

# Gallery 27 in Lincolnton, NC, Features Works by Mark Doepker & Laura Rasmussen

Gallery 27 in Lincolnton, NC, will present an exhibit of works by Art Pop billboard artists Mark Doepker and Laura Rasmussen, on view from Jan. 21 through Feb. 8, 2017. A reception will be held on Jan. 21, from 7-9pm.

These two artists bring their world of colorful and diverse faces to Gallery 27 in the first of our 2017 Visiting Artists Series.

Mark Doepker is a self taught artist whose work explores the human condition in an explosive rainbow of colors. His figures and faces convey a deep sense of emotion that seems to pulse on the very surface they inhabit. Doepker's work can be found in various locations in and around Charlotte, NC. He is represented by Pura Vida Worldly Art in the NoDa art district.

Laura Rasmussen's mixed media paintings center on themes of nature, magical realism, and especially a strong, feminine spirit. She does not work from sketches; rather she relies solely on her intuition to guide her to the image that will ultimately occupy the canvas.

"I know these women," says Rasmussen. "They are the mothers, sisters, daughters, friends, goddesses, matriarchs, and mother earth, herself. They are the women that came before us. They know who they are. They have stories to tell."

Gallery 27 is the premiere art gallery in Lincoln County, bringing the finest in both local and regional art to the area for the past three years. The mission of Gallery 27 is to instruct, inform and inspire



Work by Mark Doepker

our artists and collectors by providing a source of high quality of visual art, create an exciting venue where artists can exhibit and sell their art, facilitate opportunities for artists through marketing, promotion, commissions, and sales, provide high-quality classes and workshops for adults and children in a barrier-free setting that is designed to inspire while providing fun and educational art experiences for all ages and abilities.

For further information check our NC Commercial Gallery listings, call the gallery at 704/240-9060 or visit ([www.ncgallery27.com](http://www.ncgallery27.com)).

# Fine Arts Center of Kershaw County in Camden, SC, Features Works by Nicole Heere

The Fine Arts Center of Kershaw County in Camden, SC, will present *Women...The Real Heroes*, featuring works by Nicole Heere, on view in the Bassett Gallery, from Jan. 12 through Mar. 3, 2017. A reception will be held on Jan. 11, from 6-7:30pm.

Heere is a Texas born painter inspired by Warhol, Lichtenstein, Shepard Fairey and Banksy. She paints dramatic portraits using techniques on the crossroad between pop and realism. She implements the use of house paint and oil paint creating the balance between pop art mediums and traditional mediums. Yet where many modern masters have patriarchal subjects, Heere falls back on her southern feminine roots and grounds her characters in traditional female roles. All this results in provocative and empowering paintings that challenge cultural identities and stereotypes.

Heere obtained a BFA from University of Texas at San Antonio in 2006. While attending school she worked with several renowned artists such as Alex Rubio and Milica Tomic and received mentorship from Bruno Andrade, a Smithsonian Institution American artist. Throughout her studies, she also had to keep a job in real estate to afford her classes, and after graduation, she started to work full-time within real estate as she was told by family and friends that 'art wouldn't pay the bills'. It would take her years to realize that she gave up too easily and after she received gallery representation in Austin for a few paintings she created in her free time, she made the big step in 2011 to become a full-time artist.

Heere immediately found ways to connect to her audience and in February 2011, she was invited to showcase her work at the inaugural RAWartist event held in Austin. In June 2011 she moved to New Orleans to work with artists such as Ronald Jones and Sherry Dooley and learned from them the tricks of the trade in the streets of New Orleans. She consulted regularly with gallery owners on Royal Street, received gallery repre-



Work by Nicole Heere

sentation by the Great Artist Collective. In February 2012 Heere received gallery representation from Luminarte Gallery in Dallas, TX, and in May of the same year she received representation from Agora Gallery in New York City. In May 2012 CBS News named Agora Gallery amongst the top contemporary galleries in New York City.

Heere's fast emergence as a promising artist has not gone unnoticed. *The Dallas Morning News* called her work "particularly noteworthy... KVUE News Austin prominently featured one of her paintings in a live report and called her painting of a local celebrity "unique". Additionally, her work has been featured in *Origin Magazine*, *Literacy Head*, *Point of Vue Magazine*, *Patron Magazine*, *Brilliant Comers* and the *Diego Files*.

Heere's success has continued with numerous exhibitions, and representation from Kakar House of Design in Miami. In February 2016 her paintings were a trending topic on Instagram and in March 2016 she was a featured artist at Design Night Out Miami. Heere's art has also gained a following in Europe and is featured as the poster art for an upcoming play at Theatre Laznia Nowa in Poland.

Heere offered the following statement: "I paint pop art from a feminist perspective. My goal is to ridicule both male

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