

The Charleston Museum - Quilts

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Dramatic silk and velvet "Log Cabin" quilt, made by Jane Susan Basinger of Savannah in 1880. The center of each block is a black velvet square surrounded by vibrant silk rectangles or "logs." The arrangement of colors creates a dark and light pattern. Courtesy of The Charleston Museum, Charleston, SC.

lovely blue plaid and wide floral chintz borders. Paper-template pieced hexagons are pieced together to form a tessellated pattern of Stars and Rosettes in this eye-

catching quilt top from about 1860-1880. It is a delightful compilation of 19th century calicoes.

Pink and blue triangles combine to create a playful "Flutter Wheel" pattern in a little crib quilt, c. 1845. The blue pieces are a subtle ombré print while the double pink dot pattern adds even more movement to the pinwheels.

The Charleston Museum, founded in 1773, is America's first museum. It is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization located along Charleston's Museum Mile. Holding the most extensive collection of South Carolina cultural and scientific collections in the nation, it also owns two National Historic Landmark houses, the Heyward-Washington House (1772) and the Joseph Manigault House (1803), as well as the Dill Sanctuary, a 580-acre wildlife preserve.

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings, call the Museum at 843/722-2996 or visit (www.charlestonmuseum.org).

2012 Piccolo Spoleto Crafts Shows Take Place in Charleston, SC - May 25-27 & June 1-3, 2012

Fine Craft Shows Charleston, LLC, announces the 33rd annual Piccolo Spoleto Craft Shows. This year's events will take place on May 25-27 and June 1-3, 2012, in Wragg Square Park at Meeting and Charlotte Streets in downtown Charleston, SC.



Image from the 2011 shows

Over 115 fine craft artists will be exhibiting and demonstrating their original works during the two weekend shows. Exhibitors were selected based on evaluation by a jury composed of gallery owners, arts educators, curators, and professional artists. Artists from 18 states will be participating this year. About half of the artists are familiar to the show, with new artists brought in every year.

Visitors will see a variety of fine crafts in basketry, clay, fiber, glass, jewelry, metalwork, mixed media, photography, printmaking and woodworking. Items for sale will include original works in fine art, home décor, housewares, furniture and wearable art including clothing, bags and jewelry. Recycling is a major trend in crafts, and this year many of the exhibiting artists use recycled, repurposed and/or renewable natural materials in their artworks. Styles will range from traditional to contemporary fine craft.

Artists will be performing demonstra-

tions of their crafts throughout the show hours. (For a schedule, see our ad on [Page 15](#).) Other show activities include a silent auction and a crafts raffle featuring original works donated by the participating artists.

Piccolo Spoleto Crafts show hours are Friday and Saturday 10am - 6pm and Sunday 11am - 5pm both weekends. Adult admission is \$3.00. Children under 18 and seniors over 65 are admitted free. The show's location at Wragg Square Park is convenient to parking and other visual arts venues in Marion Square.

These shows are produced by Fine Craft Shows Charleston, a new venture created by the show's long-time organizational committee to continue and enhance the fine craft offerings of the festival. For maps, schedules, artist profiles and other information about the shows, visit our website at (www.finecraftshowscharleston.com).



Image from the 2011 shows

The Piccolo Spoleto Crafts Shows are part of the Piccolo Spoleto Festival, a three-week long arts festival featuring several hundred arts events produced by the City of Charleston's Office of Cultural Affairs. For information about the festival, see the official festival website at (www.piccolospoleto.com).

City of Charleston, SC, Offers Works by David Boatwright

The City of Charleston Office of Cultural Affairs is presenting the exhibit, *Look Away, Look Here: Work by David Boatwright*, on view at the City Gallery at Waterfront Park through May 13, 2012. The exhibit showcases sketches, paintings and murals by Boatwright.

In this retrospective, of his more than 25-year career, *Look Away, Look Here* showcases new works alongside studio paintings as well as the Raval murals. The new works include depictions of a mythological Charleston to be created by the artist in two, large-scale murals on the gallery's center walls. The public is invited to visit the gallery to watch Boatwright produce these murals for the duration of the exhibit on Wednesdays and Fridays from 10am to noon. In addition, Boatwright will host an artist's lecture on May 5 at 4pm following the lecture, the public is also invited to a closing reception to view the completed murals from 5 to 7pm.

The title of the exhibit, *Look Away, Look Here*, refers to the subject of the murals that Boatwright will create during the exhibit. These murals will depict past and future versions of Charleston, one showing a Charleston street filled with archetypal Charlestonians from the distant past, while the other wall will depict the same locale, but projected into the future, portraying a fantasy of what the city could become. Neither era will be fixed in a specific time. Boatwright explains that the future may show some disturbing outcomes, but it will contain a hopeful element of promise, and as with all his work, will deliver the message with a dose of sly humor.

