

Collective Vigilance: Speaking for the New River

Exhibition begins: Friday, February 3, 2017

Exhibition Celebration: Friday, April 7, 2017 (6:00pm - 10:00pm)

Exhibition ends: Saturday, July 29, 2017

Venue: Mayer Gallery

The 320-mile New River begins high in the mountains of northwestern North Carolina, deep in the heart of the Southern Appalachians. The New, as it is affectionately called, actually begins as two rivers, the North Fork in Ashe County and South Fork in Watauga County. The two forks join in Alleghany County and flow north from North Carolina's Blue Ridge into Virginia and West Virginia. One of the oldest rivers in the world and certainly the oldest in the United States, the headwaters of the New wind more than 100 miles through the Appalachians; the forks join just a few miles south of the North Carolina-Virginia line. The New River continues its somewhat unusual northward flow through southwestern Virginia and West Virginia into the Kanawha and Ohio rivers—its waters eventually reaching the Gulf of Mexico by way of the Mississippi River.

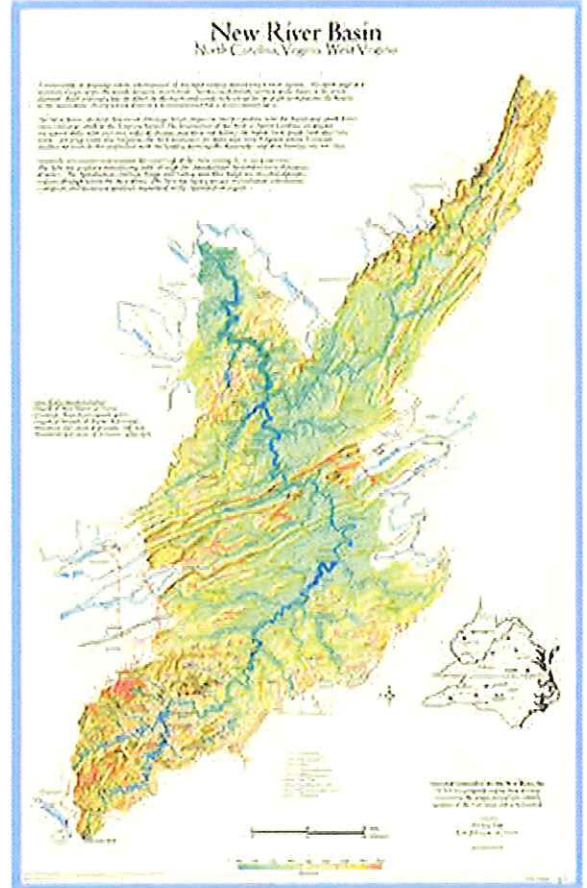
Partnering with the Center for Appalachian Studies, Tom Hansell's graduate seminar, *Sustainability and the Arts in Appalachia (AS5065)*, and New River Conservancy (NRC) to showcase the headwaters of the New River in the northwestern corner of North Carolina, the Turchin Center for the Visual Arts supports both the mission of the NRC and Appalachian State University's commitment to an engaged campus culture inspired by the ideal of sustainable communities. The New River Conservancy believes that clean water, healthy land and empowered people benefit the surrounding communities by creating a watershed where people want to live, work and play.

The title for the installation, *Collective Vigilance: Speaking for the New River*, comes from the NRC's website where they lay out their strategic priorities:

- To Share & Foster Research
- To Educate & Inspire People to Act
- To Protect & Restore the River and Its Tributaries

Participating Artists

- Joshua White
- Maggie Flannigan
- Carl Galle
- Patricia Beaver
- Joni Ray
- Keith Bryant
- Tom Hansell



National Committee for the New River, New River Basin Map



Tom Hansell, Plumb Nearly Road River Trash Collection