

Milton Rhoads Center for the Arts in Winston-Salem, NC, Features Works by Carolina Corona

The Milton Rhoads Center for the Arts in Winston-Salem, NC, is presenting *Reflections*, featuring works by Carolina Corona, on view in the Arboreal Gallery, through Mar. 27, 2021, sponsored by The Arts Council of Winston-Salem & Forsyth County.

Carolina Corona is passionate about nature and environmental justice, and her artwork is a celebration of that fact and her unique perspective. She likes to quote American playwright Thornton Wilder, who said, "Art is Confession; Art is the secret told." Through her paintings, Corona says she aims to share her vision of the world around her and some of her innermost thoughts. "I am inspired by the beauty of our Earth, and preserving the environment of the natural world so our resources are made available to us and future generations," she said.

Chase Law, President and CEO of The Arts Council of Winston-Salem & Forsyth County, said, "The Arts Council's Arboreal Gallery is a community treasure, and we are thrilled that we have been able to keep it safely open and active for visitors during these COVID times. We are committed to showcasing and supporting local and emerging artists, such as Carolina, which helps further advance their careers and encourages members of our community to explore the talent we have in our region," she said.

"Carolina is already beginning to make her mark on our community and local arts scene," said Law. "Recently, her work was featured at Red Dog Gallery, and the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Public Art Commission selected Carolina as one of the artists to enhance the appearance of bus stops around the city."

Corona was born in Veracruz, Mexico. As a child she expressed her creativity and free spirit through craft making and exploring her immediate environs. When she moved to Wilmington, NC, at age ten, she began art classes. After graduating from high school, she moved to Winston-Salem and enrolled at Salem College where she earned the Bachelors in Fine Arts and Art Education degree. She taught for two years before deciding to dedicate herself



Work by Carolina Corona

full-time to her art, including painting and photography.

"I enjoy looking at nature from angles that most people would not see," Corona said. "At the ocean, I like to look from down low as a small crab would and wear goggles underwater and look up at the sun to see what a fish would see." She likes taking close ups. "I relish the particulars that you are privileged to see only at that distance - details to get lost in."

Winston-Salem, known as a "City of Arts & Innovation," and Forsyth County have a robust arts community that enriches the lives of area residents every day and accounts in large part for the recognition they continue to receive as a great place to live, learn, work and play. Forsyth County's nonprofit arts industry supports more than 5,500 full time equivalent jobs; accounts for more than \$129 million in resident household income and generates more than \$14.8 million in local and state tax revenues.

The Milton Rhodes Center observes COVID protocols, including requiring masks and social distancing.

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, call the Center at 336/725-8916 or visit (www.rhodesartscenter.org).

Artworks Gallery in Winston-Salem, NC, Offers Three New Exhibitions

Artworks Gallery in Winston-Salem, NC, will present three solo exhibitions including: *I Don't Know Mind*, featuring works by Wiley Akers; *Digital Protest 2020*, featuring works by Owens Daniels; and *Lunaria, Carborundum Mezzotints*, featuring works by Barbara Rizza Mellin. All three exhibits will be on view from Mar. 5 - 28, 2021.

Wiley Akers calls the work in his show an expression of "I Don't Know Mind," saying, "the best art that I have created in the past came about, for the most part, because I didn't know what I was doing. So with an empty mind and no preconceived ideas or plans I start making pencil marks without looking at the canvas." Upon the artist looking at the marks he determines if it wants to "become something." Akers process allows one thing to lead to another; some quickly done to repress thinking, while others taking days.

Akers has a BFA and a MED from UNCG. He taught art to middle and high school students for 25 years. In addition to his shows at Artworks Gallery he has exhibited at ASU, WCU, UNCG, and Delurk Gallery.

Owens Daniels uses the visual arts to express his interpretation of the world, and photography to open unexplored spaces between the subject and viewer exposing them both to a world of opportunities and experiences. *Digital Protest 2020* in a narrow sense is "Social Realism Art," a term used for works by painters, printmakers, photographers, writers and filmmakers that aims to draw attention to



Work by Barbara Rizza Mellin

socio-political, equity and social justice conditions of the working class. This work also operates as a means to critique the power structures that produce the environment and culture for these conditions.

2019 Duke Energy Grant and Z Smith Reynolds Lead Artist for the Presence Absence Project awardee, Owens Daniels is a visual artist/photographer, educator and the face behind ODP Art+Design Bold, Creative and Innovative Artwork. In addition to formal training at the US Army Photographic School of Cartography, Daniels has worked as a freelance photographer and served as Artist in Residences, participated in Public Art Installations,

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