

Belin Memorial United Methodist Church in Murrells Inlet, SC, Offers The Blessing of the Inlet - May 2, 2020

On May 2, 2020, The Blessing of the Inlet at Belin Memorial United Methodist Church, Highway 17-Business, Murrells Inlet, SC, will celebrate its 24th anniversary as one of the Inlet's most revered festivals. The festival is held annually on the first Saturday in May from 9am-3pm, and has grown to attract thousands of participants.

The Blessing of the Inlet was first started 24 years ago to create a festival filled with worship, food, fun, and fellowship that is highlighted by a "Blessing" ceremony, celebrating our Lord's continued blessings in the Inlet Community. The Blessing of the Inlet generates funds for many missions, charities, and nonprofit organizations due to Belin's focus on the people and lives of Murrells Inlet and the surrounding South Strand.

The festival has grown to include a day of entertainment, more than 100 arts and crafts vendors, various Murrells Inlet restaurants and local food purveyors, children's play area with games and fun

events for the entire family. The entertainment schedule is packed with outstanding entertainment featuring gospel choirs, various dance groups, contemporary Christian musicians, and much more. It is guaranteed to be something for everyone.

This festival is highlighted by the Blessing of the Inlet ceremony, which starts at 11:30am. The "Blessing" will be administered by the Reverend Will Malambri, the Reverend Walter Cantwell, and the Reverend Isaac Dusenbury. The actual "Blessing" ceremony will move to the creek front this year.

The festival is a free event with no admission or parking charge and is always held rain or shine.

Everyone is invited to come help us celebrate the Glory of God and all He has blessed us with.

For more information about the event schedule or participating as a restaurant or crafter, please visit (www.Blessing-oftheInlet.com).

Black Creek Arts Center in Hartsville, SC, Features Works by Colleen A. Critcher

The Black Creek Arts Center in Hartsville, SC, is presenting *The Ultimate Consumer*, featuring recent works by Colleen A. Critcher, on view in the Jean & James Fort Gallery, through Apr. 24, 2020. A reception was planned for Apr. 5, from 5:30-7pm.

Critcher is a visual artist fascinated by commodity culture, kitsch, and plastic things. Her works routinely explore images of whimsical figurines, most commonly garden gnomes and dinosaurs. Through careful visual exploration into seemingly menial things, the work reveals the powerful emotional significance of common objects and serves as a commentary about the role consumption culture plays in modern happiness. She inserts herself and others as characters in a humorous narrative, weaving personal reflections into a truly complicated web of consumerism and human emotion.

Critcher received her MFA in Painting from Savannah College of Art and Design in 2012. Her work has been shown at The Southern, Kai Lin Art, Gutstein Gallery, and 701 Center for Contemporary Art. She currently maintains a studio in Florence, SC.

The Black Creek Arts Council is dedicated to providing guidance and assistance in arts administration, funding, education, and program coordination to arts-based organizations and artists in Darlington County.

Black Creek Arts Council (BCAC) is an arts-based, registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit. Our offices are housed in a historical 10,000-square-foot building in downtown Hartsville, SC. We offer a variety of arts programs, including arts education classes for adults and children, after-school and



Work by Colleen A. Critcher

pre-school aged programs, summer camps and private music lessons. Our Jean & James Fort Gallery hosts changing exhibits of regional and national artists. Each year, we also award sub-grants to arts-presenting non-profit organizations and individual artists in Darlington County.

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings, call the Council at 843/332-6234 or visit (www.blackcreekarts.org).

Arts Council of Wilmington in Wilmington, NC, Offers A Virtual Exhibit by Cordelia Norris

Local Wilmington, NC, artist Cordelia Norris is debuting her new exhibit, *Wild Cape Fear*, online. The exhibit was slated to open at The Art Council's Aces Gallery on Mar. 27, during the monthly "Fourth Friday Gallery Tour," and run through Apr. 23, 2020. All 4th Friday events have been cancelled due to the novel Coronavirus outbreak. The virtual exhibit can be found at (etsy.com/shop/LocalLoveBoutique).

The online exhibit allows the community to enjoy new, local work and show its support for the Arts Council while Aces Gallery is closed. Virtual exhibits are a vital outlet for the local arts while observing new community guidelines during the pandemic.



Work by Cordelia Norris

As with the planned gallery exhibit, 30% of online sales will benefit the Arts Council.

