

# North Charleston City Hall in North Charleston Presents Exhibits for 2018 North Charleston Arts Fest

The North Charleston City Hall in North Charleston, SC, will be presenting several exhibits in conjunction with the 2018 North Charleston Arts Fest including: *12th Annual African American Fiber Art Exhibition: I'm NOT Every Woman, I'm a PHENOMENAL Woman!*, on display on the 1st & 2nd floors of City Hall; *CREST*, featuring works by Camela Guevara, on view on the 2nd floor of City Hall; *Honduras: Nuestro Arte, Nuestra Vida* (Our Art, Our Life), featuring works by eleven Honduran artists and one local guest artist, on view on the 3rd floor of City Hall; and *Guided and Indivisible*, a group art installation by members of the North Charleston Artist Guild + community members, on view on the ground floor lobby. All exhibits will be on view from May 1 through June 22, 2018. A lecture and tour will be offered on May 3, from noon-2pm of the fiber exhibit and then a reception will be held that same day for all exhibits from 6-8pm.

The *12th Annual African American Fiber Art Exhibition* showcases works in fiber created by African American artists from throughout the US. The 12th installment challenged artists to create a fiber work, such as an art quilt, doll, wearable art piece, etc., that pays tribute to an extraordinary African American woman – past or present, real or fictional, a public figure or an unsung heroine. Curated by award-winning and nationally exhibiting textile artist, Torrea “Cookie” Washington, this unique opportunity offers African American fiber artists a showcase to exhibit their original and innovative designs executed in a variety of traditional and non-traditional fiber techniques.

This year's exhibit is dedicated to the memory of Dr. Marlene O'Bryant-Seabrook (1933-2017), internationally exhibiting fiber artist, educator, lecturer, community advocate, and dear friend. Marlene touched so many lives through her actions and art. She was a loving mother and grandmother, an educator for all of her life, and a “Jane of All Trades.” Marlene was also someone with a large and loving humanitarian spirit. She always had time to speak to and encourage a new quilter and would happily stop to give a suggestion, take a few minutes to share a technique, and always offered words of encouragement. She was beloved and deeply respected by all who knew her and will be missed by so many in many walks of life.



Work by Camela Guevara

Camela Guevara is a contemporary textile artist, painter, and arts educator based in Charleston, SC. In her exhibit, *CREST*, Guevara presents a collection of new gouache paintings and sculptural fiber art pieces exploring aeronautics in relation to class. The artist references her Filipino-American identity and upbringing as a military dependent in imagery evoking airports and airplane seating upholstery. Guevara received a BA in Studio Art with a concentration in sculpture, printmaking, and painting from the College of Charleston in 2010 and attended the Penland School of Crafts for weaving



Work by Hendry Rivera

in 2016. Her work has been exhibited in a number of solo and group exhibitions locally and beyond. She has offered art instruction to children and adults for 7 years through organizations such as Girls Rock Charleston, Space Craft Studios, and Redux Contemporary Art Center, and currently provides residencies in North Charleston schools and community groups as the City of North Charleston's 2017/18 Artist-in-Residence.

*Honduras: Nuestro Arte, Nuestra Vida* (Our Art, Our Life), is an international group exhibition, presented as a cultural exchange to benefit The Honduran National School of Fine Arts (ENBA) located in Tegucigalpa, Honduras. Eleven Honduran artists and one local guest artist will present a collection of new paintings inspired by life in Honduras, pre-Columbian cultural motifs, and the female form. Many of the participating artists are graduates of ENBA. Founded in 1940, the school is the primary public institution of higher learning engaged in the education of students in the visual arts in the Republic of Honduras.

However, with virtually no government support and poor socio-economic conditions within their country, the school is experiencing a decline in enrollment and difficulty in obtaining the resources needed to fulfill their academic mission. ENBA's sculpture department is in particular need of support, lacking the necessary tools, updated equipment, and materials necessary for students to practice their craft and develop their skills.

