

Annual North Charleston Arts Fest Takes Place Throughout North Charleston, SC, Through May 7, 2016

The annual North Charleston Arts Fest will take place throughout North Charleston, SC, through May 7, 2016. Now entering its 34th year, the nine day event has matured into one of the most comprehensive arts festivals in the state, drawing thousands of residents and visitors to experience the talents of national, regional, and local artists and performers in the areas of Dance, Music, Theatre, Visual Arts, Crafts, Photography, Media Arts, and Literature. More than 100 festival offerings are scheduled to take place in a variety of venues throughout North Charleston and the surrounding area, including libraries, community centers, schools, civic auditoriums, and parks.

Recognized by the Southeast Tourism Society as a Top 20 Event, the North Charleston Arts Fest offers something for everyone. The City of North Charleston Cultural Arts Department organizes and presents the event each year, striving to maintain the spirit of a public celebration with the mission of presenting a broad, multidiscipline event schedule that provides a wide range of performances, exhibitions, and activities for people of all ages and backgrounds. Many of the offerings are free, and those that are ticketed are moderately priced.



Work by Adam Walls, part of the 11th annual "National Outdoor Sculpture Exhibition at the North Charleston Riverfront Park

"The variety of Arts Fest offerings and the inclusiveness of the event have really become a point of pride for the City of North Charleston," says North Charleston Mayor, Keith Summey. "From humble beginnings as a one-day community celebration at Park Circle, the festival has developed into one of our most anticipated annual City events, allowing residents and visitors from throughout the Southeast to be exposed, engaged, and inspired by the arts."

The Arts Fest Premiere Weekend, held on Saturday, Apr. 30, and Sunday, May 1, at the Charleston Area Convention Center Complex, offers free admission and parking to a variety of performances on four stages. Other features include judged fine art and photography exhibits; the 15th annual *South Carolina Palmetto Hands Fine Craft Exhibit*; youth art and photography from Charleston, Berkeley, and Dorchester county students; the Lowcountry Gem & Mineral Society show and sale; Village Antiques & Collectibles

City of North Charleston, SC, Features Works by Lisa Shimko

The City of North Charleston Cultural Arts Department is pleased to announce Charleston, SC, artist Lisa Shimko, as the winner of the 2016 North Charleston Arts Fest Design Competition. As the winner of the statewide contest, Shimko's acrylic painting, titled *Air and Water*, will be used to promote the 2016 North Charleston Arts Fest, taking place April 29-May 7, 2016. T-shirts and posters featuring the winning design will be available for sale. In addition, the artist received a \$500 purchase award and the piece will become part of the City's Public Art Collection.

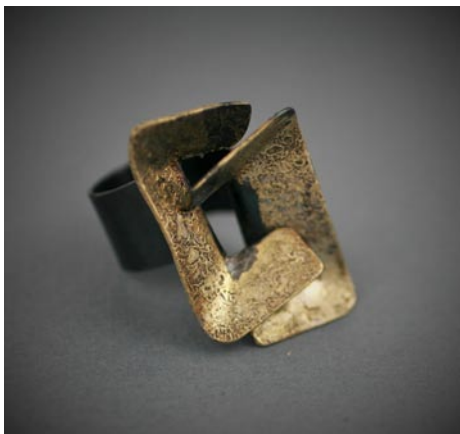
Shimko's work, including the winning piece, *Air and Water*, will be on display at the North Charleston City Gallery through May 31, 2016. The gallery is located within the Charleston Area Convention Center at 5001 Coliseum Drive in North Charleston.



Work by Daryle Halbert, part of his exhibit "Lowcountry Kitchens," on view at the North Charleston City Hall

show; children's activities at Box City and Creation Stations; art & craft vendors, a food court, and much more.

Stand-alone events take place throughout the nine days of the festival at various locations. An exciting array of free and ticketed offerings include concerts; a street dance; theatre presentations; film screenings; art lectures, workshops, and demonstrations; an art walk; children's programs; and the Grand Finale at the beautiful North Charleston Riverfront Park. Visual art exhibitions on view during the festival include the 11th annual *National Outdoor Sculpture Exhibition*; the 10th Annual *African American Fiber Art Exhibition, A Piece of Peace*; paintings by Boca Raton, FL, based artist Andrew Brown; an installation of mixed media works by Statesboro, GA, artist Kimberly Riner; and more. This year's Grand Finale on May 7 features the 3rd annual Tri-County School Steel Drum Festival, a slam poetry show, children's activities, a food truck rodeo, and an evening concert by The Secrets Band. The event concludes with a fantastic fireworks display over the Cooper River.



Work by JoAnn Graham, part of the 15th annual "South Carolina Palmetto Hands Fine Craft Exhibit," taking place at the Charleston Area Convention Center Complex

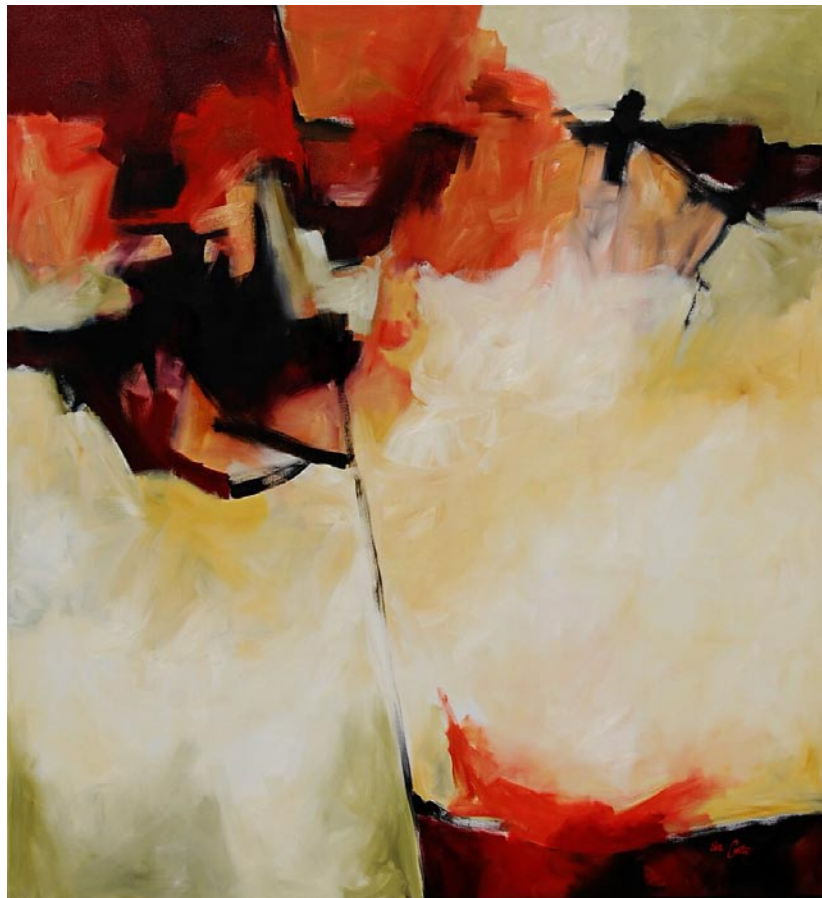
For more 2016 North Charleston Arts Fest information, including event details, site maps, and social media contest rules, visit (www.NorthCharlestonArtsFest.com) or contact the North Charleston Cultural Arts Department office at 843/740-5854.



Work by Lisa Shimko

Shimko's design was selected from a total of 64 entries by artists from across the state. The selection was made by a

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Fracture
Oil on Canvas, 72 x 66 inches

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Duo by William Halsey, oil on paper, 11 x 15 inches