

West Main Artists Co-op in Spartanburg, SC, Offers Works by Dr. Lois Ann Hesser

The West Main Artists Co-op in Spartanburg, SC, will present *Fresh Imagination: Jewelry, Poetry, and Textile Art*, featuring works by Dr. Lois Ann Hesser, on view from Mar. 11 through Apr. 14, 2013. A reception will be held on Mar. 14, from 6-8pm.

Hesser states, "The joy of creating something beautiful with my own hands is my love."

Hesser will be showcasing a display of semi-precious stone jewelry accented with samples of her textile art and poetry. Everything on display will be freshly made within the past year. Hesser is 82 years old. She has had several shows of her jewelry locally, twice for the Red Door program held every second year to help fund St. Luke's Free Clinic, and one show in Atlanta, GA. This will be her first real show of any length.

Hesser has not always been a jewelry artist. She was born in a small town, Hudson Falls, in the Adirondacks area of northern New York State. She lived and taught music primarily in this area until she went back to college to attain her doctorate. She became interested in how emerging technologies could influence and enhance learning and instructional techniques in the school curriculum. The New York Department of Education hired her for three years to provide computer workshops for teachers throughout the state, including those teachers at correctional institutions that had Title 1 students.

Hesser later moved to Long Island and eventually to Florida to teach. In 1998 she "retired", but immediately was contacted by Saint Thomas University to provide music and vocal training for their chancel choir. She spent the next eight years there, until the end of the semester in April 2006, and moved to Spartanburg on May 1, 2006. Hesser and her husband love Spartanburg.

The title of the show, *Fresh Imagination*, is a statement of the methods in which Hesser creates her jewelry. Her process is inspired by music and nature. She likes to have the radio playing classical music when she is working. She believes the form and structure of the music some-



Work by Dr. Lois Ann Hesser

times can inform the design and particular accent stones to be used in her jewelry.

Hesser Says, "I strive for a unique twist on all I do, not just a copy of a pattern.... the shapes and feel of the stone suggest a basic design. I arrange and rearrange until the design feels good. Sometimes, if I am not satisfied, I put them away to work on another day."

Hesser is also a writer as well as a musician. She still performs and teaches to this day. Her first book of poems will also be on display in this show, along with her jewelry, and textile art.

The Co-op is also showing *Life Circle*, an exhibit of works by USC Upstate Students, Meghan Ford and Katie Garland, on view through Mar. 10.

West Main Artist Co-op provides affordable studio space and exhibition space for local artists. Locally made art is for sale in the Gallery Shop and the galleries. The Co-op also participates in Spartanburg Art Walk. West Main Artists Co-op is a nonprofit organization, funded in part by the South Carolina Arts Commission which receives support from the National Endowment for the Arts.

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings, call the co-op at 864/804-6501 or visit (www.westmainartists.org).

Artists' Guild of Spartanburg in Spartanburg, SC, Features Youth Art

The Artists' Guild of Spartanburg in Spartanburg, SC, will present the *Annual Focus on Youth Juried Show*, on view at the Guild Gallery at the Chapman Cultural Center, from Mar. 8 - 27, 2013. A reception will be held on Mar. 21, from 6-9pm during Spartanburg's Art Walk.

National Youth Art Month began in 1961 as an annual observance each March to emphasize the value of art and art education for all children, and to encourage public support for quality school art programs. Locally, this is the fifth year that artist and art teacher Robert Urban has curated this event for the Guild and local high schools. Urban inherited curating this event from David Benson, who had been teaching art in Spartanburg County Schools since 1978 and was an active Guild member.

In keeping with the mission of the Guild, "to cultivate, nurture and grow the visual arts in our community by supporting local artists," Benson said, "Program planners of the Spartanburg Artists' Guild made an excellent decision when they decided to pay homage to young fledgling artists by sponsoring a special exhibit just high school students and it has become one of the most celebrated events held at the Chapman Cultural Center."

