

Sumter County Gallery of Art

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as many “new” artists are joining the guild. This influx of work by new artists, coupled with the high quality work of long time guild artists results in a fresh and diverse *Sumter Artists’ Guild Show* – a treat for art lovers in Sumter and surrounding areas.



Work by Mike Fowle from the 2010 exhibit

Each artist can enter up to three pieces. The Guild show is a “judged” show, not a juried show (where only a portion of those works entered are accepted for display), so every piece of artwork entered will be displayed. Prize money has also been increased again for the 2011 show in the hopes of attracting former, as well as new members to join the Guild and enter their art. Increasing prize money is a very effective way to increase the number of the entries and rewards these artists who work

so hard. The *Sumter Artists’ Guild Show* also offers patrons a great opportunity to purchase high-quality art at reasonable prices.

The judge for the 2011 show is Jeffrey Day. Day is an arts writer and curator and has written about the arts for more than 20 years. For most of that time he was the primary arts writer for *The State*, the largest newspaper in South Carolina. In that position he covered museums, galleries and arts centers around the state, as well as some performing arts. He was a National Arts Journalism Fellow at Columbia University and a National Endowment for the Arts Fellow, also at Columbia. His work has been published in newspapers and magazines around the world, including the *Baltimore Sun* and *Ceramics: Art + Perception*. Day founded *Carolina Culture*, devoted to covering the arts in South Carolina, was associate editor of *undefined* magazine in Columbia, and was the publicity coordinator for the University of South Carolina Arts Institute. He recently curated a large-scale show “Install It” in conjunction with *Artista Vista* in Columbia this past April that included 10 installation and performance artists.

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

Pickens County Museum in Pickens, SC, Features Several New Exhibitions

The Pickens County Museum of Art & History in Pickens, SC, is presenting several exhibits including: *Adornment*, a collection of work by members and guests of the CAFEine Contemporary Art Forum; *A History of Tattooing in South Carolina* and *J. Michael Johnson’s INK Beneath the Skin: A Private Collection of Body Art*. All three exhibitions will be on view through Aug. 18, 2011.

Curated by Bettye Hicks, the exhibit *Adornment*, a collection of works from the popular Upcountry forum of artists, intends to interpret the many definitions of “Adornment”. The exhibition includes works by CAFEine members Allen Coleman, Melissa Earley, Darlene Fuhst, JJ Ohlinger, Deborah Pagano, Alexia Timberlake Boyd along with invited artists Todd McDonald from Clemson, SC, and hailing from Arlington, TX, Leighton McWilliams and Susan Sterling.

The CAFEine (Contemporary Art Forum) is a group of like-minded professional artists dedicated to actively engaging each other and the community in ongoing exploration and development of contemporary artistic themes and ideas. Their mission includes the role as a catalyst for the positive growth of contemporary visual arts by creating mutually beneficial opportunities for education and interaction between artists, businesses and the community at large.

The curator for the exhibition, Bettye Hicks, was the owner-director of Handley-Hicks Gallery in Fort Worth, TX, from 1993 until 2005, when she and her husband retired to Greenville, SC. Hicks remains very active in the regional arts community and continues her explorations into contemporary art as an independent curator and patron of the arts.

About the exhibition, Hicks said, “In this show, the artists have focused on the concept of adornment to supplement the museum’s concurrent exhibit on the history of tattooing. Sometimes even simple things become complex when seen through the artist’s eye. Hear the word, tattoo, and instantly an image forms. Leave aside the fact that the dictionary has several definitions of the word, only the last of which has to do with skin art, and the average person will think of ink on skin.”

Hicks continued, “While tattooing is, after all, a means of adorning the body, it is only one means. We have clothes, jewelry, makeup, hair styles and on and on. We adorn our cars, our homes, our workplaces, practically everything. Even entire cities adorn themselves to create an image. The artists in this show have considered these and many other facets of adornment and invite you to ponder
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with them the role that adornment plays and should play in our world. This art, like all the best art, asks questions that only the viewer can answer.”

A History of Tattooing in South Carolina exhibit is representative of the very diverse cultural reactions to this art form. Tattooing has been practiced by the Native Americans in this area since prehistoric times. Within South Carolina the reputation of tattoos has evolved from sinister convict symbols and the bazaar circus performer to the pride of ones military service. Today tattoos are more socially acceptable, South Carolinians see tattoos worn by everyone from celebrities to suburban moms. As tattoos have become more visible in the mainstream population, the works of the tattoo artists have become more detailed and elaborate. Those modern wearers of tattoos refer to their tattoos as their “deeply personal art collection”. That sentiment was the inspiration for this exhibit.



Work by Addam Duncan

A History of Tattooing in South Carolina exhibit is set in a timeline. It starts with an example of an early Native American style tattooing bundle to show the types of tools used. Indigenous people wore tattoo designs primarily composed of circles and lines. Sailors and world travelers brought tattoos with human and animal images, introducing them to this area.

This exhibition will tell the South Carolina history of tattooing with materials from the life and times of two esteemed South Carolina tattoo artists, Paul Rogers and

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William Grimshaw. Courtesy of the Tattoo Archive in Winston Salem, NC, a Paul Rogers collection of photographs, original flash (multiple designs to a sheet of tattooists’ drawings) and memorabilia will be on display. Other items come courtesy of Jeremy Joachim of Hot Stuff Tattoo in Asheville, NC, whose collection of original William Grimshaw flash will also be on exhibit.

The works of contemporary South Carolina tattoo artists; those who will carry this art form into the future, will illustrate how much tattooing has evolved. Today, tattoo artists do not create pages and pages of flash, instead they create at most only a line drawing for their client. Some even skip the line drawing and go directly to what they consider the “real” canvas – the human skin. To show the uniqueness of their particular style on occasion the modern tattoo artists create single designs in pastels, charcoal, color pencil, acrylic or watercolor and these are what will be displayed. The works of eighteen tattoo artists representing nine tattoo studios will be an exciting part of this exhibit.

The *A History of Tattooing in South Carolina*, exhibition was curated by Helen Hockwalt of the Pickens County Museum of Art and History and Consulting Curator C.W. Eldridge of the Tattoo Archive of Winston Salem, NC.

J. Michael Johnson’s experiences have produced a remarkable collection of photographic work that documents bikers and biker ladies riding for the joy of the day on Daytona’s Main Street. Along with the serious side of these bikers and their deep patriotism, as they ride as escort to fallen soldiers on their return home or ride to commemorate the Vietnam era.

Johnson says, “I like the complexity of one art form like tattooing being the inspiration for another art form like photography. My photographs show an individual’s personal freedom statement to use their bodies as an art canvas. For me, it is an opportunity for all viewing my work to join me in my photojournalist journey into the motorcycle lifestyle”.

Johnson was born and raised in East Tennessee and has lived in the southeast United

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