

# City of N. Charleston - Lisa Shimko

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review panel appointed by the Cultural Arts Department who judged the entries based on quality, originality, appeal to festival patrons from a broad range of backgrounds, and ability to convey the spirit of the festival as a public celebration of arts and culture.

According to Shimko, *Air and Water* and the other paintings in its series are the result of her meditations of the aquatic world. Within the piece she ruminates on “the edges of land to the water, constantly changing with tides; the various organisms, big and small; and accentuating the range of colors found both up close and seen at the landscape’s distance.”

“This painting is not meant to be an illustration of the Lowcountry landscape, but a portal of my experience and feeling of the meandering waterways and the energy of the many creatures that call it home,” she explains. It was this energy that drew members of the review panel to this piece, with many identifying with the concept of how the arts can serve as a portal to feelings and experiences.

Shimko graduated from the University of the Arts in Philadelphia, PA, with a BFA in Painting, and a minor in Art Therapy. Having grown up in York County, PA, the colors, forms, and textures of the northeastern landscape, and the simple designs of Pennsylvania German folk art

influenced the foundation of her artistic aesthetic. Upon moving to Hilton Head Island, SC, when she finished school, the terrain of the coastal south added new elements to her aesthetic catalogue, and peaked her interest in exploring environmental issues. After living in Hilton Head for six years, Shimko moved to Charleston in 2006, and has since been extremely involved with the community as a fine artist, instructor, and fundraiser.

Animals and nature are common subjects in Shimko’s paintings. She uses a visual language focused on new research and old memories, creates symbolism in her works, and allows the elements within them to tell a story. She was selected as the juried image winner for the 2008 Charleston Farmers Market with her piece *Tomato Half*, and again in 2009 with *Watermelon Sky*. In 2014 she was commissioned to create the official poster design for the Charleston Food + Wine Festival. She was also a featured artist in Charleston Supported Art’s Winter 2015 season.

Shimko’s work has been exhibited in a number of solo and group shows locally and she is currently represented by Mitchell Hill Gallery in downtown Charleston.

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings, call 843/740-5854, or visit (<http://www.northcharleston.org/Residents/Arts-and-Culture.aspx>).

## Ella W. Richardson Fine Art in Charleston, SC, Features Works by Aleksander and Lyuba Titovets

Ella W. Richardson Fine Art in Charleston, SC, will present *Exploration*, an exhibit featuring the works of Aleksander and Lyuba Titovets, on view from May 6 through June 2, 2016. A reception will be held on May 6, from 5-8pm.

Featuring Russian Impressionist couple Aleksander and Lyuba Titovets, the show takes audiences on a visual journey through snowy forests in Russia to the banks of the Seine. Experience wanderlust and a lightness of spirit as you take in the visual feast of stunning landscapes, bold brushstrokes, and richly layered color.

Explorers and artistic pioneers, the Titovets have travelled the globe in pursuit of artistic inspiration. Foremost throughout their expeditions, they have found a universal understanding and appreciation of beauty. To love color, symmetry, and beauty; this is a part of being human and it affects us daily, whether consciously or not. Quoting renowned travel writer Elisabeth Eaves, “Beauty is so uncomplicated to love.” The Titovets strive to highlight the beauty of each and every place they visit, from Charleston to Tuscany. Through their paintings, they ultimately seek to bring love into the world.



Work by Aleksander Titovets

Siberian born, Aleksander received his Masters in Fine Arts from St. Petersburg University College of Fine Arts. His technique reflects the Russian School of Oil Painting, a style that combines a powerful realistic involvement with the soft, lyrical looseness of impressionism. In all of his works and particularly the figurative, he



Work by Lyuba Titovets

has an unceasing determination to capture, in his own words, “the graciousness of the soul.” Aleksander has won first place in numerous worldwide art competitions and was called “one of America’s leading impressionistic painters” by *International Artist* magazine. His paintings are included in public and private collections worldwide, including those of Sophia Loren and the King of Spain, His Majesty Juan Carlos.

Lyuba grew up in St. Petersburg, Russia and started her private painting lessons at the age of five. When she was seven, she was selected for the Children’s Art Club in Leningrad, now St. Petersburg. She went on to the State University in St. Petersburg and received a BA and MFA in the College of Fine Arts. Her colorful still-life works are based on intricate settings she arranges in her studio. They demonstrate an appreciation of color harmony and Russian folk traditions, which translate into imaginative figurative works. Lyuba often peppers her still-life works with cultural and art history references, from the White Nights festival in St. Petersburg to Botticelli’s Primavera.

For further information check our SC Commercial Gallery listings, call the gallery at 843/722.3660 of e-mail to ([ella@ellarichardson.com](mailto:ella@ellarichardson.com)).

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~Artist~

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