

North Charleston Arts Fest

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years as the organization's Development Director. She is a graduate of the University of St. Andrews (Scotland) where she earned a Masters of Philosophy in Art History and received her undergraduate degree from Saint Mary's College in Indiana. In recognition of her valuable contributions to the arts, Kessenich was named one of Atlanta's Women of Power in the fall issue of *The Atlantian* (2015) and received the CCA Community Impact Award from Emory University in 2016. Kessenich currently resides in Sandy Springs, GA, and serves as an adjunct instructor at Agnes Scott College, as well as on the boards of the Atlanta Printmakers Studio and MINT.

Professional and Amateur Photographers will participate in the annual North Charleston Arts Fest *Judged Photography Competition & Exhibition* and compete for cash awards in two categories totaling \$1,450. Categories include color and monochrome. Awards will be at the sole discretion of the judge, Rick Rhodes. Rhodes earned degrees in Commercial Photography and Color Technology at Brooks Institute of Photography in Santa Barbara, CA, and Southeast Center for Photographic Studies in Daytona Beach, FL. He has owned and operated Rick Rhodes Photography & Imaging, LLC, in West Ashley for more than 18 years and is well versed in aerial, architecture, landscape, portrait, and product photography.

The 11th Annual *African American Fiber Art Exhibition* (2017) – *Move On Up & Reach the Higher Ground*, will take place at the North Charleston City Hall, 1st & 2nd floors, located at 2500 City Hall Lane, on view from May 1 - June 23, 2017. A lecture and exhibition tour will be offered on May 5, from noon-2pm, with a reception offered from 6-8pm. There will be free admission and parking.

African American fiber artists from across the nation will participate in the 11th Annual *African American Fiber Art Exhibition: Move on Up and Reach the Higher Ground*, a component of the 2017 North Charleston Arts Fest. The theme for this year's exhibition is inspired by the music of the 1970's that sought to unify and lift the spirit of our nation, specifically songs such as Stevie Wonder's *Higher Ground* and *Move On Up* by Curtis Mayfield. The challenge for this special exhibit is for artists to create a fiber work, such as an art quilt, doll, wearable art piece, etc., that explores the ideas of creating a better world, journeying toward self-awareness, and ascending to a position of loving acceptance of all people.

Organized and presented by the City of North Charleston Cultural Arts Department, and curated by Torreah "Cookie" Washington, this unique opportunity offers African American fiber artists a showcase to exhibit their original and innovative designs. This exhibition opportunity is open to African American artists residing in the US, ages 18 and older, working in the medium of fiber.

Following the close of the show, up to twenty-five works will be selected to tour the state through the South Carolina State Museum's 2017/2018 Traveling Exhibitions Program. Sites across South Carolina may request the exhibit to tour in their facilities, thus providing additional exposure for the selected artists.

The 2017/18 *National Outdoor Sculpture Competition & Exhibition*, takes place at the North Charleston Riverfront Park, located at 1001 Everglades Avenue, on view from May 1, 2017 through Mar. 25, 2018. There will be free admission and parking.

The juror for this year's exhibition is Robin Salmon, Vice President of Art & Historical Collections and Curator of Sculpture at Brookgreen Gardens in Murrells Inlet, SC. Salmon is currently the chair of the National Sculpture Society Exhibitions Committee, which is the oldest organization of professional sculptors, and has more than thirty years of museum, curatorial, and programming experience.

Works by Judy McSween (Festival Design Winner) - *Take Me With You*, will be

held at the North Charleston City Gallery (w/in Charleston Area Convention Center) located at 5001 Coliseum Drive, on view from May 3 - 31, 2017. A reception will be held on May 3, from 6-8pm. Meet the artist on May 6, and 7, from 11am-5pm, during the Arts Fest Expo.

Judy McSween, winner of the 2017 North Charleston Arts Fest Design Competition, will display a new series of abstract paintings, including her winning design, *Scraping the Sky II*. The pieces featured in *Take Me With You* focus on the concept of "shared discovery." Both the drama of extremes and the serenity of the familiar are addressed in these abstract land and sea-inspired scenes. These works elicit feelings of freedom alongside the joy of discovery—feelings that make lasting connections when they are shared.

"The act of painting produces a visceral effect on me and on viewers when they observe my art," McSween explains. "We journey together through a painting, taking in the challenges and rejoicing in the revelations." McSween uses subtle textural surfaces in her paintings to add an element of unpredictability.

McSween was born in Warren, OH, and earned a BFA with a specialization in painting from Bowling Green State University in Bowling Green, OH. She moved to Charleston, SC, in 2008 and has participated in numerous regional art shows since then. Her paintings have also been featured on the cover of the Charleston County Parks and Recreation Program Guide and the 2015 baseball novel, *Dreaming .400*. She currently paints in her home studio and teaches part-time at The Montessori Community School of Charleston.



