

IMAGINE

MARCUS HAMILTON

▪ RÁED AL-RAWI

▪ NATACHA SOCHAT



HAMILTON, Marcus with Dennis Shadow



RÁED AL-RAWI, Wild Country



NATACHA SOCHAT, Eye Guy with Self-Portrait as Flag

ON VIEW THROUGH SEPTEMBER 3, 2021

waterworks visual arts center

FREE TO VISIT & SHOP :: 123 E. LIBERTY STREET :: SALISBURY, NC 28144 :: 704.636.1882 :: M-F 10AM-4PM

Carolina Renaissance Festival

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The Carolina Renaissance Festival is located at 16445 Poplar Tent Road, in Huntersville, NC, 28078.

Get your tickets beginning June 1, 2021, at this link (next column)

(<https://www.bigtickets.com/events/nc/carolina-renaissance-festival-2021/>).

For further info visit (<https://www.carolina.renfestinfo.com/>).

Waterworks Visual Arts Center in Salisbury, NC, Offers Works to Stretch Your Imagination

The Waterworks Visual Arts Center in downtown Salisbury, NC, will present an exhibition of fantastical paintings, illustrations, and cartoon drawings by three North Carolina artists, entitled *Imagine*. The exhibition will open June 1 and continue through Sept. 3, 2021. Waterworks invites everyone to the Opening Reception for *Imagine* on Friday, June 4, from 6-7:30pm at the Center, located on East Liberty Street. The event is free to attend, however an RSVP by e-mail to (admin@waterworks.org) is recommended.

A humorous, political cartoonist in Baghdad, Iraq, before moving to the United States, Ráed Al-Rawi has lived in Charlotte, NC, for more than 30 years. He creates surrealist art, and is an art instructor at Carolina Piedmont Community College. Al-Ráwi's works are published in a wide range of magazines, children's educational publications, and have been exhibited both nationally and internationally. Inspired by his Iranian heritage, a deepening sense of history, and his imagination, *Coming to a Farm Near You* is a delightful, fanciful and humorous view of life, which can be enjoyed in the Norvell Gallery.

Lexington, NC-born Marcus Hamilton has been illustrating the nationally-syndicated daily *Dennis the Menace* cartoon panel from his studio in Mint Hill, for the past 27 years. The story of how he went from a Norman Rockwell-inspired illustra-



MARCUS HAMILTON
Cartoonist on Daily DENNIS THE MENACE Panels

Work by Marcus Hamilton

tor to dedicated artist behind the beloved *Dennis the Menace* daily cartoon is the basis of *Two Dream Careers: Illustrator to Cartoonist*, a life's collection of work in the Osborne and Woodson Galleries.

Originally created by cartoonist Hank Ketchum, *Dennis the Menace* just celebrated 70 years in March. While Dennis' precocious antics are both predictable and surprising at the same time, perfect timing was never the five-and-a-half-year-old

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character's claim to fame. For Hamilton, however, perfect timing paired with a lot of nerve was key to attaining this second dream career in a lifetime. Hamilton's first job out of college was with the WBTV art department in Charlotte. Experience gained working locally built his portfolio, which he took to New York City one weekend and made cold-calls to well-known magazine art directors. His efforts paid off with regular freelance assignments for the likes of *The Saturday Evening Post* and *Golf Digest*, until he was able to make illustration his full-time occupation - that is, until digital art production all but replaced the demand for hand-drawn illustrations.

The oldest of five by her working-class Puerto Rican and Cuban parents, Natacha Sochat was born in New York City, and currently resides in Raleigh, NC. Sochat's education is an interesting juxtaposition of medicine and art, leading her to a career in emergency medicine, while also painting full time and raising a family! Sochat says she "views a painting as a part of public health, so she paints for the viewer to have a positive experience even if there are underlying serious elements to the work [she is presenting]." *Eye Am Witness - Paintings for Children*, "deals with the shared experience we have in our culture," says Sochat. Her works will be presented in the Stanback Gallery Hall and YPG Gallery.

Imagine, this summer's must-see visual arts exhibition in Salisbury, is the perfect antidote to the universal challenges of the past 15 months. It is ideal for all ages, and free to see. Waterworks is happy to welcome everyone back inside to experience art



Work by Ráed Al-Rawi

in a safe and peaceful environment.

The Waterworks Visual Arts Center is a 501c3 nonprofit organization accredited by the American Alliance of Museums. A cultural asset in Salisbury for 62 years, Waterworks' mission is to provide diverse opportunities in the visual arts for all people through exhibitions, education, and outreach. Waterworks is funded by individual memberships, corporations and businesses, foundations, the City of Salisbury, and Rowan County. Waterworks receives general support from the North Carolina Arts Council, an agency of the Department of Cultural Resources, and the National Endowment for the Arts, which believes that a great nation deserves great art.

To learn more about the museum, upcoming classes, and events go to (www.waterworks.org). Call 704/636-1882 to arrange a docent-led group tour, plan an office team-building day, or to host a club meeting or social event at Waterworks.



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