



Southern Marsh by Gail Smith, 2011 1st Place Landscape and Members' Choice



Aiken Artist Guild 2012 Member Show at the Aiken Center for the Arts

May 9 - June 15, 2012

Wine Reception May 10, 6 - 8pm

Ribbon & Cash Awards 7pm

Open to the public

Aiken Center for the Arts • 122 Laurens Street SW
Aiken, South Carolina • 803-641-9094

www.aikenartistguild.org



Volk Tale by Carolyn Bohn, 2011 1st Place Abstract/Experimental

Hitchcock Health Center in Aiken, SC, Offers Works by Mary McCullah

The Hitchcock Health Center in Aiken, SC, will present the exhibit, *Nature's Potpourri*, featuring works by Mary McCullah, on view from May 2 - 30, 2012. The collection of watercolor and acrylic nature oriented paintings by the award winning artist is sponsored by the Aiken Artist Guild as the Artist of the Month at the Center.



Work by Mary McCullah

"My life, even before becoming an artist, has revolved around nature, especially animals and flowers," relates the artist. Born in Missouri and living throughout the US, McCullah has worked closely with zoos and nature preserves giving conservation related programs and doing hands on with animals including gray wolves and birds of prey. These experiences provided valuable inspiration for her work.

The artist has been painting for over 35 years dedicating over 25 of those years Page 28 - Carolina Arts, May 2012

to teaching and designing education material including authoring several books and doing segments for HGTV. After retiring to North Augusta, SC, with her husband, she began to focus her work more toward exhibiting, selling and commissions.

"Through my paintings I want draw the viewer into the natural world with all its beauty and wisdom. There is a quote from Chief Sealth that asks the question, 'What are people without the animals? If all the animals were gone, humans would die from a great loneliness of spirit.' I want my paintings to evoke a smile, a memory, a desire to become closer to nature" explains McCullah.



Work by Mary McCullah

In 2010, McCullah served as artist in residence Cheraw SC State Park. In 2012, she was selected to spend a week at Poinsett State Park as artist in residence.

"I wanted to spend more time with the nature of my new southern home. I am really excited to explore the natural world at Poinsett," she states.

McCullah has exhibited at the Aiken Center for the Arts, The North Augusta Art and Heritage Center, and juried shows including the Greenwood Festival of Flowers, South Carolina State Fair, and the North Augusta Yellow Jessamine Festival. She was selected to exhibit and demonstrate in 2011, at "unearth" held in

continued above on next column to the right

Saluda Shoals Park. Her work is held in private and corporate collections in the US and Canada. Her painting of a wood duck, SC's state duck, hangs permanently in the North Augusta City Building.

McCullah balances her time with her two horses and her painting. "At present I

must often choose between the paint brush and the curry brush. The latter usually wins!," says the artist.

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings, call the Center at 803/648-8344 or visit (www.aikenartistguild.org).

Aiken Artist Guild in Aiken, SC, Offers Works by Jeannette Shoemaker

Award winning pastel artist, Jeannette Shoemaker, will present a solo exhibit in the Aiken Artist Guild Gallery of the Aiken Center of the Arts in Aiken, SC, on view from May 2-30, 2012. A reception will be held on May 10, from 6-8pm.

Originally from the Finger Lakes region of NY, Shoemaker moved to Aiken in 2011. She immediately became involved in the Aiken Artist Guild and was awarded 1st place in the floral division of the AAG 2011 Member Show.

"I am inspired by figures, faces and flowers! There is beauty everywhere amidst what can be a dismal world and I strive to find beauty in the complicated human form and faces that are unique to each one of us. I love to delve into the delicate intricacies of flowers," explains the artist.

Shoemaker originally studied photography in college but put her art on the back burner raising her family. She started painting about 14 years ago using some of her photographs and soon discovered her favorite medium was pastels. Shoemaker studied with Nicora Gangi, a master pastelist, for over two years. She partnered with several galleries in NY to show her work.

"I want to evoke an emotional response that delights the viewer and fills them with a sense of awe at the beauty and wonder that is so often overlooked," states Shoemaker. She loves vibrant color along with dramatic light and paints bold florals,



Work by Jeannette Shoemaker

thought provoking figures and amazing portraits. Using layering and blending techniques to achieve a dramatic realism of light and shadow is her ultimate goal. Shoemaker shares, "I'm currently working on a series of 'bad girls' of the Bible that has been so much fun to work on. The three pieces of Deliah will be in this upcoming show."

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

You can contact us by calling 843/825-3408 or by e-mail at - info@carolinaarts.com but do it before the 24th of the month prior to our next issue.