"From a Distance" by Fletcher Williams III

City Block, featuring works by Fletcher Williams III, is located at the Historic Reynolds Avenue Fire Station, located at 2006 Reynolds Avenue, on view through June 3, 2017.

Local sculptor and painter Fletcher Williams III presents *City Block*, a series of new work inspired by the North Charleston cityscape. With the use of reclaimed wood, automotive paints, and various building materials, Williams has created three-dimensional works that symbolize the deconstruction and transformation of local neighborhoods. Motifs employed in these works are those that Williams finds most distinctive and unique to North Charleston; colorfully painted homes, marshes, classic cars, corner stores, and churches.

For Williams, collaging distinctive symbols allows him to capture the spirit of a rapidly changing social and cultural landscape. Accompanying the visual works will be an experimental soundscape of "geometric minimalism" composed by clarinetist Philip Lipton, William's childhood friend and fellow alum of Charleston County School of the Arts.

Williams III was born in Charleston, SC, and attended Charleston County School of the Arts for much of his secondary education. Upon graduation in 2005, he continued his arts education at Trident Technical College and the College of Charleston where he focused on drawing, painting, and graphic design. He later transferred to The Cooper Union: For the Advancement in Science in Art (NYC) where he received his BFA in 2010. Since then his work has been shown in notable institutions such as The MoCada Museum (2016), The McKissick Museum (2015), The Mann-Simon Center (2016), and The

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SCALA Surrealist Painter



"Contemplate"
June 1 - 29, 2017

Saul Alexander Gallery at the Charleston Public Library
68 Calhoun Street • Charleston, SC

Studio: 843-225-3313 • www.peterscala.com

San Diego Museum of Contemporary Art (2015). In 2015, he was named an Art Matters Grantee and an Alternate Roots Visual Arts Scholar.

Wanderlust: The Yucatan features works by Jasmine Alleger, on view at the North Charleston City Hall, 3rd floor, located at 2500 City Hall Lane, on view May 1 through June 23, 2017. A reception will be held on May 5, from 6-8pm. Viewing times: May 1-June 23, 2017, 8:00am-7:00pm

For years Jasmine Alleger's work focused on representing acute details of her everyday life. In a sense she was creating personal journals of particularly mundane aspects of her daily routine by combining collaged found materials with painted imagery. More recently, Alleger has turned her focus outward, examining the peculiarities of daily life in other countries and cultures.

In October 2015, Alleger spent ten days exploring the Yucatan, Mexico. She sat in parks, restaurants, street corners, bars, and bus stops filling sketchbooks and walked for miles taking photographs. The result of her time abroad is *Wanderlust: The Yucatan*, five series of paintings created over the course of 16 months. The 39 works that make up these series pair seemingly banal subjects like floor tiles, cars, and weathered paint, with items of cultural significance, such as grave markers. This exhibit seeks to heighten the beauty of what is frequently overlooked.

Alleger grew up in Sacramento, CA. She earned a BS in Fine Art from Portland State University in Portland, OR, in 2010 and an MFA in Studio Art from Moore College of Art and Design in Philadelphia, PA, in 2013.

Rhythm in Blues, features works by Caroline M. Self, on view at the North Charleston City Hall, 2nd floor, located at 2500 City Hall Lane, on view from May 1 through June 23, 2017. A reception will be held on May 5, from 6-8pm.

Caroline M. Self is a contemporary abstract expressionist artist inspired by the vivid paint colors and textures made famous by Vincent Van Gogh and the



Work by Caroline M. Self

unique abstractness of Wassily Kandinsky and Willem de Kooning. In her exhibit, *Rhythm in Blues*, she presents a collection of new mixed media works that utilize movement on canvas as a means to celebrate the unique spiritual dance of the rhythm of life.

Self has painted for as long as she can remember, and her works have found homes from coast to coast. Most recently, her painting, *That's Life*, won a purchase award at the 41st Lyndon House Arts Center Exhibition juried by Jock Reynolds, Director for the Yale University Art Gallery. She currently works from her home studio in Summerville, SC, and offers residencies to North Charleston schools and community groups as the City of North Charleston's 2016/17 Artist-in-Residence.

The North Charleston Arts Fest Arty Block Party is a new event combining what was previously the Arts Fest Art Walk and Arts Fest Street Dance. The event will be held from 5-9pm on May 4, in the Olde Village area of North Charleston near Park Circle. East Montague Avenue will be closed to vehicular traffic between Jenkins Avenue and Virginia Avenue. Vendors will line the street between Chateau Avenue and Virginia Avenue.

Aside from vendors, the event also features live music by the Shem Creek Boogie Band and Contemporary Violinist

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