Participating High Schools in this exhibit are Boiling Springs, Broome, Byrnes, Byrnes Freshman Academy, Chapman, Chesnee, Dorman, Dorman Freshman Campus, Landrum, Spartanburg, Spartanburg Freshman Academy, and Woodruff. Teachers submit five entries from each class for a chance to be juried into the show. The juror will select about 40 out of 90 entries to be exhibited. Urban says that "If a student is

fortunate enough to be selected for an award than they have really reached a special place of honor among all the students in our county."

The juror this year is nationally recognized painter, Isabel Forbes. Raised in Spartanburg, Forbes draws from a successful career in graphic design and illustration, coupled with a bachelor of fine arts degree from Florida's Ringling College of Art & Design. Her artwork is included in the collections of Hallmark Cards, Inc.; First Federal Bank, Charleston, SC; and many private collections. Forbes is actively involved in the Guild and other arts organizations and contributes her talent and art work to students and the community with passion and humility.

Several awards will be given to winning students at the Awards Ceremony on Art-Walk night. First prize of \$200 is sponsored by Isabel Forbes, in memory and honor of her dear friend and colleague, artist Mary Ellen Suitt. Second prize is \$75, third prize is \$50, fourth prize is \$35, and two honorable mention awards will be presented for \$25 each. There will also be a Photography Award for \$50, sponsored by Thomas Tucker, and one Art Teacher will be honored with the David Benson "Service in Art Education" Award, which is sponsored by Beverly Knight. Honorable Mention awards are sponsored by the families of Susan West and Tom Willis, honor and memory of their past service as art educators to High School students.

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings or call Executive Director Robin Els at 864/764-9568.

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Spartanburg's Chapman Cultural Center Showcases Student Artwork in March

March is National Youth Art Month, and the Chapman Cultural Center in Spartanburg, SC, will celebrate with an exhibit of art work from public and independent schools throughout Spartanburg County. The 2013 exhibit is located in the Student Galleries in the Moseley Building and is on view Mar. 4 through Apr. 14, 2013. A reception will be held on Mar. 19, from 4:30-6pm.

Each year, one of Spartanburg's seven school districts takes the lead in planning the exhibit. This year's lead district is Spartanburg County School District Six. More than 280 pieces of art are displayed by the art teachers in every public school in the county, as well as several independent schools and the SC School for the Deaf and the Blind. Drawings and paintings, as well as 3-dimensional work are included, and

showcase the tremendous talents of children throughout the county.

Youth Art Month began in 1961 as an annual observance each March to emphasize the value of art and art education for all children, and to encourage public support for quality school art programs. Youth Art Month provides a forum for acknowledging skills that are not possible in other subjects. Art education develops self-esteem, appreciation of the work of others, self-expression, cooperation with others, and critical thinking skills. All of these skills are vital to the success of our future leaders — our children.

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings, contact Ava Hughes by e-mail at (ahughes@spartanarts.org) or call 864/278-9693.

Arts Center of Greenwood in Greenwood, SC, Offers Works by Terry K. Hunter and Works Celebrating Black History Month

The Arts Center of Greenwood in Greenwood, SC, is presenting two exhibits including: *The Grid Turns the Corner: A Mid-Career Retrospective of Drawings and Prints* by Terry K. Hunter, curated by Angela Corbett, on view in the Main Gallery through Mar. 8, 2013, and *Hearken: African American Heritage in Art*, featuring a small collective of works by local and regional artists honoring Black History Month, on view in the Special Exhibit Gallery through Mar. 8, 2013.

The Grid Turns the Corner covering nearly forty years, showcases Hunter's work from early non-figurative abstraction to his current involvement with a grid configuration. Dr. Hunter is currently the executive director of the Fine Arts



Work by Terry K. Hunter

Cultural Enrichment Teaching studios, a professional development institute in the arts associated with Clemson University. He also has a long legacy of art educa-

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