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Eye Level Art in Charleston, SC, Features Works by Brian Bustos

Eye Level Art in Charleston, SC, will present the exhibit, *Good Morning Spider*, featuring works by Brian Bustos, on view from Feb. 5 through Mar. 16, 2011. An opening reception will be held on Feb. 5, from 7-11pm, with special musical performance by Chris Thomas.



Bustos offered the following statement about this show, "One morning I woke up and went to take a shower. There was a big brown spider on the wall of my bathroom. I was very afraid of it. I debated over taking a shower for a while,

just looking at the spider there on the wall. Eventually, I thought that I should kill him and take a shower. So I did kill him. I have always regretted this."

"*Good Morning Spider* is a title taken from a Sparklehorse album. Mark Linkous, the sole member of Sparklehorse passed away last year at a young age. This show is partly a tribute to him and his music. Music that has been very important in my life and gotten me through some troubled times. The show and the work is also a meditation on finding balance between living in the modern world and the natural world. I am stricken with terror sometimes when I try to grasp the technological world around me, it being so impersonal and fast paced, yet I know it must be embraced. I am sometimes fearful that people will not know what the pages of a book feels like, how raw wood smells, or how it is to simply be outside. These paintings and drawings are about being present in my own world and not running to hide in the woods forever."

For further information check our SC Commercial Gallery listings, call the gallery at 724-510-9778 or visit (www.eyelelevelart.com).

Halsey Institute of Contemporary Art in Charleston, SC, Features Works by Leslie Wayne

The Halsey Institute of Contemporary Art at the College of Charleston School of the Arts in Charleston, SC, is presenting the exhibit, *Leslie Wayne: Recent Work*, on view through Mar. 12, 2011.

The exhibition represents the past five years of Wayne's vibrant, sculptural oil paintings. The works range in size from Page 20 - Carolina Arts, February 2011

14 feet long to as intimate as 10 x 13 inches. Wayne states that her large works are inspired by landscape and geology and are a secular contemporary and abstract response to 19th century Romantic Landscape painting.

"Rather than paint pictures of land-
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scapes, Wayne chooses to capture the corporeal essence of nature by offering an analogous experience to being in the natural world. Alluding to compression, subduction and the shifting of tectonic plates, she packs the narrative passages into the interstices of each successive layer of paint, testing the range of Richard Serra's famous 'Verb List' by pulling, scraping, folding, cutting and collaging her material like clay," states Mark Sloan, curator of this exhibition and Director/Senior Curator at the Halsey Institute.

In addition to taking cues from landscape, Wayne draws inspiration from fashion and fabric to fractals and chaos theory but rarely in anticipation of a specific work. Wayne states, "I don't set out to make a painting about a particular subject. I am a Process painter in that respect in that I allow the phenomenology of the material to lead the way. I may begin with a set of conditions, like a shaped panel for example, but then I take my cues from the working process. I think of it as a conversation between material memory and morphogenesis - the repetition of a process that leads to an intended result and the will of the material to do what it will do."

The smaller paintings in the exhibition are part of a series entitled *One Big Love*. Wayne began these works while simultaneously working on her larger paintings in an effort to challenge herself with new parameters within a familiar and comfortable format. The series however now includes over fifty-five paintings, each embodying a unique world of highly manipulated, striated paint.

Wayne was born in 1953 in Germany, but grew up in Southern California where she originally studied traditional oil painting and had a strong connection to the Western landscapes tradition. Her undergraduate studies began at the University of California, Santa Barbara in Painting and she finished with a BFA in Sculpture from

Parsons School of Design. After her move to New York City in 1982, she abandoned observational painting and developed her signature style of intuitive painting, which is exemplified in this exhibition at the Halsey Institute.

Leslie Wayne: Recent Work has been organized by the Halsey Institute and will travel to multiple venues around the country after making its debut in Charleston. To accompany the exhibition and give insight into Wayne's process, the Halsey Institute has commissioned a film by John Reynolds. The Halsey has also produced a full-color catalogue with an essay by Ron Platt, Curator of Modern and Contemporary Art at the Birmingham Museum of Art. The catalogue will be for sale during the exhibition at the Halsey Institute.

Wayne has presented her work in numerous solo and group exhibitions including the Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington, DC; *Peace Tower/Whitney Biennial*, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, NY (both 2006); Bildmuseet, Umea, Sweden; Museum of Fine Arts, St. Petersburg, FL (both 2003); The Museum of Contemporary Art, Miami, FL (2001); Santa Monica Museum of Art, Santa Monica, CA (2000); and *The Continuous Painting Wall*, Birmingham Museum of Art, Birmingham, AL (1999). She was the recipient of a 2006 New York Foundation for the Arts Fellowship in Painting and a past grant recipient from both the Pollock-Krasner Foundation and the Adolph and Esther Gottlieb Foundation.

The Halsey Institute of Contemporary Art is administered by the School of the Arts at the College of Charleston and exists to advocate, exhibit and interpret visual art, with an emphasis on contemporary art.

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings, call the Institute at 843/953-4422 or visit (www.halsey.cofc.edu).

Learn more about what's going on in the visual art community inbetween issues of *Carolina Arts* through our blogs - *Carolina Arts Unleashed*, featuring commentary by Tom Starland or *Carolina Arts News*, featuring late breaking news and news that came in late.