

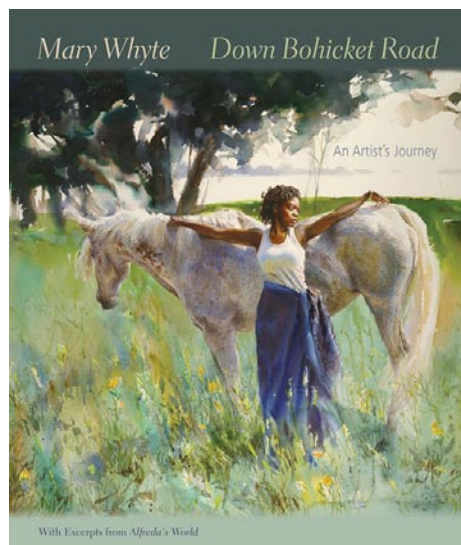
# Mesh Gallery in Morganton, NC

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has created impressionistic works in acrylic as well as works using traditional printmaking techniques.

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## If You're Looking for Summer Reading, Try Some of These Books



*Down Bohicket Road: An Artist's Journey* by Mary Whyte

With Excerpts from *Alfreda's World* and a Foreword by Angela D. Mack

A collection of poignant recollections celebrating the lives, friendships, and faith of Gullah women from Johns Island

9" x 10 3/4", 152 pages, 80 color and 10 b&w illustrations

ISBN 978-1-61117-100-6

hardcover, \$49.95

ISBN 978-1-61117-101-3

paperback, \$29.95

eISBN 978-1-61117-185-3

Artist Mary Whyte's *Down Bohicket Road* includes two decades worth of watercolors - depicting a select group of Gullah women of Johns Island, SC, and their stories. In 1991, following Whyte's recovery from a year of treatment for cancer, she and her husband moved to a small sea island near Charleston, SC, seeking a new home where they could reinvent themselves far removed from the hectic pace of Philadelphia. In this remote corner of the South, Whyte first met Alfreda LaBoard and her devoted group of seniors who gathered weekly to make quilts, study the Bible, and socialize in a small rural church on Bohicket Road. Descendants of lowcountry slaves, these longtime residents of the island influenced Whyte's life and art in astonishing and unexpected ways.

Whyte soon began a series of watercolors depicting these women, honoring their lives and their dedication to family and faith. As her friendships with these women grew, their matriarch Alfreda LaBoard claimed Whyte as her "vanilla sister." *Alfreda's World*, a collection of Whyte's detailed watercolors and poignant recollections of the women at the senior center, was published a decade later, drawing attention and support from the community to the small church on Bohicket Road.



*Down Bohicket Road* continues the story of Whyte's relationship with these extraordinary women, following the passing of Alfreda, against the backdrop of the ongoing commercial development of Johns Island. For Whyte, the heart of this community remains in the simple homes clustered along Bohicket Road, in the island's winding tidal creeks, and in a small church where eighteen hardscrabble women gather in

fellowship each week. In her book *Whyte* illustrates that both watercolors and friendships can be the unpredictable results of an abundance of blessings. As shared through touching words and vibrant paintings, *Down Bohicket Road* celebrates a unique way of coastal life and a remarkable friendship that transcends all barriers - even death itself - in praise of the unifying power of art.

All royalties from the sale of this book benefit the Hebron Saint Francis Senior Center on Johns Island.

Watercolor artist Mary Whyte is a teacher and author whose figurative paintings have earned national recognition. Her portraits are included in numerous corporate, private, and university collections, as well as in the permanent collections of South Carolina's Greenville County Museum of Art and the Gibbes Museum of Art in Charleston. Whyte's work has been featured in *International Artist*, *Artist*, *American Artist*, *Watercolor*, *American Art Collector*, *L'Art de l'Aquarelle*, and numerous other publications. Whyte is the author of *Working South: Paintings and Sketches* by Mary Whyte, *Painting Portraits and Figures in Watercolor*, *An Artist's Way of Seeing*, and *Watercolor for the Serious Beginner*. Her work can be found at Coleman Fine Art in Charleston.

"The extraordinary work of Mary Whyte, who could easily be named the first visual poet laureate of South Carolina, is astonishing on the very face of it. When I grew up in Beaufort, SC, Ruby Ellis Hryharow, a friend's mother, was known as the best watercolorist in town. The artists of those early times formed a club of their own, but Mary Whyte's work is in a league of her own. She is painting a South Carolina I thought only a poet or novelist could create. Mary Whyte has made South Carolina a kingdom of her own, and my God, this woman can write and paint," said Pat Conroy.



