

Charleston Crafts Cooperative

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puzzles, encaustic paintings, mixed media collages, fiber art, apparel and accessories, as well as functional and decorative objects in wood, ceramic and glass.

Charleston's destination for Fine Craft since 1989, the gallery is located on East Bay Street, in the heart of the French Quarter.

Charleston Crafts Cooperative Gallery is a dynamic community of more than two dozen jury-selected artisans, all from South Carolina, making this the city's only exclusively local craft gallery.

For further information check our SC Commercial Gallery listings, call the gallery at 843/501-7522 or visit (www.charlestoncraftsgallery.com).



Work by Tammy Rudd

Society of Bluffton Artists in Bluffton, SC, Features Annual Judged Show

The Society of Bluffton Artists (SOBA) in Bluffton, SC, will present its *31st Annual Judged Show*, on view in the SOBA Gallery, from Mar. 3 - 30, 2025. A reception and awards ceremony will be held on Mar. 5, from 4-6pm.

The *31st Annual Judged Show*, showcasing the extraordinary talents of Lowcountry artists, offering visitors an opportunity to experience a diverse range of artistic expressions across multiple mediums.

A highlight of the event will be the prestigious awards ceremony, scheduled from 4-6pm on Mar. 5. The ceremony will celebrate outstanding artists with first, second, and third-place cash awards in the following categories: Oil, Acrylic, Watercolor, Drawing (Pencil, Colored Pencil, Pastel, Pen/Ink), Photography & Digital Art, Mixed Media and Collage, and 3-D art forms such as Ceramic, Clay, Wood, Resin, Wire, Paper Mache, and Stained Glass.

The event will be judged by renowned

watercolor artist Jan Ross, a distinguished member of multiple watercolor societies and an acclaimed exhibitor in over 500 local, regional, national, and international exhibitions. With formal training from the Chicago Academy of Art and mentorship from top American watercolorists, Ross brings a wealth of expertise and a discerning eye to the competition.

Join SOBA in celebrating the vibrant artistic community of Bluffton and honoring the talented artists shaping the local creative landscape.

SOBA is the heart of the flourishing art hub in Old Town Bluffton's historic district at the corner of Church and Calhoun streets. As a non-profit art organization, SOBA offers regular art classes, featured artist shows, exhibitions, scholarships, outreach programs and more. The gallery is located on Church Street in Bluffton.

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings, call SOBA at 843/757-6586 or visit (sobagallery.com).

Art League of Hilton Head on Hilton Head Island, SC, Features Works by Nancy Mitchell and Susie Parker

The Art League of Hilton Head on Hilton Head Island, SC, will present *Land and Sea: Animals Above and Creatures Below*, a joint exhibit featuring works by local artists Nancy Mitchell and Susie Parker, on view at the Art League Gallery, from Mar. 4 through Apr. 4, 2025. A reception will be held on Mar. 5, from 5-7pm.

The show is a celebration of nature, featuring paintings and sculptures depicting land animals and sea life found in the Lowcountry and beyond. Mitchell's impressionistic animal forms and paintings in soft, muted tones contrast beautifully with Parker's boldly colored sculptures, often made from found objects and finished with whimsical details.



Work by Nancy Mitchell

Mitchell has been a Lowcountry artist for 40 years, creating murals and faux finishes in private homes and businesses while also teaching both at Art League and in her studio. Her love of animals inspires and informs her work. "Animals in nature are under assault, so Susie and I are donating a portion of our sales to The



Work by Susie Parker

Nature Conservancy and 4ocean," says Mitchell. "Habitat is key, always remember to let it be..."

Parker, originally from Pennsylvania and later Bethesda, MD, has created props and designed sets for corporate and hotel functions, and painted murals and faux finishes for private homes. Since her move back to Hilton Head in 2022, she has concentrated on sculpture, and more recently her work has centered around sea life. "I've always drawn, painted, sculpted nature. The lines and shapes of life."

Mitchell and Parker will also be holding artists' demos on Mar. 8, from 1-3pm. The exhibit, reception and demos are free and open to the public.

Art League of Hilton Head is the only 501(c)(3) nonprofit visual arts organization on Hilton Head Island with a synergistic art gallery and teaching Academy.

The Art League Gallery features local

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artwork in all media created by more than 200 member artists. All artwork on display is for sale and exhibits change every month. Located mid-island on Shelter Cove Lane, inside Arts Center of Coastal Carolina, next to the box office.

Art League Academy welcomes artists and students in all media at all skill levels, including true beginners. Taught by professional art educators, students can choose from many art classes and work-

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lapetitegallerie.com

shops in most media.

"Inspiring visual arts for our community and its visitors through exhibitions, education and partnerships" is Art League of Hilton Head's mission.

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings, call the League at 843/681-5060 or visit (www.ArtLeagueHHL.org), follow Art League of Hilton Head on Facebook, Instagram, or connect on LinkedIn.

Editorial Commentary

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problem as to what they could do with it and I'm sure that's why it has been ended.

For some artists in South Carolina, getting into this collection or receiving a fellowship is a false measuring stick of their artistic career. I've heard that some artists feel their career would be considered incomplete without reaching one or both of these goals, and that is just sad.

In my opinion, in my 38+ years of being involved in SC's visual art community the SC Arts Commission is not a friend of all artists working and living here. They select who they will help based on them having to be a non-profit and passing some sort of grade which will pass muster with their friends in other arts agencies, they spend a lot of time and effort keeping up with the Jones and in most cases they fall far short of even keeping up.

They do not provide help and opportunity to the average artists by not providing skills training, exhibit opportunities, and helping them to become self-sufficient. Many of the groups they fund are just not cutting it and probably never will. Giving money to groups who are just getting by isn't doing any good in South Carolina. The visual artists need more and I don't think they will ever get it under the current system.

Think of what all that money they spent on this collection could have done building up the needs of those other non-profits in SC's art community. Some could have more than one paid staff member, some could update their websites, and some could publicize the activities they present. But why

start dreaming now - they probably would have given the money to the performing arts groups anyway. Oh well.

In Related News

"USA Today" validates what we know: North Carolina excels in arts, culture, and science. Two North Carolina museums have been competing for the title of best free museum in the country. "USA Today" named the North Carolina Museum of Art (#8) and the North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences (#3), both in Raleigh, as among 10 of the Best Free Museums, although the NC Museum of Art does charge admission for Blockbuster shows. See the list at (<https://10best.usatoday.com/awards/travel/best-free-museum-2025/>). I sure wish SC had a state art museum.

Update on Hurricane Helene Recovery Funds

On Mar. 19, 2025, South Arts Recovery Fund grant application opens for individual artists affected by Hurricane Helene and/or Milton. Find the application at (<https://www.southarts.org/resources/southern-arts-relief-recovery-fund>). Still no word from the SC Arts Commission about recovery in SC. This update came from the North Carolina Arts Council. It was meant for NC artists, but I'm sure SC artists can apply too if they were affected by the hurricanes.

www.carolinaarts.com



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