427.



Billy Guilford and Geoff Koslow

Irene Heckel Originals

For the last 15 years or so, needle felting has grown in popularity as a fiber art. By poking individual fibers with a special notched needle, you sculpt the fiber into various firm and sturdy shapes that are difficult to pull apart.

Known internationally for her mohair teddy bears, award-winning artist Irene Heckel is also talented at needle felting. "It is a free flowing craft with no real patterns or forms, and is limited only by the imagination," she explains. She offers adult needle felting classes at several locations.

"I try to send you home with something finished or 90 percent done," she says. "You can still go home and still play with it. With needle felting, a piece can be done or never done."

Perhaps you'll learn to make a flying pig or a cat. Irene chooses creations that are fun to make. She's also available to conduct private workshops for groups interested in the craft. She takes special orders for commissioned bears, and mixed media or needle felted creatures.

Irene's creations are sold locally at Kress Emporium. Classes are offered at Friends & Fiberworks in Candler, The Knitting Diva in Asheville, and The Wool Room in Hendersonville. Visit each website for the schedule. For more, visit ireneheckelbears.com, her Facebook Page, or call 828.633.0491.



Irene Heckel