*Seeking: Poetry and Prose Inspired by the Art of Jonathan Green*, edited by Kwame Dawes and Marjory Wentworth

A collection of poetry and prose prompted by a renowned Gullah artist's paintings 9 1/4" x 9 1/4", 160 pages, 16 color illustrations

ISBN 978-1-61117-091-7

cloth, \$39.95

ISBN 978-1-61117-092-4

paper, \$19.95

eISBN 978-1-61117-186-0

The best art has the uncanny ability not only to give pleasure to those who view it but also to inspire a desire to respond. The best artists are a force for all art, and renowned Gullah artist Jonathan Green's work has inspired a wide range of responses from artists around the world. In *Seeking* we see how Green's art prompts works of poetry, prose, and memoir. *Seeking's* evocative power lies in the intimacy of this dialogue, which speaks to the shared sense of landscape and culture that Green stirs in these writers, ranging from close friends and fellow artists from his home state of South Carolina to nationally established

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authors who regard Green's work as an important cultural institution.



The contributors have allowed themselves to be challenged by Green's brilliance, his honesty, his intense spirituality, and his deep love of people. Inspired by a personal quest toward induction into a spiritual community, Green's painting *Seeking* is rich with history, myth, and truth. The writers in this collection have found fertile ground for their own responses to Green's work, and the result is an engaging and enlivening chorus of celebratory voices.

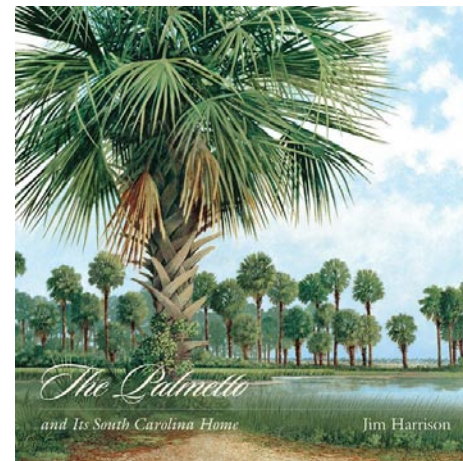
Edited by Kwame Dawes and Marjory Wentworth, this collection features eleven color paintings by Green in addition to a preface on the history of the project, information on the painting *Seeking*, and an artist's statement.

A prolific author and editor in myriad genres, Kwame Dawes has written sixteen collections of poetry, most recently *Back of Mount Peace and Wheels*. Dawes won an Emmy Award for his poetry and reporting on HIV/AIDS in his native Jamaica, and he is also the recipient of a Pushcart Prize, the Forward Poetry Prize, and the Hollis Summers Poetry Prize. Dawes is the Glenna

Luschei Editor of *Prairie Schooner* and a Chancellor's Professor of English at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

South Carolina Poet Laureate Marjory Wentworth's poems have been nominated for the Pushcart Prize four times. Her collections of poetry include *Noticing Eden*, *Despite Gravity*, *What the Water Gives Me*, and *The Endless Repetition of an Ordinary Miracle*. Wentworth is also the author of an award-winning children's book, *Shackles*, and of *Taking a Stand: The Evolution of Human Rights*, with Juan E. Méndez.

Contributing poets include: Paul Allen, Marcus Amaker, Andrew Calhoun, Carol Ann Davis, Ellie Davis, Kwame Dawes, Wes DeMott, Ray Dominguez, Trish Dunaway, Linda Annas Ferguson, Nikky Finney, Damon Fordham, Richard Garcia, Alvin J. Green, Barbara G. S. Hagerty, Mary Hutchins Harris, Ellen E. Hyatt, Syieve Locklair, Ed Madden, Ray McManus, Susan Meyers, Delores B. Nevils, Carol Maxzine Peels, Bryan Penberthy, Charlene Spearen, Denny Stiles, Marjory Wentworth, Stephen White, and Katherine Williams.



*The Palmetto and Its South Carolina Home* by Jim Harrison

A celebration of paintings and images exploring the beauty and strength of South Carolina's state tree.

9 1/4" x 9 1/4", 96 pages, 56 color and 1 b&w illustration

ISBN 978-1-61117-049-8 cl, \$29.95

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