

## Durham Arts Council in Durham, NC, Features Works by David Baker and Matthew Litteken

The Durham Arts Council in Durham, NC, is presenting two exhibits including: *The Industrial Revolution and Its Results*, featuring works by David Baker, on view in the Allenton Gallery, through Jan. 6, 2013, and *Walking on the Bellies of Our Lusts*, featuring works by Matthew Litteken, on view in the Semans Galleries, through Jan. 6, 2013.

The *Industrial Revolution and Its Results* is a series of photographs of industrial scenes captured in stark and revealing light. Graffiti, foundational structures, and construction equipment all play roles in David Baker's portraits of the industrial landscape as a living creature. Baker, who works as a consultant and author, has traveled extensively and lived abroad for much of his life. As a child he lived in Costa Rica in a village with no electricity or running water. However, his home had a darkroom and his father had a Nikon camera, and so Baker developed a passion for photography. His work has been featured in the *Wall Street*

*Journal*, *USA Today*, *Forbes*, *CBS Business Network*, and *BusinessWeek*. Baker currently lives in Nashville, TN.

Matthew Litteken's painting series, *Walking on the Bellies of Our Lusts*, investigates the notion of consumerism through the exploration of iconography and motifs from American currency. Litteken examines the role of these assessments through both color theory and subject matter, challenging viewers to reconsider the value systems so deeply embedded in the American psyche in the consumption of goods and services that are directly tied to the human desires, fancies, and whims in our post-industrial consumer society. Litteken hopes to challenge the viewer: What do we value? And by what standards are these judgments made? The artist currently lives in Hamilton, OH.

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, call the Council at 919/560-2787 or visit ([www.durhamarts.org](http://www.durhamarts.org)).

## CAM Raleigh in Raleigh, NC, Features Works by Angel Otero

CAM Raleigh in Raleigh, NC, is presenting the exhibit *Angel Otero*, on view in the Independent Weekly Gallery through Feb. 4, 2013.

Otero's painting process is anything but conventional - he spends as much time working with dried paint as wet. Otero begins by applying layers of oil paints on a piece of glass in reverse order. Once the paint is half-dry he scrapes it off the glass and applies the richly textured oil-skin surface to a canvas. The resulting compositions reveal surprising bursts of color and produce unexpected wrinkles in Otero's imagery. "I can control about fifty percent of the end result," Otero says. "But those limitations and the uncertainty are what spark the dialogue that I aim for."

Although Otero's canvases and assemblages take cues from Georg Baselitz, Philip Guston, and Willem de Kooning, with a nod to the Spanish Baroque, he has also drawn on his familial relationships and life in his native Puerto Rico, which he left at the age of 24 to study at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. Otero's been always intrigued by process and initially came to his current technique by recycling paint in order to save money and resources while in art school. He would scrape the paint off works he was dissatisfied with and add it to a growing mountain of remnant oil paint. Eventually, he started to form the clumps into flower shapes and spray paint them silver, which on the canvas created the illusion of working with tin foil. For his new work, Otero has left behind any formal relationship he had with objects and is purely focused on stretching the limits of the material.

Otero's approach has been attracting attention since his days at art school. Having honed his technique with confidence, he is able to keep experimenting - both with painting and his second love, sculpture - producing works that are meaningful in both appearance and form.

Born in 1981 in Santurce, Puerto Rico, Otero currently lives and works in New York City. He is a visual artist best known for his process-based paintings. While much of his works have been influenced by memories based in photographs and other family memorabilia combined with the gestures of 20th century painting, his latest works highlight the artist's unique process as a form of narrative in itself.

Through his innovative process of oil paint scraping, Otero venerates historical oil painting technique while confronting it head on. Otero's 'deformation' approach to painting his works, first across glass and then once dry, flaying the dried paint and reconstructing the composition anew across large canvasses, is representative



Work by Angel Otero

of how the artist perceives the process of reconfiguring both personal and historical narratives.

