

Coker College in Hartsville, SC

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faculty and students as they study and create art through which they explore the full spectrum of human experience. The college considers such pursuits central to the spirit of inquiry and thoughtful discussion, which are at the heart of a liberal arts education.

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings, call Gallery Director and Assistant Professor of Art Larry Merriman at 843/383-8156 or visit (<http://cokerartgallery.wix.com/ccgb>).

Red Piano Too Art Gallery on St. Helena Island, SC, Features Works by Shirley "SA" Hunter

Red Piano Too Art Gallery on St. Helena Island, SC, will present the exhibit, *Where Art is Joy*, featuring works by Shirley "SA" Hunter, as the featured artist during its annual Summer show, on view from Aug. 4 through Sept. 8, 2012. A reception will be held on Aug. 4, from 1-5pm.

This year's featured artist, Shirley "SA" Hunter has been a gallery "regular" for many years. Hunter, a Florida native relocated to the Georgia Sea Islands at age nine. Her family and The Gullah People would be instrumental as a frame of reference for the type of art she would eventually paint. She classifies her work as, "family life that warms the heart" and "folk art with a twist".

Hunter's husband, who died almost five years ago, was her major fan and inspiration. During her husband's illness and his subsequent death, she lost her interest and inspiration for art. She did not paint for five or six years. Motivation and encouragement from her large support system eventually moved her to return to her passion. She re-emerged to create paintings that are bursting with life and color. These new paintings are happy and delightful celebrations.

Hunter is a self taught artist, who began painting in 1995 at age 50. She says she "at first wanted to paint landscapes". Her work quickly evolved to painting her family memories and the Gullah lifestyle. "I just kept drawing people", she says.

The renowned artist Bill Hendrix, once told her, "Paint what you know and you will grow" and grow she did. Working in oil paint she has created a wonderful, colorful, and animated collection. Her style draws the viewer into the lives of ordinary people as they go about the activities of daily life. The viewer is drawn in to the point of forming a personal relationship with the subject - getting caught up in the memory and story that Hunter so artfully depicts.

Gallery owner Mary Inabinett Mack

says, "It was a delightful day at The Red Piano Too Art Gallery when we learned that Shirley "S.A." Hunter was sufficiently motivated to return to creating her "Art that is Joy".

A large number of "gallery regulars" will join Hunter at the Annual Summer Show. Many of the artists are well known to the lowcountry art collector. They include Allen Fireall, James Denmark, Charles Desaussure, Diane Britton-Dunham, Cassandra Gillens, Irene Tison, Helen Stewart, Della Wells, Johnnie Griner, Jeffery Day, James Connor, W.J. Wilkie, Victoria Smalls, Reggie Frazier, Mary Hanby, Johnnie Simmons, Julia Neil, Demetric Denmark, Sonnell Thompson, Cassandra White, Dan Ciecelski, Toni Chireco, Tanya Craig, Bobbi Watson, Jo Watson, and quilter/musician/painter/storyteller Dorothy Montgomery to name some.

Former gallery partner, Elayne Scott has returned to work at the gallery. She says, "The Summer Show provides an opportunity for the many artists exhibiting in the gallery to come together, meet, and exchange ideas."

"Many of the participating artists first exhibited their work in The Red Piano Too art Gallery and went on to be nationally and internationally recognized," Mack added.

At age 75, Mack keeps the gallery open because art has been her passion for over fifty years and because the gallery provides an opportunity for new artists to exhibit their work. The gallery is a showcase for established as well as new artists. The Red Piano Too Art Gallery began twenty years ago and has become a Lowcountry institution, building deeply rooted relationships with the artists, the local community and with visitors from around the world.

For further information check our SC Commercial Gallery listings, call the gallery at 843/838-2241 or visit (www.redpianotoo.com).

Southeastern Center for Contemporary Art in Winston-Salem, NC, Features Works by Curtis Mann

The Southeastern Center for Contemporary Art (SECCA) in Winston-Salem, NC, is presenting the photography exhibit, *Curtis Mann: Modifications*, on view through Sept. 16, 2012.

Mann's photography transports you to memories of news reports from international war zones. Yet, when you study the images, you find a new mystifying narrative opens up.

For the series *Modifications*, Mann appropriates and refashions anonymous snapshots that were taken in countries like Israel/Palestine, Lebanon, and Iraq - places where violent conflicts are deeply rooted and often seem impossible to resolve.

After collecting photographs from photo-sharing Web sites, estate sales, and online auctions, Mann enlarges them and paints certain parts of the photographs with a clear varnish. When he submerges these prints in a bleach solution, the varnished areas resist the bleach while the untreated portions of the image are washed away. As a result, large sections of

each photograph are replaced by a bright white void, while at its edges gradients of red and yellow bear faint traces of the original image.

