

Media Contact:

Susanne Hackett

828.989.8361

pollinateconsulting@gmail.com**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Area Artists Add Handmade Elements to Glen Rock Depot

Mountain Housing Opportunities Commissions Five Artists

Asheville, NC (March 24, 2010)—Mountain Housing Opportunities, Inc. (MHO), an Asheville based community and housing development corporation, has commissioned five local artist entrepreneurs to create handmade elements for the multi-use and re-use development, Glen Rock Depot in the River Arts District. Two artists have studios in the River Arts District.

Apartment Number and Directional Tiles**Angelique Tassistro (ceramic artist)** www.DogDoorStudio.com

Angelique Tassistro is the founder of Dog Door Studio and is launching Fly Coop Studios, introducing a new line of clay work, photography and recycled furniture. Her studio is open to the public and is located in the Asheville's River Arts District at 375 Depot, across the street from the Glen Rock Depot.

Outdoor Benches**Gail Fredell (woodworker/furniture artist)**

Gail Fredell's work is in the permanent collection of SF MOMA, the Oakland Museum, Stanford University Memorial Chapel and the AIDS Memorial Grove in Golden Gate Park. She has taught extensively at the college level nationwide and in summer workshop programs at Penland, Haystack and Anderson Ranch, and has served as director of furniture programs and The Furniture Society. Her current projects range in scale and context from residential, functional furniture to public sculpture, both for interior spaces and landscape settings.

Wall of Gratitude**Jen Swearington (fiber artist)** www.JennyThreads.net

A future tenant of the Glen Rock Depot, Jen Swearington is known primarily for her dreamy, narrative art quilts and Jennythreads, her line of handmade clothing and accessories. Previous projects include constructing a peepshow circus tent for the Savannah College of Art and Design's thirtieth anniversary and illustrating the 2005 to 2007 Studio Stroll posters depicting landmarks of the River Arts District. She will open her new studio and boutique in the Glen Rock Depot this fall.

Train Railing along Town Branch Creek**David Earl Tomlinson (metal artist)** <http://dynamicmetalwork.com>**and Jenny Greer (graphic designer)** www.soundmindmedia.net

David Earl Tomlinson is a self-taught metal worker in Asheville, North Carolina. Early projects include details throughout the interior and exterior of Zambra, Don Chey's, and other high-end custom design for local private and commercial properties. His portfolio also includes unique mailboxes, custom restaurant menu display boards, gates and railings for both private homes and commercial establishments, shelving units for clothing boutiques and other locales, salvaged steel tables, and large metal quilt wall hangings. In 2008, his "Appalachian Quilt #4" was displayed in the Southern Living Magazine Idea Home.

Jenny Greer specializes in graphic design, illustration and creating corporate identity through visual media. Her current portfolio consists of brochures, logos, web sites, multimedia presentations, business systems, billboards, posters, and packaging for a range of companies from Coca-Cola to Glen Rock Depot to Bob Moog Foundation, and a number of festivals and bands. Jenny Greer is a mover and shaker in town and has a gift of bringing people together. She also leads the band Jen and the Juice.

“We have such amazing neighbors in our location,” said Cindy Weeks, Rental Development Manager for Mountain Housing Opportunities, Glen Rock Depot Project Manager. “Our goal is to involve artists in the process of developing an identity for the Glen Rock Depot, as artists are those who help process history and offer vision for the future.”

MHO requested work that invoked a sense of belonging for residents and visitors, acknowledged history, as well as created an honorable space for people to live, work and collaborate.

The architectural and design elements will be placed on and around the new mixed use building, 372 Depot, which includes 60 workforce apartments and 9,000 sf of commercial and retail space. 372 Depot is LEED registered, and one of its many benefits is that residents will have solar hot water. For leasing information, Russ Towers with Lewis Real Estate 828-230-7775 or www.GlenRockDepot.com.

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About the Glen Rock Depot

The Glen Rock Depot is a mixed use, community development in Asheville’s River Arts District and historic South French Broad and Livingston neighborhoods. The intention of the 3-building development is to provide a space that nurtures collaborations between individuals, families with children, businesses and non-profits as a neighborhood hub for business and living. Spaces are being leased now. More leasing information can be found at the website or by calling 254-4030.

About Mountain Housing Opportunities

Mountain Housing Opportunities is private, community development corporation whose mission is to build and improve homes, neighborhoods, communities--and lives-- for the people of Asheville and Buncombe County.

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