

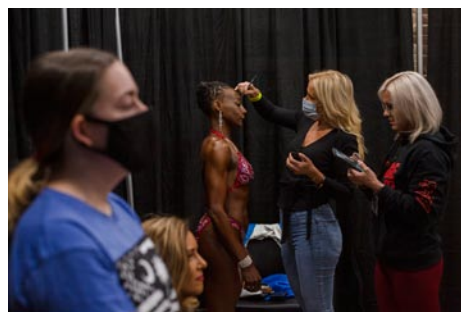
Sumter County Gallery of Art

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series *Hands On, The South* at the Sumter County Gallery of Art, he focuses on the hands of the people he has met through his work as they work and worship, play and protest. Stories that often reflect the ugly, entrenched truths that abound in the South but there are also stories that radiate life and hope. This duality permeates each story that Green tells as he interacts with, rather than reacts to a scene. Green approaches his work with a sense of wonder. He spends time with the people he photographs, develops relationships, has conversations, and his documentary style becomes softer, more personal - as through the eye of an artist.

Although Green goes all over the country documenting stories with his lens, the pieces in *Hands On, The South* have a decidedly local appeal, taken mostly in Sumter and South Carolina. From Trevor Lawrence greeting a throng of fans at Death Valley to a hug captured at the funeral of a fallen deputy, to Deaconess Selena Smith preparing for a bodybuilding competition, these are Sumter's stories.

Green shares his profession, his art and nomadic travels with his wife Kayla Robins Green, a journalist and writer.



Work by Micah Green

Wilfred Spoon is a Mt. Pleasant-based painter whose preferred medium is oils. Born in Charlotte, NC, he earned his MFA at Parsons School of design in New York in 1987. Spoon's influences include primitivism, early and pre-renaissance painters of religious icons, and Cubism whose artists explored new spatial relationships that finally broke with the Renaissance traditions of perspective. In his still lifes the division between foreground and background is not distinct and space, both interior and exterior, seems to be that of the Cubist-derived style.

G. Cole Miller, SCGA curator observes: "Spoon creates scenes that meander skillfully between the surreal and the naive. His landscapes and still lifes, with their primitive style yet dynamic composition of seemingly conflicting planes and



Work by Wilfred Spoon

intersecting surfaces, patterns and forms, appear idyllically inviting yet uncanny. In the painting *Still Life With Goldfish*, a tablescape populated by a precarious cup of coffee beside a goldfish in the microcosm of its bowl reflects the pale, circular moon through the window beyond. A mysterious flamingo becomes as much a subject within the painting as the voluminous tropical plants which envelope it in *Flamingo with Century Plant*. *Quiet Ground* explores the harmony and conflict between abstraction and figuration where a patchwork rug on the floor becomes a triangle in geometric space, or a marsh bird can exist in a singular moment outside of time but confined within space. The moments of pause and reflection, humor and apprehension contained within Spoon's works focus attention on both the tranquility of a brooding pelican, and the mythology of modern art."

Spoon's paintings in *Quiet Ground* have an undoubted charm, a delicate decorative sense and a gentle empathy and respect for the simple, the honest and the unpretentious. His paintings demonstrate his love for the primitive as well as his extensive art education. This combination infuses his work with a surprising clarity in an unexpected world.

As with everything we do at the Sumter County Gallery of Art, these exhibitions would not be possible without the generous support of our sponsors: Grainger and Floride McKoy, Sumter Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, and John and Hayes Jones III.

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings, contact Karen Watson, Executive Director, by calling 803/775-0543, e-mail at (scgadirector@gmail.com) or Cole Miller, Curator, by calling 803/775-0543, e-mail to (curator@sumtergallery.com).

Aiken Center for the Arts in Aiken, SC, Offers NAWA Show

The Aiken Center for the Arts in Aiken, SC, will present *Spring Fusion: Renew and Reinvent*, featuring works by members of the South Carolina Chapter of the National Association of Women Artists (NAWA), on view from Mar. 31 through May 6, 2022. The exhibition includes the art of 27 members from across South Carolina - Myrtle Beach to Hilton Head and Charleston to Greenville and throughout the southeast. A reception will be held on Mar. 31, from 6-8pm at the ACA gallery.

The exhibit theme is open to various interpretations, styles and media. *Spring Fusion: Renew and Reinvent* captures the energy of Spring, not only in the revival and rebirth in nature, but in the rejuvenation of artists. Like Mother Nature, artists are constantly recreating every time they pick up their creative tools.

NAWA artists represent all areas of the visual arts. Fifty works will be on exhibit in a variety of mediums - from oil, acrylic, pastel, egg tempera, and mixed media to photography, print-making, sculpture and fiber art. National NAWA members from CA, FL, NJ, and VA, who are also SC Chapter members, will have artworks in this exhibit.

The National Association of Women Artists, headquartered in New York City, was founded in 1889 when women



Work by Marienna Stillwagon

lacked opportunities to exhibit at prestigious museums and galleries. Since then, NAWA continues to foster awareness of the monumental contribution women have made to American culture and art. The NAWA SC Chapter follows this mission to encourage contemporary and emerging artists.

NAWA has had many talented members who have achieved major recognition for their work, such as Anna Hyatt Huntington, who created the Brookgreen Gardens Sculpture Museum in South Carolina and Gertrude Vanderbilt Whitney, who

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established the Whitney Museum of Art in New York.

Benefits of NAWA membership are many, including a substantial awards program, the opportunity to exhibit throughout the US, educational programs, and scholarships. Artists must be juried in to the national association to become a member of a state chapter.

For more information and to apply for membership, visit (<https://www.thenawa.org>).

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings, call the Center at 803/641-9094 or visit (www.aikencentre-



Work by Sheila Grabarsky

forthearts.org.

Orangeburg County Fine Arts Center in Orangeburg, SC, Offers Group Exhibition

The Orangeburg County Fine Arts Center in Orangeburg, SC, will present *Creative Spirits: Works by Chris Bilton, Dianne MunKittrick and Lisa Gilyard-Rivers*, on view from Mar. 9 through Apr. 27, 2022. A reception will be held on Mar. 9, beginning at 6pm.

The conjunction of artists in this show represents three cultures: Gullah, the legacy evolved from the African diaspora; naturalism, celebrating the wilderness; and still life portraiture, perhaps a tribute to the futurism thought to have been inspired by Italian Painting. The harmony in the paintings of the three artists, nevertheless, communicate a coherence in creativity that transcends styles, themes and cultures.

Lisa Gilyard-Rivers, whose Legacy Art Gallery in Beaufort, SC, which displays the vibrant colors and characters associated with Low Country Gullah art, says her new works are progressing towards the abstract even as her themes still pay homage to close-knit communities celebrating heritage and revering history.

"My backgrounds are an expression of my desire to blend and blur colors," which she finds very rewarding because



Work by Dianne MunKittrick

this compliments the themes in her paintings. The work *Matriarch Julia* is present and in front of a latticed background, with detailed diamond-shaped details and jewel-like ornament, that serve to separate her from the gentle-aqua milieu associated with the Low Country. It's impossible to image *Matriarch Julia* without the delicate intricacies that seem to adorn her ensemble and protect her beauty. "Memories and stories are in my paintings. I'm

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