

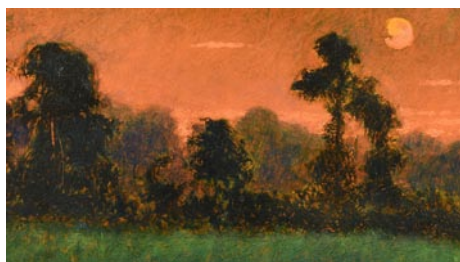
Sumter County Gallery of Art

continued from Page 18

passing away - the ravages of the axe are daily increasing - the most noble scenes are made desolate, and oftentimes with a wantonness and barbarism scarcely credible in a civilized nation."

Not simply a passionate environmentalist, Chesley's life and work also draws its vernacular from noted American painters such as George Inness, Albert Pinkham Ryder, Ralph Blakelock and Edward Hopper whose ethereal and haunting images seem to evoke a spiritual, animistic characterization of their respective subjects, encompassing everything from serene beauty to sublime peril. Equally as relevant to Chesley's process is the influence of mid-century abstract expressionists Mark Rothko and Jackson Pollock which can be found in mottled, chromatic swaths of vast, meditative skies. Like the serpentine wanderings of the fluvial swamps depicted in Chesley's well-known paintings of the American South, so too does his approach to color, form, and composition seem to meander through the history of American painting while striving to "keep that earlier, wilder image" at the heart of his artistic purpose.

Sumter County Gallery of Art Executive Director, Karen Watson who has known Chesley for over 25 years, states, "We have



Work by Stephen Chesley

been talking with Stephen for two years about an exhibition in Sumter and we are thrilled that it is finally happening. This is going to be a major exhibition and will occupy the entire gallery space. Chesley paints on a massive scale in keeping with the style of the old masters so the exhibition will be visually appealing to our audience."

Sumter County Gallery could not present such an important exhibition without their community partners: Special thanks to Century 21 Hawkins and Kolb, The Glenmore and May Sharp Trust and The Mouse House Framery and Gallery, Columbia, SC. Flowers are courtesy of the Azalea Garden Club and the Council of Garden Clubs of Sumter.

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings, call the gallery at 803/775-0543 or visit (www.sumtergallery.com).

USC Lancaster in Lancaster, SC, Features Works by Beckee Garris

USC Lancaster in Lancaster, SC, is presenting *Evolving: Beckee Garris, Artist-in-Residence*, an exhibit displaying the creations of traditional artist Beckee Garris, on view in the Red Rose Gallery at USC Lancaster's Native American Studies Center, through Feb. 2020.

A citizen of the Catawba Indian Nation, Garris appeared as Artist-in-Residence at the Center last fall demonstrating pottery and basket making techniques and sharing Catawba oral histories and traditions.

The new exhibit features photographs of the artists at work and pottery, bamboo reed baskets, and long leaf pine needle baskets Garris made during her four-month residency. In all, Garris made 15 pieces of pottery, 10 bamboo baskets, and over 45 long leaf pine needle baskets. Twenty of the long leaf baskets were made in "mini-basket" form, with the smallest basket the size of a thumbnail.

More than the name of the exhibit, "evolving" describes how Garris identified with her art forms, viewing her work as ever-growing and changing. She considers herself proof that one can never be too old to try new things.

"You hear most of your life, 'you're never too old to learn,'" said Garris. "My evolving proves this statement. I earned my associate of arts degree in 2017 and I'm eight credits away from my bachelor's degree. I've learned how to make two types of baskets, reed and pine needles, and I'm improving my Catawba pottery making. As long as you have a passion to learn



Beckee Garris demonstrated her techniques in pottery and basket making as the Native American Studies Center's fall Artist-in-Residence.

new things, the world opens up to go for it, regardless of what that passion may be!"

In addition to her residency, Garris also represented the Center at several events throughout the region last fall. She participated in the Columbia Art Center's Worlds of Creativity series, presented a lecture to a class of ARTE 101 students at USC Lancaster, told folktales at the City of Lancaster's Boo FunFest! Halloween event, and demonstrated her art forms at Kershaw's Nature and Art Day in Stevens Park and at the Center's annual Winter Arts and Crafts Festival, held in conjunction with the City of Lancaster's Christmas in the City.