Otero's work sometimes uses process as a way of confronting deep, personal memories. Instead of representing his life through art, he archives moments within it by creating opportunities of surprise and discovery. His work is a constant negotiation between the individual and art history.

Otero received his MFA from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. Recent exhibitions include Kavi Gupta Gallery, *The Dangerous Ability to Fascinate Other People*; *El Museo's Sixth Bienal* at El Museo del Barrio; *Memento*, a solo exhibition at Lehmann Maupin Gallery New York; *Misericordia* at Prism Gallery Los Angeles; Chicago Cultural Center; *Constellations* at the Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago; a solo exhibition at *ISTANBUL'74*, Turkey; and a solo exhibition in India at Gallery Isa, Mumbai.

Otero is also the recipient of the Leonore Annenberg Fellowship in the Visual Arts.

For further info check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, call 919/513-0946 or visit (<http://camraleigh.org/>).

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Artist Trading Card Calendars

## Center for Documentary Studies at Duke University in Durham, NC, Features Works by Gordon Parks

The Center for Documentary Studies at Duke University, in Durham, NC, is presenting the exhibit *The Restraints: Open and Hidden: Gordon Parks' Life Magazine Segregation Series*, on view in the Lyndhurst Gallery, through Mar. 2, 2013.

Renaissance man Gordon Parks would have been one hundred years old on Nov. 30, 2012 (he died in 2006, at 93). As a young man during the Depression, he joined the Civil Conservation Corps, the New

Deal work relief program; played semi-professional sports; and did various odd jobs until 1942, when he joined the Library of Congress's Farm Security Administration (FSA) as the first [Julius] Rosenwald Fellow in photography.

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, call the Center at 919/660-3663 or visit ([cds.aas.duke.edu](http://cds.aas.duke.edu)).

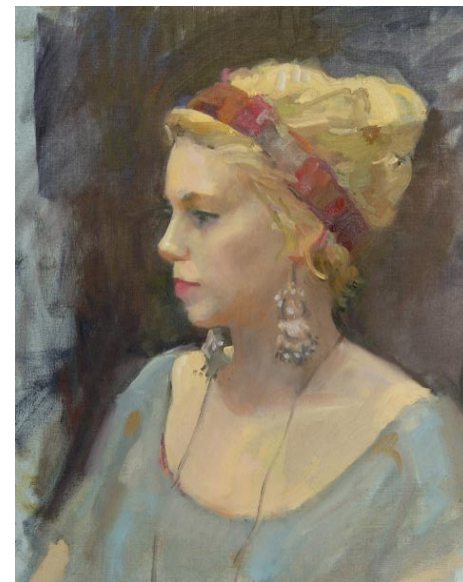
## Skyuka Fine Art in Tryon, NC, Features Works by Dawn Whitelaw

Skyuka Fine Art in Tryon, NC, will present the exhibit *Variations*, featuring recent works of nationally known artist and portrait painter Dawn Whitelaw, on view from Dec. 1 - 31, 2012. A reception will be held on Dec. 1, from 5-8pm.

Whitelaw maintains a studio at 'The Factory' in Franklin, TN. For over 25 years she taught basic principles of oil painting as an adjunct instructor at David Lipscomb University. Most of her formal instruction comes from continuing study with New York painter Everett Raymond Kinstler.

Whitelaw was awarded "Best in Show" at the 2001 National conference of the Portrait Society of America, and beginning in 2013 will serve as that organization's Vice-Chairman.

Studies and quick sketches from life are a time-honored tradition among artists and an important part of Whitelaw's work process. She finds time almost every week to paint a sketch from life. This experience is always informative and inspirational, and many of her pieces in this exhibit reflect that 'freshness' of capturing a moment as well as a feeling on canvas. Winter landscapes and summer plein air pieces grace Skyuka's



Work by Dawn Whitelaw

walls. Reflective and thought provoking portrait studies round off this masterful show.

For further information check our NC Commercial Gallery listings, call the gallery at 828/817-3783 or visit ([www.skyukafineart.com](http://www.skyukafineart.com)).

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