At the conclusion of this exhibition, Boatwright would like for the murals, painted on removable panels, to find homes in a public venue. The panel system while appearing to be a solid wall will break down and be easily transportable and easily reassembled in another place.

One section of the gallery is devoted to Boatwright's murals and paintings from one of Charleston's most mysterious and glamorous bars, Raval, no longer located on upper King Street. These murals, painted on canvas, were saved, kept in storage and the paintings, which are in private collections, will be shown together recreating the atmosphere and look of that not so distant era.

After graduating from San Francisco Art Institute as a painting major, Boatwright spent several years making short experimental films which he showed at many of the cinemathèques in Europe. Upon returning to his home state of South Carolina in 1977, Boatwright was awarded a National Endowment for the Arts individual artist grant to make documentary films in Charleston. He then traveled to Los Angeles where he became a graduate fellow at the American Film Institute, and later co-founded a film production company and directed more than 100 commercials and made several documentaries. While a filmmaker he maintained an interest in studio painting and was fortunate to return to Charleston in 1984 as it began to expand culturally and demographically, and found he could support himself and a growing family by working as a designer, painter, filmmaker and musician.

Studio painting evolved into a sub-specialty as Boatwright began creating large murals and mural-like signs on many building exteriors around the Lowcountry. In addition to the signs, he has been commissioned to make murals and paintings for the interiors of restaurants and was able to sell studio pieces to collectors and commercial establishments. Producing public murals for clients with a rigorous city approval process while maintaining artistic integrity has at times been challenging in light of Charleston's well-known historic preservation policies which over the years, has preserved and protected the 18th century architecture in its beautiful and revered historic district. Over time his clients began to give him wider latitude, and he has been able to merge personal expression with the specific needs of a project in a balanced way and to grow as a painter through the experience.

Meanwhile, his studio painting has followed a steady path from his student days under the sway of the West Coast Funk Art movement. That is to say, he produces figurative imagery, that has a provocative edge, but still allows him to connect with his southern storytelling roots.

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listing, call Erin Glaze at 843/958-6484 or visit (<http://citygallery-atwaterfrontpark.com/>).

Editorial Commentary

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art museums in the Carolinas are paying attention. *Carolina Arts* is an inexpensive way for these institutions to spread the word about their exhibitions.

What's the Big Deal About May?

May has always been a big month for us. In the past it was because of the Spoleto Festival USA and Piccolo Spoleto Festival taking place in Charleston, SC, during the end of May and beginning of June, but not so much anymore, and the North Charleston Arts Festival which takes place at the first of May.

Spoleto Festival USA has been mostly a performing arts festival for over a decade and Piccolo never seems to get their act together to inform us as to what they will be presenting by our deadline for the May issue.

Our deadline came and went and the only thing posted on the Piccolo Spoleto website for the visual arts was a call for entries about the annual juried exhibit taking place at the Visitor Center.

Of course we have info about other annual events that will be taking place like the Piccolo Spoleto Craft Shows, taking place in Wragg Square Park and the Piccolo Spoleto Outdoor Art Show, taking place in Marion Square Park. And, of course the Piccolo Spoleto Juried Show, but we're in the dark about the rest

of it. And by the time they get around to informing us of what will be taking place - if they do, our June info will be a little late for some to make plans.

I say if they do inform us because the City of Charleston's Office of Cultural Affairs is like the SC Arts Commission in that media outlets who criticize them get cut off from information. I guess the less we know, the less we can take objection to. But it also cut others off from the information flow too. But, apparently they don't care so much about that anyway.

We do have lots of info about the North Charleston Arts Festival and many other events taking place this month. Like the Spring E.A.S.T. of Asheville Studio Tour, featuring a tour of artists studios East of Asheville in WNC (East Asheville, Swannanoa, Black Mountain, Old Fort, and Fairview), on May 5 & 6, from 10am-6pm. For more information about the artists and to download a brochure visit (<http://www.EastStudioTour.com>).

These days April and May are big months because we're covering all of the Carolinas and hearing from a lot of new folks about the visual arts they are offering and in some cases - folks are waking up from the Winter freeze - not so much this year, but normally.

But, if things keep going the way they have this year - we may just keep growing

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The deadline each month to submit articles, photos and ads is the 24th of the month prior to the next issue. This will be May 24th for the June 2012 issue and June 24 for the July 2012 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.

And where do you send that info?

E-mail to (info@carolinaarts.com) or mail to:
Carolina Arts, P.O. Drawer 427, Bonneau, SC 29431