Through a series of exhibitions, school programs, workshops, lectures, painting demonstrations, and networking/fundraising events in North Charleston, SC, Miami, FL, and Knoxville, TN, the school, its students, and the artists participating in this effort hope to bring attention and support to ENBA and the arts community of Honduras.

*Nuestro Arte, Nuestra Vida* is curated by Helem Halonen, Dennis Cerrato, and Susan Jensen, and made possible with the support of Suomi-Honduras, a Finnish non-political and non-profit friendship society founded in 2016 as a means to promote friendly and bilateral cultural exchanges between the two countries and promote their cultures internationally.

Participating artists include Victor Hugo Cruz, Fernando Venegas, Tulio Reyes, Dennis Cerrato, Orlando Roque, Omar Sánchez, Ruben Salgado, Hendry Rivera, Rigoberto Meléndez, and Wilmer Sandre, with guest artists Patty Dimo and Kris Manning.

*Guided and Indivisible*, is a group art installation by North Charleston Artist Guild + community members. This collaborative installation features two separate but related parts; one created by members of the North Charleston Artist Guild (NCAG) and the other by community participants ranging from professional and amateur artists to students, business professionals, parents, and more.

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Each NCAG member was given a wooden board and challenged to embellish it in their unique artistic style using their preferred medium. The boards were then assembled to create a single, linear design titled *Guided*. In turn, guild members were asked to select participants from the community to design boards. These boards were then assembled to create a single,

circular design titled *Indivisible*. The result is a unique “conversation” between artists and their community, as well as a vibrant, visual illustration of the impact we can have as individuals when we combine our unique personalities and perspectives.

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listing or visit ([NorthCharlestonArtsFest.com](http://NorthCharlestonArtsFest.com)).

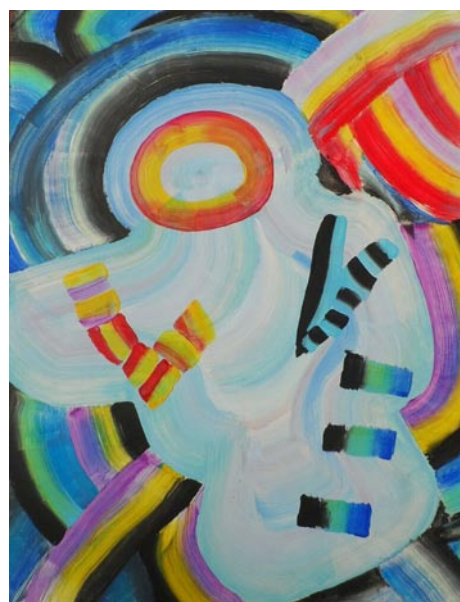
## North Charleston Arts Fest Offers Exhibitions at the Charleston Area Convention Center in North Charleston

The Charleston Area Convention Center will play host to several exhibitions which are part of the North Charleston Arts Fest, including: *16th Annual South Carolina Palmetto Hands Fine Craft Competition & Exhibition*, featuring fine art craft objects from all over SC, on view in Exhibit Hall A, from May 2 - 6, 2018; *Month of Reflection*, featuring works by Hamed Mahmoodi (Festival Design Winner), on view in the North Charleston City Gallery, in lobby hallways of the Convention Center, from May 3 - 30, 2018; *2018 Judged Fine Art Competition & Exhibition*, featuring works by artists from throughout SC, on view in Exhibit Hall A, from May 2-6, 2018; *2018 Judged Photography Competition & Exhibition*, featuring works by artists from throughout SC, on view in Exhibit Hall A, from May 2 - 6, 2018; and the *2018 Tri-County Youth Art Exhibition*, featuring works by students in Charleston, Dorchester, and Berkeley counties, on view in Exhibit Hall B, from May 5 & 6, 2018. A reception and award ceremony will be held for many of the exhibits on Wednesday, May 2, from 6-8:30pm, including awards for the *13th National Outdoor Sculpture Competition & Exhibition*. The Youth Art reception will be held on Sun., May 6, beginning at 4:30pm.

