

The Public Works Art Center in Summerville, SC, Reopens With Two New Exhibitions

The Public Works Art Center in Summerville, SC, has reopened with two new exhibits including: *Alone Together*, featuring works by the artists who have studios at the Center, on view in the Center's West Gallery, through July 31, 2020, and *June*, featuring photographs by Stephanie Justice Shank, which is a MFA Thesis Exhibition from the Savannah College of Art and Design, in Savannah, GA, on view in the Center's East Gallery, through July 31, 2020.

The works of art showcased in *Alone Together* are the work of our treasured studio artists, who rent space, create, interact with the public, and are inspired at Public Works Art Center. We encourage you to visit their studios after viewing the exhibition; there is so much more to see in these studios. It should be noted that several artists have studios downstairs, which is currently undergoing final renovations, but could be open when you visit.

This exhibit includes works by: Karen Burnish, Judy Cirelli, Will Cotton, Andrea Davis, Daniel Diehl, Dave Dixon, Stephanie Drawdy, Sarah Camille Soltani Icely, Carla Johannesmeyer, Susan Lowcavage, Alex Radin, Gayle Sauer, Pam Shanley, Angela Turner, Joy Varley, Ann Watkins, Barry Watkins, and Bernadette Wladyka.



Work by Will Cotton

with craft, creativity, and gratifying daily ritual.”



Work by Stephanie Justice Shank

The Center's current hours are: Thur. & Fri., from 10am-2pm and Sat., 10am-6pm, but they might expand those hours sometime in July, so check with them for changes.

The Public Works Art Center, located at 135 W. Richardson Avenue, is a community arts hub located in the heart of downtown Summerville, SC. With exhibition galleries, 15 rentable studio spaces for artists, classes and camps for all ages, birthday party rentals, event rentals, and special events galore, there has never been a better place for the community to come together and inspire one another while sharing their unique perspectives.

Editors Note: You can read a blog post and see more images about a trip I made to the Center at *Carolina Arts Unleashed* at (<https://carolinaarts.com/wordpress/?p=3494>).

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings, call the Center at 803/860-0742, e-mail to (info@publicworksartcenter.org), or visit (<http://publicworksartcenter.org/>).



Work by Carla Johannesmeyer

Stephanie Justice Shank offers the following statement about her exhibition *June*, “I have always been fascinated by what people cherish throughout their lives, and the tangible remnants left behind when one leaves a place or passes away. These tangible remnants of life - clothing, photographs, books - can be pieced together to tell a story of human connection and belonging and to create a collective, surrogate portrait that might be more moving than a traditional photograph of a person's visage. The photographic body of work, *June*, creates an indirect portrait of my grandmother's domestic life; rich

Editorial Commentary

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we kept publishing so the visual art community in the Carolinas wouldn't fall into that hole of dark matter known as - out of sight, out of mind. We need to know what you have for those to see who are venturing out and those who have learned that they can buy art from a gallery right from their own living room. They want to know who and what is still out there. And you need to let them know it's you. So you need to tell us, so we can let our readers know what you are doing and what you have to offer.

The deadline for our August 2020 issue is July 24 at 5pm. If you miss that, you better be one of our outstanding supporters to get in - like Jello - there's always room for them.

Another Year Passes By

It was July 1987 when we started an arts publication covering the arts in Charleston, SC. We waited till after the Spoleto Festival USA finished that year as we thought we would get lost in all that hoop-la. That was back when Spoleto included visual arts, now it means nothing to us as we only cover the visual arts. The Spoleto Festival was cancelled this year due to the Pandemic, but we kept on Page 8 - Carolina Arts, July 2020

publishing, as the visual arts keep on going while the performing arts seems to be a seasonal thing in the Carolinas. Of course a lot of the arts are shut down now anyway.

This pandemic is a super challenge as it affects everyone and everything at the same time like rising gas prices and recessions do. But mostly we've only had to deal with regional problems like: hurricanes that strike different parts of the Carolina coast, rock slides that shut down major highways in the mountain areas, floods that cause disasters from the mountain to the sea, super heat waves, and sometimes the occasional snow storm.

I remember delivering papers in tropical storms or on days when I would leave the house in shorts from the Lowcountry's warmth and end up in snow flurries in the mountains of Western North Carolina.

But, the visual arts keep going on - artists keep creating no matter what happens and usually no matter what happens someone wants a new work of art to make them feel better. This is why we keep publishing to let you know who is making art and where you can go see it this month. We've passed the hump of this year, so I guess we'll finish this year up and then start all over again, hopefully stronger.

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