

Come see the finer things...

Join us **May 5th** from 5:30pm to 8:30pm for an evening of new paintings by Trey Finney and Christine Lawrence.



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## Skyuka Fine Art in Tryon, NC, Offers First Equestrian Art Show

In honor of Tryon, NC's own 65th Blockhouse Steeplechase race, Skyuka Fine Art is proud to present its first annual *Equestrian Show*. The show will open Apr. 16 and continue through May 31, 2011, and will feature equine art by eight regional artists including: Joan MacIntyre, Jill Silver, Charles Harpt, Rick Conn, Sarah Holmberg and Richard Christian Nelson, of the Tryon area; Jan Lukens and Tucker Bailey (our only sculptor) from Greensboro, NC, and Valerie Hinz from Canada. A reception will be held on Apr. 16, from 5-8pm to coincide with three other galleries in downtown Tryon, prompting its first 'Gallery Crawl' in years, also including, Upstairs Artspace, Kathleen's, and Richard Baker Studio.



Work by Jan Lukens

Joan MacIntyre, an award-winning artist in open juried shows as well as equine art shows, is a signature member of The Society of Western Artists and just recently an associate member of The Horse Artists Association. She's painted for jockeys, celebrity owners as well as people who just adore their animals. Bud Johnson, owner of The Old English Rancho and Director and President of The California Breeders Association quotes in an edition of *Equine Images*, "She seems to have captured the personality and conformation of our horses. She has, in our

opinion, the best eye for information ever encountered in an artist."

Jill Silver says, "There have been two things that are consistent in my life; my love of animals and my love to draw them. As a child I felt as though I had a special bond with all animals, that we shared a special unspoken understanding. As an adult I feel this understanding is revealed in my work." Silver attended The Ringling School of Art and Design where she studied graphics and illustration. Her sense of design, is only second to her ability to convey the loving relationship she feels for the animals she depicts. Silver has been accepted into countless juried exhibitions and has received numerous awards.

Charles Harpt was the featured artist on the cover of the Okatie Rotary Polo Club invitation and poster for 2003. He studied art at The Academy of Fine Art in Philadelphia on the G.I. Bill and The William Emlen Scholarship. His awards and acceptance into juried shows include Cartwright's Equestrian Gallery, American Academy of Equine Art and the *Sporting Art Exhibit* in honor of the 50th running of The Block House Steeplechase.

Rick Conn is one of those ridiculously multi-talented artists; sculptor, painter, furniture maker and architect. However, unlike some who branch out into multimedia, he does them all extraordinarily well. Hailing from Spartanburg, SC, Conn owned and operated his own gallery in Landrum for years before deciding to focus on furthering his education and get away from the business end of it all earning his MFA from Western Carolina University. Conn's sense of design is perpetually present in all facets of his art whether it is the composition in a painting, or the sheer fluidity of his sculptural pieces and assemblages. Branching into equestrian painting is just another exploration for

Conn, and luckily for us, the viewers, it's just something new we get to enjoy from this dexterous artist. Conn's list of studies, internships, solo shows, invitational and juried exhibitions is seemingly endless. The artists award's and institutional commissions are just as impressive.



Work by Richard Christian Nelson

Richard Christian Nelson, primarily a portrait artist, will have equestrian themed landscapes to add to the show. Nelson states that he is "endlessly fascinated by people, places, and things and considers it a privilege and a challenge to capture some aspect of their essence on canvas. I work toward 'painterly realism'; good drawing and composition, rendered with strong natural color, in such a way that you can still 'sense' or 'feel' the paint. The effect of this process is that the subject begins to artfully reveal itself to me and hopefully, the viewer". All of this work (except some portraiture) is done exclusively from life. This award-winning artist hails from Detroit where he earned his BFA from The Center for Creative Studies, and took post graduate fine art courses at Wayne State University. He has been working as an artist ever since, initially as an illustrator, then as a portrait artist, gallery artist, and instructor. Nelson also teaches workshops focusing on landscape,

still life and portraiture.



Work by Jill Silver

Sarah Holmberg is a sculptor living in Tryon, NC. Her pieces exhibit a whimsical feeling and movement, some even evoking a hint of humor. She entitles one piece *The Bitch Can Ride*, where a hound is riding the horse! Holmberg's colors are bold and vibrant and she works in paper mache. She studied under renowned local equestrian sculptor Phyllis Eifert.

In 1991, Jan Lukens was awarded a painting exhibition at the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, DC, for winning top honors in a national portrait competition. This fueled his decision to leave an illustrious advertising career behind for a life in the fine arts. In July of 1992, he started Jan Lukens Portraits, specializing in equestrian portraiture. His work has been featured on the covers of *The Chronicle of the Horse*, and in the pages of *The Artists' magazine*, *The Equine Image*, *The Canine Image*, *Ink*, and *Show Circuit*. Articles about Lukens and his art have appeared in the *Philadelphia Inquirer*, *Greenwich (CT) Post*, and the *Greensboro (NC) News*

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