We are pleased to announce the juror for the *16th Annual South Carolina Palmetto Hands Fine Craft Competition & Exhibition*, is Rachel Reese, Associate Curator of Modern and Contemporary Art at Telfair Museums in Savannah, GA. She is a curator, arts writer, and independent publisher. Reese holds an MFA from City College New York and a BFA from the University of Georgia. She has held positions at Atlanta Contemporary, Fleisher/Ollman Gallery in Philadelphia; and Deitch Projects, Petzel Gallery, and Andrew Kreps Gallery in New York.

As an arts writer, Reese was the former editor of *BURNAWAY Magazine* in Atlanta, GA, and her writing and artist interviews appear in *BOMB Daily*, *Temporary Art Review*, *TWELV Magazine*, and *ART PAPERS*, among others. She has taught Critical Issues art courses at PAFA in Philadelphia and Georgia State University in Atlanta.

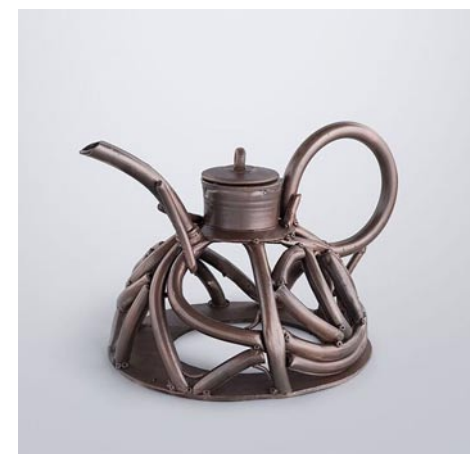
At Telfair Museums since 2015, she has curated exhibitions with Nick Cave, William Wegman, Triple Candie, and a group exhibition titled *Generation with Iraqi-Canadian artists Sawsan AlSaraf, Sundus Abdul Hadi, and Tamara Abdul Hadi*.



Work by Hamed Mahmoodi

The exhibit *Month of Reflection*, features works by Hamed Mahmoodi, winner of the 2018 North Charleston Arts Fest

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Works by Gary Huntoon from Palmetto Hands

Design Competition. He will display his winning design, *Atlantic Sun*, along with a new series of paintings. In addition, the artist received a \$500 purchase award and the piece will become part of the City's Public Art Collection.

Mahmoodi's design was selected from a total of 85 entries by artists from 11 cities across the state. The selection was made by a 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.

The works in this new series focus primarily on the use of text and color to provoke the viewer's internal dialogue and allow the viewer to experience the gallery not just as a space to observe, but also as a space in which to reflect. “A year ago, I entered a competition with a piece representing the idea of gun control titled *Thou Shalt Not*. Since that time, as more school and other mass shootings have occurred, creating work for a show that has a purpose to provide a space for reflection is of great importance to me,” Mahmoodi explains.

Mahmoodi was born in Iran and moved to South Carolina in 1978. He attended Clemson University and received a BS in Design Architecture in 1986. He has been a freelance designer for various architectural firms throughout the Southeast and a full-time artist working in a variety of media since the late 80's. He has had several one-man shows in museums, universities, galleries, and restaurants, and his design works and paintings can be found from Ground Zero Memorial Park in NYC to the South Carolina Governor's Mansion.

Oil, watercolor, acrylic, metals, wax, paper, furniture, and photography are just some of the media that Mahmoodi has used to create his diverse bodies of work. His philosophy for creating art is much like Robert Rauschenberg and Christo, whereas he believes that each idea and work deserves its own individual style and medium. Therefore, his approach varies from representational to abstract, with his most recent paintings primarily executed in an abstract style with an emphasis on color and movement.

The *2018 Judged Fine Art Competition & Exhibition*, features works by artists from throughout SC, who are competing for cash awards in five categories totaling up to \$6,350. Categories include acrylic, oil, drawing, pastel, watercolor, printmaking, and 2-D mixed media. Awards will be at the sole discretion of the judge, Zinnia Willits.

Willits is the Director of Collections and Operations at the Gibbes Museum of Art in Charleston, SC. She received her MA in Public History from the University of South Carolina and has worked at the

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