

Sumter Gallery of Arts

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to the state – Sumter County and Summerton - the rural landscapes of South Carolina. Visually stimulating imagery of natural areas and roadside structures will be warmly coated in multi-colored lights.

SCGA has several related events planned. Shanequa Gay will give a gallery talk the night of the opening and Lorna Ruth Galloway will be in conversation with SCGA curator Cole Miller at a later date during the exhibition.

As with all the exhibitions the gallery presents, it is a community effort made possible by our sponsors: Sumter Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, Ralph and Toye

Canty, The Glenmore and May Sharp Trust, and a grant from the Sumter County Cultural Commission which receives support from the John and Susan Bennett Arts Fund of the Coastal Community Foundation of SC, the SC Arts Commission and the National Endowment for the Arts. Flowers courtesy of Poinsett-Bland Garden Club & The Council of Garden Clubs of Sumter.

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings, call the Gallery at 803/775-0543 or visit (www.sumtergallery.org).

USC Sumter in Sumter, SC, Features Works by Stephen Nevitt

USC Sumter in Sumter, SC, is presenting *Stephen Nevitt: Looking Back, Looking Forward*, on view in the University Gallery located in the Anderson Library, through May 31, 2018.

Nevitt offered the following statement about his exhibit, "I have shown my art work professionally for close to fifty years. This exhibit involves a look back at a very limited selection of typical works from my past as well as a look forward to recent works reflecting a new direction in terms of media and approach."

"For decades, most of my works have involved a variety of approaches to portraiture, mostly in printmaking and drawing, including my ancestors, immediate family, and friends as primary subjects," adds Nevitt. "I also have worked consistently on self-portraits. Underlying themes include the transient nature of life and a strong curiosity about interests, character traits, and beliefs that pass from generation to generation."

"New works in this exhibit are very different and include small paintings started during the past year, some of which are still in progress. Most are non-objective while others have figurative passages. They reflect much movement plus more color than anything I have done before,



Work by Stephen Nevitt

and the approach has been more intuitive. I look forward to continuing the engagement of process to see how works evolve technically and conceptually."

A native of Charlotte, NC, Nevitt is the Art Program Coordinator at Columbia College and a former member of the faculty at the South Carolina Governor's School of Arts and Humanities Summer Honors Program. He earned his BFA at the University of South Carolina and a master's degree from the State University of New York, College at Oswego.

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings or visit (www.uscsumter.edu).

City Art in Columbia, SC, Offers Works by Mark Conrardy

City Art in Columbia, SC, will present an exhibit of works by Mark Conrardy, on view from May 3 through June 30, 2018. A reception will be held on May 3, from 5-8pm.

Conrardy was born and grew up in Wichita and Kansas City, KS, where his grandmother encouraged him to draw horses and praised the results. This encouragement, and that of friends and teachers as early as kindergarten, gave him confidence to continue art as an interest. He later earned a bachelor's degree in architectural engineering at Kansas State University. Although he worked and developed his drafting skills (drawing and hand-lettering) as a draftsman in Southern California, he became uncomfortable with the responsibilities of architectural engineering after the Hyatt Skywalk disaster in Kansas City. The skills he developed as a draftsman helped in plein air drawing and painting.

Conrardy moved to South Carolina where he worked as a graphic artist/illustrator with the Department of Health and Environmental Control and the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) - Graphics Section. He developed numerous illustrations, caricatures for the SC Wildlife magazine, and designed the 2003 Loggerhead Turtle Endangered Species license plate. DNR's Wildlife Shop made a limited edition print of Conrardy's Boykin Spaniel (SC state canine). One of his favorite illustrations is called "Life in a South Carolina Blackwater River." It shows the many species that inhabit blackwater rivers in South Carolina.

Conrardy says his work experienced a breakthrough when he started painting



Work by Mark Conrardy

tractors at a Columbia Museum of Art, About Face plein air event. The underpainting was an abstract of a gamecock on a Masonite panel. He turned the panel sideways and began with a charcoal drawing. Conrardy explains that, as he painted, he left some of the abstract painting visible, so it became part realism part abstraction. He discovered that drawing in charcoal coupled with painting in oil using the glazing (watercolor) technique put him into a mentally peaceful, relaxed, creative zone where he could paint intuitively. It also allowed him to make adjustments to the painting by just moving the charcoal lines and let the paint be loose and drippy. Since he was painting on a board he did not have to let the paint dry as he would

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