

701 Center for Contemporary Art in Columbia, SC, Offers Exhibit of 3D Art

701 Center for Contemporary Art in Columbia, SC, is presenting the exhibit, *SC3D: An Exhibition of Three-Dimensional Art from South Carolina*, presents three-dimensional work by 11 artists or groups of artists from South Carolina, on view through May 29, 2011.

Participating SC artists in the exhibition include: Michaela Pilar Brown (Great Falls), Jarod M. Charzewski (Charleston), David Detrich (Walhalla), Rosa & Winton Eugene (Cowpens), Jean Grosser (Hartsville), Robert F. Lyon (Columbia), Linda McCune (Greer), Jay Owens (Travelers Rest), Renee Rouillier (Columbia), Joe Thompson (Greenville), and Daniel Bare & Valerie Zimany (Clemson).

Bare and Zimany will create a site-specific wall installation of raw clay. Both teach at Clemson University.

Columbia's Robert F. Lyon, who teaches at the University of South Carolina,

will present turned wood vessels. Jean Grosser, who teaches at Coker College in Hartsville, will show irregularly shaped, aluminum-foil wall pieces with text. Joe Thompson of the Governor's School for the Arts in Greenville is represented with bronze, metal and wood sculptures.

Sculptor Linda McCune, who also works extensively in two-dimensional formats, will present several mixed-media sculptures. The College of Charleston's Jarod M Charzewski will create a textile-based site-specific installation. Michaela Pilar Brown of Great Falls will create a film-based installation projected at a three-dimensional, layered screen. David Detrich of Clemson University will show several mixed-media sculptures.

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings, call the Center at 803/238-2351 or visit (www.701cca.org).

Aiken Center for the Arts in Aiken, SC, Features Exhibit by Aiken Artist Guild

The Aiken Artist Guild will hold its 2011 Member Show from May 18 through June 17, 2011, at the Aiken Center for the Arts in Aiken, SC. A reception will be held on May 19, from 6-8pm. At 7pm, during the reception, awards will be presented by SC Representative, Bill Taylor.



Work by Tom Supensky

This year's show is in memory of Chung Gong, an active artist and volunteer with the art guild and the Aiken Center for the Arts. Gong retired after 20 years with the Savannah River Site and began painting. He studied with Al Beyer, USC at Aiken art professor. Professor Beyer said of Gong, "Chung's slowly

perfected landscapes were infused with a lyricism that transcended the ordinary. He was a talented, kind soul with an infectious smile who is missed by all his fellow painters at USCA."

Gong's wife, JoShan, has graciously given the guild a cash award which will be presented to an artist in the show. Gong and his wife were on a historical and cultural tour of his homeland, China, when he died unexpectedly at age 77 in September of 2010.

The Aiken Art Guild was established in 1967, evolving in the following 44 years into an active and well known art guild. Today the guild is a not for profit organization that offers its members educational opportunities, monthly critiques, space for solo exhibits, and a wide network in the art community. The Aiken Artist Guild also raises funds for scholarships awarded to USC at Aiken art students. Its members are active throughout the area in many shows winning top honors. The guild is open to any artist and you can contact the guild through its web site at (www.aikenartistguild.org).

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

Sumter County Gallery of Art in Sumter, SC, Features New Exhibits

Sumter County Gallery of Art in Sumter, SC, is presenting two new exhibits including: *Carolina's Got Art!*, a traveling exhibit of this 2010 juried exhibit, and *The Sumter Iris Festival: A Pictorial History*, both on view through July 1, 2011.



Work by Henry Schreiber

During the 1980s Larry Elder, owner of Elder Gallery in Charlotte, NC, found himself standing in line with scores of other artists delivering artwork to the Annual Springs Art Show in Lancaster, SC. "Those were some exciting times," says Elder, about what many considered to be one of the premiere art events in the Page 28 - Carolina Arts, May 2011

Carolinas. After thirty years of hosting the exhibition Springs Mills discontinued the event. "Artists felt as if a portion of their hearts had been removed," says Elder. "I can remember the sadness created by the loss of the Springs Art Show."

The recent economic downturn dealt another blow to the visual art scene. Exhibition opportunities for artists dwindled. Elder found it difficult to stand by without taking positive action. In a conversation with a group of Charlotte artists, Elder expressed his desire to create an exhibition that would re-engage the spirit of the Springs Art Show and in October 2009 the inaugural exhibition of *Carolina's Got Art!*, a juried show of North and South Carolina artists working in all media, opened. *Carolina's Got Art!* was an immediate success. "During the first year of the exhibition over 1100 entries from 435 artists were received," says Elder. The juror selected a diverse show that represented the variety of art being created in the Carolinas."

The Juror for the 2010 exhibition was New York art writer, critic and artist Mario Naves who reviewed 1800 entries. Naves stated that: "I was very impressed with the progressive nature of the work and must admit that it was a grueling

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experience to select 136 pieces." For the 2010 exhibition awards and prizes totaling \$12,000 were presented during the opening reception in Charlotte, that was attended by over 1200 people. The following artists were presented awards: The \$2,500 Best in Show award was presented to Lee Sipe from Columbia, SC; \$2,000 First Place award to Ashlynn Browning of Raleigh, NC; \$1,500 Second Place was presented to Lindsay Brown of Pendleton, SC; \$1,000 Third Place award went to Greg Siler of Raleigh, NC. Six \$500 Honorable Mention gift certificates were also presented.

