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Heritage Trail Pottery Tour & Sale

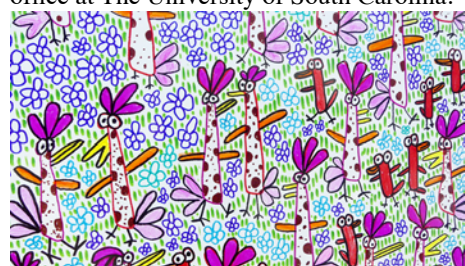


USC Upstate in Spartanburg, SC, Features Works by Marius Valdes

The University of South Carolina Upstate in Spartanburg, SC, is presenting *Burd Brain*, an exhibition of paintings, graphics and illustrations by Marius Valdes, on view in the Curtis R. Harley Gallery, through Mar. 27, 2020.

"Burd Brain" is a children's story exploring the ideas of social anxiety and introversion. These themes will be explored through an illustrated picture book and accompanying exhibition of related artwork. This collection of mixed media paintings represents my creative process of "writing with pictures".

"I am a trained artist, not a writer, so I often begin my narratives by drawing ideas and then crafting the written text to the images," says Valdes. "Drawing helps me to be more creative and get my ideas out quickly. Working on larger canvases helps me to have time to contemplate my ideas while I color the drawings. The original art for the children's book will be produced entirely using digital production on an iPad as a challenge to myself to learn a new skill and creative process. The book should be ready in Fall of 2020 and will be distributed to schools and libraries across the state of South Carolina. The project is funded by a Creative and Performing Arts Grant from the Provost's office at The University of South Carolina."



Work by Marius Valdes

Valdes is an artist currently based in Columbia, SC. He is an Associate Professor in studio art concentrating on design and illustration at The University of South Carolina. He lives in Forest Acres, with Page 14 - Carolina Arts, March 2020



Work by Marius Valdes

his wife Beth, daughter Emma, and very lazy but adorable dog, Mary.

Valdes received his BFA in Graphic Design from the University of Georgia and his MFA in Visual Communication from Virginia Commonwealth University in 2005. Valdes has been recognized by design publications such as *HOW*, *Print*, *Communication Arts*, *Creative Quarterly*, *STEP*, and industry competitions including American Illustration, AIGA InShow, AIGA SEED Awards, and The South Carolina Advertising Federation Addy Awards.

Valdes' work has been featured in several books about contemporary graphic design and illustration. He has participated in solo and group exhibitions internationally. Valdes has presented at academic conferences about design and illustration related topics. In 2017, Valdes completed a one year residency as the first visual Artist in Residence at the award-winning and innovative Richland Library.

"We are pleased to showcase the work of Marius Valdes, a respected and popular designer and illustrator and author. This is an excellent exhibit to encourage young designers to move outside the margins and seek new venues for their ideas. I especially am pleased to bring the concept of this book to Spartanburg where I hope it will be recognized for its significance to creating a better environment for children," says Jane Nodine, University Gallery Director.

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The University of South Carolina Upstate is a regional comprehensive university offering more than 40 undergraduate and graduate programs in the liberal arts and sciences, business administration, nursing, and education. Located along the I-85 corridor in Spartanburg between Greenville and Charlotte, USC Upstate is ranked by *U.S. News & World Report* at #2 among Top Public Schools. It serves as a major talent producer for the region, with more than 6,000 students, approximately 1,300 new graduates a year, and

nearly 30,000 alumni, many of whom live and work in the state. The USC Upstate Spartans compete in 17 NCAA Division 1 sports as a member of the Big South Conference. USC Upstate sponsors three galleries, two on campus, one on Main street in Spartanburg and a campus-wide collection of monumental sculpture.

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings, call Jane Nodine, University Gallery Director at 864/503-5838 or visit (www.uscupstate.edu).

Arts Council of York County in Rock Hill, SC, Offers Exhibition for Youth Art Month

The Arts Council of York County in Rock Hill, SC, is presenting the annual *Teachers' Choice Youth Art Exhibition*, featuring selected artwork by Rock Hill students from high, middle, and elementary schools, on view through Mar. 15, 2020.

The exhibition, sponsored by the Arts Council of York County and Rock Hill School District 3, has been created in honor of Youth Art Month and will be on display in all three galleries at the Center for the Arts. A reception will be held on Mar. 5, beginning 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 exhibition 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 Dalton Gallery. In the Perimeter Gallery, artwork by students from Castle Heights, Dutchman Creek, Rawlinson Road, Saluda Trail, and Sullivan Middle Schools is on display. Artwork by students from Rock Hill School District 3 elementary schools is on display in the Edmund D. Lewandowski

Classroom Gallery.

This year's juror is Sarah Kennedy Irwin. Raised in rural western Pennsylvania and in central Texas, Irwin attended Stephen F. Austin State University, Texas, from which she graduated with honors in 1989. Since then she has lived in Georgia and Florida, most recently settling in Rock Hill. She has worked as a graphic designer and illustrator for many years. In all those years, she has continued painting - finding fascination in faces, artifacts and visions.

Irwin is currently the Creative Director of the Friday Arts Project, where she works to maintain the organization's standards of creative excellence, generosity, and partnerships with regional creative heads. She is also a freelance illustrator. Within her role at the Friday Arts Project, Irwin serves as the creative director of Art Party, and she has facilitated several conferences including 2014's Dazzle Gradually Forum, 2013's A Place at the Table, and 2012's Beneath the Surface.

Irwin's artwork has been exhibited at galleries in Nacogdoches, TX, New York, NY, Long Island, NY, Rock Hill, SC, High Point, NC, and Lake City, SC. It is held in private collections, and her public commissions can be seen in Brooklyn, NY,

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