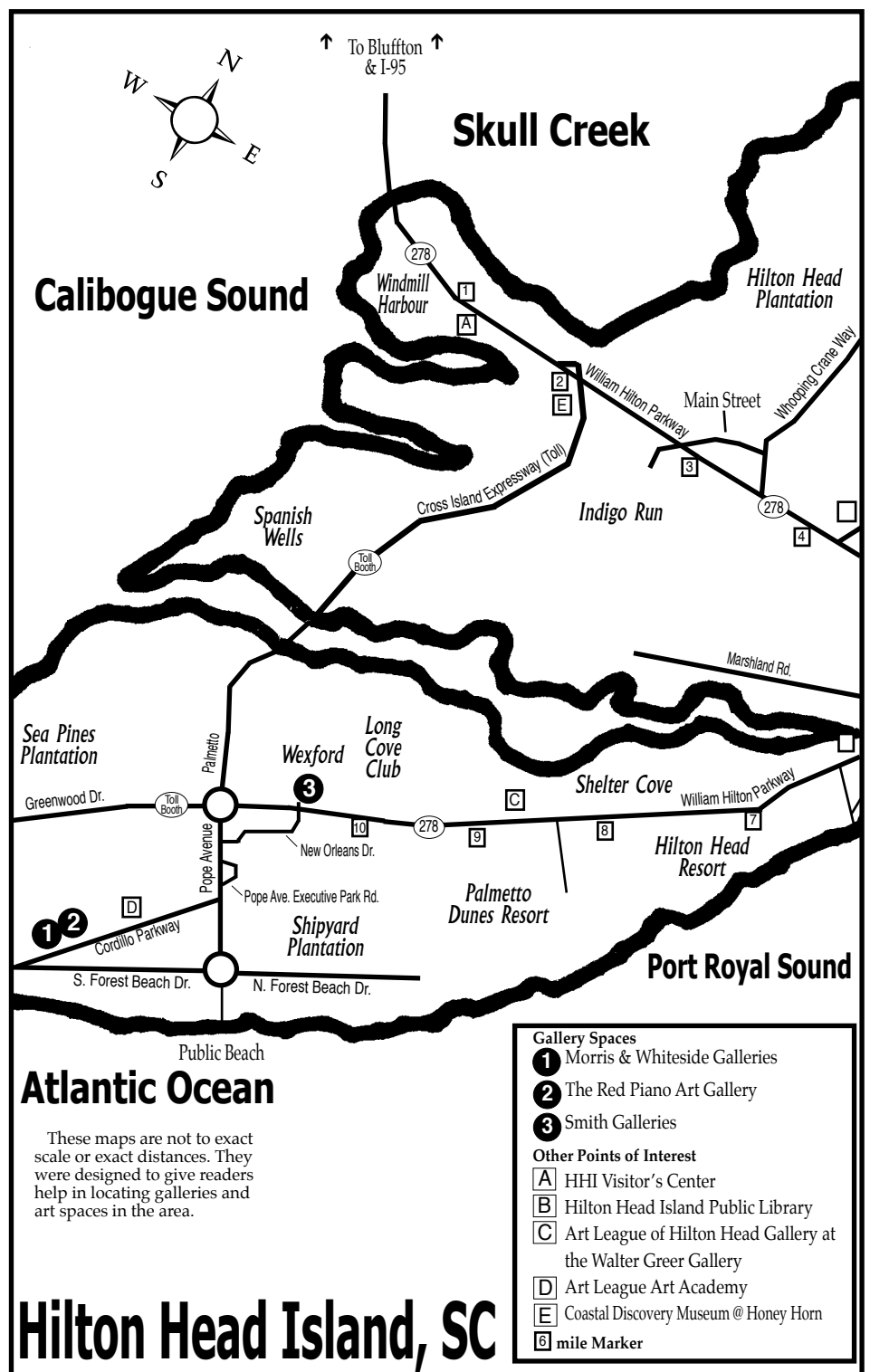
The varnished areas depict clusters of people, fragments of buildings, or solitary trees, fully visible but isolated in these otherworldly landscapes. These modifications accentuate particular details in the original photographs, hinting at their potential significance.

As Mann submits the found images to substantial physical alterations, he effectively filters them through a new visual vocabulary, opening them up for himself - and for viewers - to engage in a new search for meaning.

Mann says, "I question what I've learned about these places, and I realize I usually have to erase most of that knowledge and begin again - more open-minded, more curious, and more hopeful than before."

Steven Matijcio, curator of contemporary art for SECCA, says, "The ensuing

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Curtis Mann, *pointing woman*, 2010. Image courtesy of the artist and Kavi Gupta Gallery, Chicago / Berlin.

images linger like ghosts - haunting in both memory and suggestion."

One of Mann's hopes for this series on view at SECCA is to invite new considerations of misunderstood and maligned people and places, but just as importantly, he guides his audience towards a tangible

engagement with the photographic image itself.

The Southeastern Center for Contemporary Art (SECCA) in Winston-Salem is an affiliate of the North Carolina Museum of Art, a division of the NC Department of Cultural Resources. SECCA is also a funded partner of The Arts Council of Winston-Salem and Forsyth County. Additional funding is provided by the James G. Hanes Memorial Fund.

The NC Department of Cultural Resources annually serves more than 19 million people through its 27 historic sites, seven history museums, two art museums, the nation's first state supported symphony orchestra, the State Library, the NC Arts Council and the State Archives. The NC Department of Cultural Resources serves as a champion for North Carolina's creative industry, which employs nearly 300,000 North Carolinians and contributes more than \$41 billion to the state's economy. To learn more visit (www.nc-culture.com).

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, call the Center at 336/725-1904 or visit (www.secca.org).

Artworks Gallery in Winston-Salem, NC, Features Works by Nancy Hayes and Nanu Lindgren LaRosee

Artworks Gallery in Winston-Salem, NC, is presenting a two-person exhibit of acrylic paintings by Nancy Hayes and Nanu LaRosee, on view through Sept. 1, 2012. A reception will be held on Aug. 3, from 7-10pm, during the Winston-Salem Gallery Hop.

Nancy Hayes continues a theme developed over several years of paying homage to Earth's creatures from the back porch to the back woods and beyond. Within the artist's vision is a joyful and personal engagement with the wild subjects. We are asked to consider how we can revel in the beauty of our world without crossing the line to

overuse and abuse of its limited resources.

Nanu Lindgren LaRosee has been making quick sketches during her lunch break outside the library where she works, concentrating on creating strong compositions that describe the space even while flattening it out. She used the drawings as a basis for these larger paintings, using her memory and imagination for color, ending up freely interpreting the objects in her drawings in order to make the paintings have an internal logic.

LaRosee was in the High School visual

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