

Bill Mangum: Life Retrospective
drawings/paintings/sculpture

“Essentially, I’m a portraitist. I try to instill in my subjects (animate or inanimate) a sense of presence, a feeling of BEING.”

Bill Mangum was born in Kinston, N.C., scion of an Orange County, N.C., family with firm roots in the community of Chapel Hill and the University of North Carolina.

During World War II, Bill flew as a member of a B-24 bomber crew with the 8th Air Force in England.

After the war, Bill studied at the Corcoran School of Art in Washington, D.C., and at the Art Students League of New York. Around this time, Bill attained recognition as a portrait artist.

Later, Bill decided to go into the teaching profession and so returned to college. At UNC, Bill earned both a bachelor’s degree in Art and a master’s degree in Art History.

The first teaching position Bill held was at Western Carolina University, where he would instruct for three years before accepting a position at Salem College in Winston-Salem.

Bill taught at Salem College for many years, ultimately serving as chairman of the art department. During a year of sabbatical leave from the college in the late 1960s, he traveled with his family to Florence, Italy, and pursued studies at the University of Florence.

After retiring from teaching, he spent several years in Wilmington, during which he enjoyed the city’s especially lively jazz scene and became known for his joyous interpretive licks on trombone. Bill returned to Chapel Hill in the early ’90s and embraced retirement. He passed away peacefully in December 2013.