

# Weaving art and agriculture in Siler City

By Sue Szary

## ...and what exactly IS Against His Will in Siler City?

Seems a curious name for a shop that offers handmade items doesn't it? If one uses imagination, all sorts of connections come to mind. For the record, it's simple, really! Just image the pleadings of a pre-teen begging for permission from a reluctant parent to adopt goats as a 4-H project. Perhaps project is too impersonal a term, four-legged family members is closer to the truth. Needless to say, the 4-H "project" turned into a much, much larger endeavor. Dare I divulge to whom the "His" in the name refers? Perhaps it should be changed to "Against Dad's Will."

Against His Will Gallery and Studio is a resource for all sorts of local and specialized handmade items: local wooden knitting needles, expert weaving and other wearable art, locally made quilts, handmade yarns, pottery and other surprises. Then of course there is Alpaca from right up the road, as well as Mohair and wool of all sorts, plenty of fiber to inspire the fiber artist. All in Siler City? You bet, this and more...

Against His Will Gallery and Studio is nestled amongst other fine galleries and studios and looks right into the kiln room of Central Carolina Community College's sculpture facility. When we say art is heating up in Siler City, we're not kidding.

Long-time Siler City residents may remember the family-run dry cleaners on East Second Street, the very same building that now boasts our gallery and studio, as well as unique exhibition space.

Have you ever seen art in a vault? We have it! Quilters from various parts of Chatham County offered an astounding exhibition of their work for the recent third Friday exhibition.

When one thinks about Chatham County, art and agriculture both come to mind. Against His Will is front and center with its own source for natural dye materials growing right outside the shop. During the season dye-color bearing flowers: dahlias, marigold, fennel, black eyed susan and others all form a functional and beautiful entry into the Historic downtown Arts District off of 2nd & 2nd.

What began as a 4-H project has grown into a passion for the shopkeeper and team of instructors and artists that offer workshops in knitting, spinning, dyeing, hairpin lace, weaving and even an upcoming session raising silk worms. Folks at Against His Will are always delighted to share info and teach traditional skills. Participation in sustainable agriculture programs, working with home-schooled youngsters, scout troops and curriculum enhancement in the public school system as well as public demonstrations at festivals blend with workshops and specialty sessions. Have you ever wondered how flax turns into linen or how you raise and harvest silk from those itty-bitty worms (a town by any other name...). It's all here, right in the heart of Siler City.

Against His Will is a treasure, that's for sure, but not the only pearl in the oyster. Come and visit working artists' studios, enjoy a cup of fresh-brewed coffee after visiting a locally owned bookstore, experience the timeless Farmer's Alliance store and shop the many, many, galleries, each offering something surprisingly

different. We have it all: art, agriculture and Siler City. Life is good!

Against His Will Gallery and Studio is located at 117 E. 2nd Street, Siler City, NC 27344 phone 919.742.1122 or email sue.szary@gmail.com. Watch for the fledgling attempt at a social media presence in Face Book and on the web: www.againsthiswillstudio.com.

Sue Szary is the creator of Against His Will Gallery and Studio.

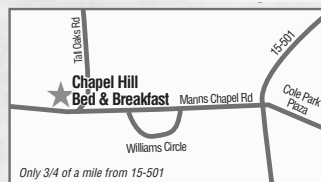
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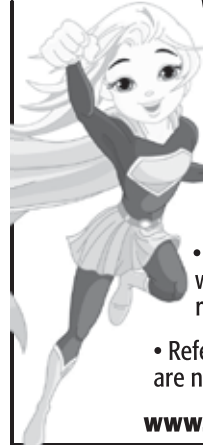


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