Garris' residency was made possible through a 2019 South Carolina Arts Commission Folklife and Traditional Arts Grant.

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings, call the Center at 803/313-7172 or visit (sc.edu/Lancaster/nativeamericanstudiescenter).

Arts Council of York County in Rock Hill, SC, Features Youth Art

The Arts Council of York County and Rock Hill School District 3 present the annual *Teachers' Choice Youth Art Exhibition*, featuring selected artwork by Rock Hill students from high, middle, and elementary schools. This exhibition has been created in honor of Youth Art Month and will be on display in all three galleries at the Center for the Arts in Rock Hill, SC, through Mar. 15, 2019. A reception will be held on Mar. 7 at 5:30pm during which, awards will be presented to the best in mixed media, painting, drawing, and sculpture at the high school and middle school levels.

The *Teachers' Choice Youth Art Exhibit* features works by students enrolled in schools within the Rock Hill Schools. Artwork by students at Northwestern High School, Rock Hill High School, and South Pointe High School is on exhibition in the



2018 Jimmie Matthews Award, Best of Show: "From the Ashes" by Rebekah Wood, Northwestern High School, Teacher: Sandy Queen.

Dalton Gallery. In the Perimeter Gallery, artwork by students from Castle Heights, Rawlinson Road, Saluda Trail, and Sullivan Middle Schools is on display. Students from

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sixteen elementary schools have artwork on exhibit including Belleview, Ebenezer Avenue, Ebinport, Finley Road, Independence, India Hook, Lesslie, Mount Gallant, Mount Holly, Northside School of the Arts, Oakdale, Old Pointe, Richmond Drive, Rosewood, Sunset Park, and York Road Elementary Schools.

This year's juror is artist and educator, Marie Cheek, who received several awards for her artwork in community-wide art shows while a student at Rock Hill High School; she's been an advocate for arts-in-education ever since. She was a teaching artist on the SC Arts Commission's approved artist roster and conducted mural painting artist-in-residencies from 1997 - 2013, founded the Western York County Art After School program in 2010, and was associate professor of art and gallery director at Clinton College from 2007 - 2014. Marie Cheek's Master of Arts graduate thesis was based on her teaching experi-

ence, arts participation research, and love of creative community - Point of Intersection: Arts Participation, Art Appreciation and Community Cultural Development (Della Marie Cheek, 2011, available at Winthrop University's Dacus Library and online at <https://digitalcommons.winthrop.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1066&context=graduatetheses>).

Presently employed by Culture & Heritage Museums of York County, Cheek oversees community relations for the organization's four unique sites and is a perceptive advocate for the arts and cultural tourism.

The Arts Council is headquartered in downtown Rock Hill, a state-recognized cultural district.

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings, call the Council at 803/328-2787 or visit (www.yorkcountyyarts.org).

Catawba Valley Pottery & Antiques Festival Takes Place in Hickory, NC - Mar. 22-23, 2019

The 2019 Catawba Valley Pottery & Antiques Festival (CVP&AF) will take place at the Hickory Metro Convention Center in Hickory, NC, on Mar. 22-23, 2019. The Festival is a nonprofit event benefiting the Historical Association of Catawba County in Newton, and the North Carolina Pottery Center in Seagrove. More than \$500,000 has been donated to the institutions over the past 18 years.

The CVP&AF will host a Friday Night Preview Party on Mar. 22 from 7-10pm at the Hickory Metro Convention Center featuring food, drinks, and live music. The Preview Party is the primary fundraiser for the festival and provides guests with the opportunity to purchase festival items early.

Saturday's festival, which begins at 9am and continues through 5pm, also includes pottery videos, live demonstrations, and a special lecture and exhibit. The lecture is at



Work by Maggie Jones of Turtle Island Pottery

11am and is included in the Saturday ticket price.

The North Carolina Pottery Center will

continued on Page 20