

USC Upstate in Spartanburg, SC, Features Works by Sunny Spillane

USC Upstate in Spartanburg, SC, will present *Critical Cartographies: Visualizing the Landscape of Public Education in the Carolinas*, featuring works by Assistant Professor of Art Education at UNC-Greensboro, Sunny Spillane, on view in The Curtis R. Harley Gallery, from Oct. 2 - 30, 2015. A reception will be held on Oct. 8, beginning at 4:30pm.

This exhibition presents a new body of research-based artworks that use studio methods (especially painting) to map different aspects of the socioeconomic, cultural, political, and geographic landscape of public education in the Carolinas. This work uses data from publicly accessible sources such as the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), regional school districts. and census data, to literally paint pictures of different factors (and relationships between them) that support, restrict, or otherwise impact public education in the Carolinas and in selected cities in the Southeastern United States. This project is a form of public, community-engaged scholarship that seeks to understand the contexts and issues impacting public education - and particularly arts education – regionally, to make connections with community stakeholders, and to instigate public dialogue.

"Until recently my working process has been fairly traditional, as a painter working alone to realize my artistic vision(s)," says Spillane. "That began to change during a 2012 artist residency at 621 Gallery, when I started exploring collaborative approaches to artmaking, which culminated in a participatory performance/installation. This work grew out of my dissertation study, which was grounded in a participatory paradigm, and sought to create a reciprocal relation-



Work by Sunny Spillane

ship between artist and viewers, privileging viewers' agency as co-creators of the work."

Spillane holds a PhD in Art Education, Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL, a MFA in Painting from Hunter College in New York City. She is the recipient of several fellowships from Florida State University and most recently awarded a New Faculty Research Grant from The University of North Carolina at Greensboro where she teaches Art Education.

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings, call 864/503-5848, e-mail to Jane Allen Nodine at (jnodine@uscupstate.edu) or Mark Flowers at (mflowers@uscupstate.edu).

The deadline each month to submit articles, photos and ads is the 24th of the month prior to the next issue. This will be Oct. 24th for the November 2015 issue and Nov. 24 for the December 2015 issue. After that, it's too late unless your exhibit runs into the next month. But don't wait for the last minute - send your info now.

And where do you send that info? E-mail to (info@carolinaarts.com).