About *Wild Cape Fear*: As homogenous development claims more of Wilmington, Norris spent the last year exploring the remaining wilderness to capture the essential

continued above on next column to the right

Abstraction: a Group Show

Extended through May 2, 2020

By Appointment



Ginny Lassiter, *Skylight* acrylic, 24" x 30"

Sunset River Marketplace

10283 Beach Drive SW

Calabash, NC

910.575.5999

SunsetRiverMarketplace.com

TRIANGLE
ART
WORKS

Making Arts Work in the Triangle.

CONNECT • INFORM • CREATE • SUPPORT • PROMOTE

Triangle Art Works is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing services, support and resources to the visual and performing arts and creative industries.

Triangle Art Works can help you connect quickly and easily with the arts community to find arts-related groups, resources, jobs, and news.

WWW.TRIANGLEARTWORKS.ORG
INFO@TRIANGLEARTWORKS.ORG
FACEBOOK.COM/TRIANGLEARTWORKS
 TWITTER: @TRIARTWORKS

wild nature of the North Carolina coast. Norris spent hundreds of hours in the field, serving as a bird steward for NC Audubon, volunteering with Wrightsville Beach Sea Turtle Project, and exploring the region on foot and by kayak.

The resulting exhibit, *Wild Cape Fear*, is an artistic distillation of the region and its diverse coastal ecologies, from marshes, rivers, and swamps to beaches, estuaries, and maritime forests. Dramatic, funny, and powerful, the paintings and photographs in *Wild Cape Fear* capture the colors and moods, the skies and the waters, and the sense of place that makes this region unique.

From the artist: "I've been overjoyed by what I've discovered through patient observation, research, and by being in the field in all conditions. Spending time in nature can be a transcendent experience. The more I slowed down to understand what I was witnessing, the more I appreciated the

natural world that surrounds us. I want to convey that sense of wonder at the power and grace of local wildlife and wild places in this exhibit."

Cordelia Norris' graphic design and illustration studio, Luna Creative, (lunacreative.com), just celebrated its 10th anniversary in February. She recently received a regional artist grant and released her second book, *All Along the Atlantic*, co-authored by local naturalist Cathy Meyer. (<https://amzn.to/38zi630>) *All Along the Atlantic* is an educational coloring book celebrating the array of life on the North Atlantic coast (25% of proceeds benefit North Carolina Coastal Federation). Norris earned a Masters in Illustration from SCAD, Savannah College of Art and Design, and lives in Wilmington with her family.

For further info call the Council at 910/343-0998 or visit (www.ArtsCouncilofWilmington.org).

CAM Raleigh in Raleigh, NC, Offer Annual Raleigh Fine Arts Society Exhibition

CAM Raleigh in Raleigh, NC, is presenting the Raleigh Fine Arts Society's *North Carolina Artists Exhibition*, juried by Nat Trotman, on view through June 14, 2020.

CAM Raleigh is currently closed due to the Covid-19 outbreak.

From a small exhibition in 1964, the *North Carolina Artists Exhibition* has evolved to be the largest annual all media juried exhibition in NC. It offers artists an opportunity to present their work and be juried by a renowned art professional. The exhibition space at the Contemporary Art Museum located in downtown Raleigh enhances viewing opportunities. All art is for sale.

Participating artists include: Ben Alper, Johannes Barfield, Edward Baxter, Ron Beckham, Marie Louise Bennett, Craig Billings, Casey Brown, Raj Bunnag, Erin Canady, Kennedy Carter, Allison Cole-

man, Sarah Elizabeth Comejo, Joy Drury Cox, Jose Manuel Cruz, Joelle Dietrick, Mark Dixon, Gabrielle Duggan, Alia El-Bermani, Melinda Fine, Onay Gutierrez, Ben Hamgurger, Nora Hartlaub, Elizabeth Haskin, Stephen Hayes, Harrison Haynes, Clarence Heyward, Max Heller, Amy Herman, George Jenne, Kelly Johnston, Shannon Johnstone, Joyce Watkins King, Stacey Kirby, Deborah Kruger, Raymond La Mantia, Laura Little, Jennifer Markowitz, Jackson Martin, Donald Martiny, Gaella Materne, Chieko Murasugi, Jeff Murphy, Chloe Rager, Tim Pickett, Sherrill Roland, Molly Sawyer, Ann Silverman, Dian Sourelis, Angela Stout, Natalie Strait, Sandy Stratil, Saba Taj, Lyudmila Tomova, Andrea Vail, Lee Walton, Stephanie J. Woods, and Gesche Wurfel.

The 2020 Award Winners include:

continued on Page 22