Elder had not finished expanding his vision for *Carolina's Got Art!* and his team selected 44 pieces from the show to comprise the traveling exhibition to be exhibited in selected venues across the Carolinas throughout 2011.

In the Fall of 2010, Karen Watson, Director of the Sumter County Gallery of Art, got a call from Elder who wanted to bring *Carolina's Got Art!* to the Sumter Gallery. Watson remembers how highly Elder spoke of the Sumter County Gallery of Art. Watson states: "Larry told me that he specifically wanted *Carolina's Got Art!* to be shown at the Sumter Gallery because of its reputation as one of the best exhibition spaces in the Carolinas. Another reason we were interested aside from the fact that it is a first rate show, is that Lindsay Brown had won second place, and we were also excited about the opportunity to exhibit two stunning baskets by the "Best in Show" winner Lee Sipe." Watson further states: "Like the *South Carolina Watermedia Society Show*, one of SCGA's most popular shows, *Carolina's Got Art!* will have something for everybody. There is a wide variety of art from abstract to traditional, 2-D and 3-D and all of the highest quality."

For more information on *Carolina's Got Art!* and to view the online catalogue, visit the website (www.carolinastart.com) or (www.facebook.com/carolinastart/).

Perhaps more than anything else, Sumter is defined by its Swan Lake Iris

Gardens and annual Sumter Iris Festival. Sumter County Gallery of Art is proud to present *The Sumter Iris Festival: A Pictorial History*. Working with the "tireless" *Sumter Item* historian and archivist, Sammy Way, the gallery has put together a show of 45 photographs spanning the festival's beginning in 1940 through the 1990s, and paraphernalia such as an Iris queen ribbon, trophies and newspaper articles, some courtesy of The Sumter County Historical Museum.

Much like the 2006 exhibition at SCGA, *Sumter's Greatest Generation: A WWII Photo Exhibition*, with the gallery again working closely with Way and his "Hands on History" class at Sumter High School, Watson states: "that *The Sumter Iris Festival: A Pictorial History*, which is more history than visual art, is a gift to the Sumter community."

The Iris Festival was launched in 1940 on the eve of WWII, the brainchild of J.J. Brennan, a local businessman, to pay homage to the beautiful gardens of Sumter. The Iris Festival is one of the longest running festivals according to Way. The heyday of the festival was the 1940s, 50s and 60s, when it was regularly attended by Governors, Senators, dignitaries and Hollywood personalities. Way noted: "in 1948 the Iris Festival garnered national attention as newspapers across the US hailed it as the South's most colorful floral festival. This was due to the efforts of T. Doug Youngblood a local radio station owner who convinced the producers of the popular radio program (later a television program) *Queen For A Day* to have the 'Queen For A Day' attend the Iris Festival and preside over the festivities. Crowds during this period exceeded 50,000. The parades were elaborate, the floats magnificent and the statewide competition for Queen Iris rivaled larger beauty pageants."

Many of the photographs include members of some of Sumter's oldest families.

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings, call 803/775-0543 or visit (www.sumtergallery.org).

Black Creek Arts Council in Hartsville, SC, Offers Works by Jessie Avant Smith

The Black Creek Arts Council in Hartsville, SC, will present an exhibit of works by Jessie Avant Smith, on view in the Jean & James Fort Gallery, from May 5 through June 24, 2011. A reception will be held on May 5, from 5:30-7pm.



Work by Jessie Avant Smith

The subject matter of Smith's work is simple: people, places and things. The works are mainly mixed media on wood and found objects. When asked about her art Smith said, "Ideally, the pieces speak for themselves, but if they are being shy or don't speak your language, they are trying to communicate calm, humor and nostalgia."

Smith, an artist and local business

owner, has had a passion for art for many years; from Hartsville's Art Summer program to studying at UGS Cortona, Italy. "I am very happy to be able to share my work with the community where I grew up and continue to live, work and grow," Smith said.

The May 5th opening will highlight more than Smith's creative passion; it will also feature an aspect (or two) of her highly successful downtown business, The Midnight Rooster. The Midnight Rooster is a coffee shop and eatery on Carolina Avenue in Hartsville. Smith also caters from the Midnight Rooster.

When asked about the opening, Allison Pederson, BCAC's new Executive Director, said "It's great to feature an artist that is not only local but is active in our community. Jessie is a very talented artist and we are excited to showcase her work."

The mission of Black Creek Arts Council is to promote and foster the Arts in Darlington County. BCAC's offices are housed in a state of the art 10,000 square foot facility at 116 West College Avenue in Hartsville. BCAC offers a variety of programs including art classes of all styles, after-school activities, pre-school aged programs, private music lessons, and various types of gallery exhibits. BCAC also offers assistance with arts management, funding, education, and program coordination to arts and cultural organizations in Darlington County.

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

The deadline each month to submit articles, photos and ads is the 24th of the month prior to the next issue. This would be May 24th for the June 2011 issue and June 24 for the July 2011 issue. After that, it's too late unless your exhibit runs into the next month.

But don't wait for the last minute - send your info now.