

NC Museum of History

continued from Page 10

When Russia converted to Byzantine Christianity in 988, its churches adopted the ancient tradition of painting icons. Over time, Russians developed a distinctive style of iconography featuring religious scenes in the Byzantine, or Eastern Orthodox, tradition. Eastern Orthodox Christians venerate icons as conduits to God and a focus for their prayers and meditation. Thus, icons become “windows into heaven.”

Visitors will recognize many familiar Christian themes in *Windows into Heaven*. Icons showing the Mother of God, events in the life of Christ, the apostles and saints are featured. Less familiar representations include the Old Testament Trinity, as well as saints important to Russia, such as Cyril and Methodius and Seraphim of Sarov.

Beautiful to behold, icons were often made by monks or nuns. The religious images brought comfort to many in times of sorrow and hardship. The variety of icons presented in *Windows into Heaven* provides an intimate look at Russia’s complex past.

A variety of programs will complement both exhibitions, and Russian-themed lunches and teas are available for groups of 10 or more. The Exhibition Shop will feature a splendid selection of merchandise, much of which is imported directly from Russia.

Major sponsors of *The Tsars’ Cabinet* and *Windows into Heaven* include North Carolina News Network, Duke Energy, *News & Observer*, Ragland Family Foundation and Mr. and Mrs. Everette C. Sherrill. Additional sponsors are Catering Works, Mr. and Mrs. Paul F. Hoch, Mr. George R. McNeill III, Our State, Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth B. Howard, Merrill Lynch Wealth Management, Smith Family Foundation, ThemeWorks and the Mary and Elliott Wood Foundation.

Nationally acclaimed artist Mort Künstler has been painting captivating scenes of American history for more than 50 years. Known to many as “America’s artist,” he has focused on the Civil War almost exclusively since the 1980s.

An exhibit at the NC Museum of History in Raleigh showcases original paintings by the renowned artist. *For Us the Living: The Civil War Art of Mort Künstler* will run through Jan. 5, 2014. This free exhibit is significant for two reasons.

First, Künstler has selected 33 original paintings from his personal collection for the exhibit. Second, he has recently announced that he will only produce eight more Civil War-era paintings before moving on to other topics.

“One of these Civil War paintings, titled *Capitol Farewell*, was unveiled especially for the exhibit,” said Museum Director Ken Howard. “The North Carolina State Capitol is prominent in this winter scene of a young couple saying good-bye during wartime.” *Capitol Farewell* is one of two paintings by Künstler of the Raleigh landmark as it appeared on Feb. 5, 1863. The first such painting is *Winter Riders* (1995).

Künstler’s exceptional talent lies in his ability to tell a story dramatically and realistically, from scenes of raging battles to a soldier’s private moments. Viewers often get the sensation that they are looking back through time at the real event.

“Künstler strives to make each Civil War scene as authentic to the event as possible,” adds Howard. With painstaking attention to detail, the artist researches the uniforms, guns, buttons and other gear. He often visits the locations depicted in his paintings and tracks down an event’s weather conditions when possible.

Each painting in *For Us the Living* is accompanied by text in Künstler’s own



“Capitol Farewell” by Mort Künstler. The North Carolina State Capitol is prominent in this winter scene.

words. He describes the inspiration for a scene or the historical event behind it.

The paintings in *For Us the Living* cover a variety of topics. A sampling of titles from the exhibit follows: *First Shot at Fort Sumter: P. G. T. Beauregard at Charleston Harbor*, Charleston, SC, April 12, 1861; *The Gunner and the Colonel*, Battle of Fort Fisher, NC, Jan. 15, 1865; *A Fleeting Moment*, Stonewall and Mary Anna Jackson, Winchester, VA, Feb. 1, 1862; and *The Angel of the Battlefield*, Clara Barton with Walt Whitman at Chatham Plantation, near Fredericksburg, VA, Dec. 1862.

Come see these paintings and others that illuminate fascinating individuals and historic events through the eyes of a distinguished Civil War artist.

Prints of *Capitol Farewell* are available for purchase in the Museum Shop. Call the shop at 919/807-7835 to reserve your print.


The NC Museum of History is located on Edenton Street, across from the State Capitol. Parking is available in the lot across Wilmington Street. The Museum of History, within the Division of State History Museums, is part of the NC Department of Cultural Resources.

The NC Department of Cultural Resources (NCDCCR) is the state agency with a vision to be the leader in using the state’s cultural resources to build the social, cultural and economic future of North Carolina. Led by Secretary Susan W. Kluttz, NCDCCR’s mission to enrich lives and communities creates opportunities to experience excellence in the arts, history and libraries in North Carolina that will spark creativity, stimulate learning, preserve the state’s history and promote the creative economy. NCDCCR was the first state organization in the nation to include all agencies for arts and culture under one umbrella.

Through arts efforts led by the North Carolina Arts Council, the North Carolina Symphony and the North Carolina Museum of Art, NCDCCR offers the opportunity for enriching arts education for young and old alike and economic stimulus engines for our state’s communities. NCDCCR’s Divisions of Archives and Records, State Historic Sites, and State History Museums preserve, document and interpret North Carolina’s rich cultural heritage. NCDCCR’s State Library of North Carolina is the principal library of state government and builds the capacity of all libraries in our state, developing and supporting access to traditional and online collections such as genealogy and resources for the blind and physically handicapped.

NCDCCR annually serves more than 19 million people through its 27 historic sites, seven history museums, two art museums, the nation’s first state-supported symphony orchestra, the State Library, the NC Arts Council and the State Archives of North Carolina. NCDCCR champions our state’s creative industry that accounts for more than 300,000 jobs and generates nearly \$18.5 billion in revenues.

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, call the Museum at 919/807-7900 or visit (www.ncmuseumofhistory.org).




Triangle Art Works is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing services, support and resources to the visual and performing arts and creative industries.

Triangle Art Works can help you connect quickly and easily with the arts community to find arts-related groups, resources, jobs, and news.

WWW.TRIANGLEARTWORKS.ORG
INFO@TRIANGLEARTWORKS.ORG
FACEBOOK.COM/TRIANGLEARTWORKS
TWITTER: @TRIARTWORKS

Making Arts Work in the Triangle.


CONNECT • INFORM • CREATE • SUPPORT • PROMOTE



Museum Hours:
Tues-Sat 10am-4pm
Business Hours:
Mon-Fri 8:30am-5pm

233 East Avenue
Seagrove, NC
336-873-8430

info@ncpotterycenter.org
www.ncpotterycenter.org



NORTH CAROLINA POTTERY CENTER

Carolina Arts is now on
Twitter!
Sign up to follow
Tom’s Tweets, click below!



twitter.com/carolinaarts

Don't see anything here about your exhibit or art space?

Did you send your info to us?

The deadline each month to submit articles, photos and ads is the 24th of the month prior to the next issue. This will be Dec. 24th for the January 2014 issue and Jan. 24 for the February 2014 issue. After that, it's too late unless your exhibit runs into the next month. But don't wait for the last minute - send your info now.

E-mail to (info@carolinaarts.com).