



South Carolina State Museum

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the reality as opposed to the romance.

For decades, Kunstler's paintings of the events of our country's history, from pre-historic times to the space shuttle program, have won the artist praise and popularity to the point that he is now known to many as "America's artist."

Since 1982, Kunstler has focused more specifically on the Civil War, to the acclaim of multitudes of historians and art fans alike. The artist takes pains to make sure that the details of his paintings are correct.

"Kunstler's exceptional talent is his ability to tell a story dramatically and realistically," said State Museum Curator of History JoAnn Zeise. "He paints in such a way that the viewer feels he's looking back through time at a real event. Kunstler takes his research and creates wonderfully compelling stories that are stunning in their detail and beauty."



The Final Mission, by Mort Kunstler, the Confederate submarine CSS H.L. Hunley is prepared for its first - and last - battle against the USS Housatonic in Charleston Harbor in February 1864. Illustration courtesy Mort Kunstler/SC State Museum

In the exhibit, visitors will see scenes such as *A Fleeting Moment*, depicting Gen. Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson parting from his wife as his troops begin a night march from Winchester, VA, in February 1862;

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Are You Hurt, Sir?, by Mort Kunstler reveals a bit of humor behind a dramatic-looking scene, as the horse of Confederate Gen. Richard Ewell rears in alarm when its rider is shot - harmlessly, it turns out, in his wooden leg. Illustration courtesy Mort Kunstler/SC State Museum

Rendezvous with Destiny, showing Union Gen. John Buford and his men galloping past the Adams County courthouse in Gettysburg prior to the battle; and *Are You Hurt, Sir?*, which reveals a bit of humor behind a dramatic-looking scene, as the horse of Confederate Gen. Richard Ewell rears in alarm when its rider is shot - harmlessly, it turns out, in his wooden leg.

In addition, two paintings depict familiar South Carolina scenes. In *Fort Sumter, First Shot*, soldiers watch the results of the firing on the Charleston Harbor fort that formally

started the war, while *The Final Mission* shows the Confederate submarine CSS H.L. Hunley being prepared for its first - and last - battle against the USS Housatonic in Charleston Harbor in February 1864.

"Kunstler often visited the locations depicted in his paintings to get a more intimate feel for the scenes before beginning his work," said Zeise. "He's had numerous museum and major gallery exhibitions in the last 30 years. But this show is excep-

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Image: Clifton Monteith, *Carlton Chair*, 2010, willow aspen, gold leaf, 74" x 34" x 41"

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The exhibition is organized by The Center for Craft, Creativity & Design, Hendersonville, North Carolina.

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