

Hickory Museum of Art

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rated Foundation, United Arts Council of Catawba County with funding from the State of North Carolina and the National Endowment for the Arts, Kenneth K. Millholland and Suzanne G. Millholland Endowment Fund - a component fund of the North Carolina Community Foundation, David Millholland, Lynn and Leroy Lail, and annual sponsor Alex Lee. Exhibition artwork comes from the collection of Wesley and Missy Cochran. Exhibition organized by Wesley and Missy Cochran.

The Hickory Museum of Art was founded in 1944 to collect, care for, and

exhibit American art. Today, more than 75 years later, the Museum has evolved into an arts center featuring an extensive permanent collection of art objects across all mediums as well as offering a variety of education classes for all ages. Hickory Museum of Art is located on the SALT Block, on 3rd Avenue NE, Hickory. Admission is free.

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, visit (www.HickoryArt.org) or call the Museum at 828/327-8576, ext 201.

Columbia Museum of Art in Columbia, SC, Features Works by M.C. Escher

The Columbia Museum of Art in Columbia, SC, will presents its featured spring exhibition, *The Imaginative Worlds of M.C. Escher*, on view Feb. 6 through June 6, 2021, with a free public preview day on Feb. 5, from 10am-8pm. Celebrate the opening of *The Imaginative Worlds of M.C. Escher* with extended hours, free admission and a lively day of art. Capacities are limited with timed reservations, so book your spot in advance. Free.

A consummate boundary-pusher and arguably the most famous printmaker of the modern era, Maurits Cornelius Escher (1898-1972) used his art to challenge perspectives, deftly exploring the relationships between art and science, reality and illusion, chaos and order, and logic and absurdity.

"Escher has to be one of the most recognized artists of the 20th century. His mind-bending, reality-warping prints include subjects like infinite staircases, tessellating birds changing into fish and back again, and two hands drawing each other," says CMA Executive Director Della Watkins. "His work is known and beloved today by everyone from kids to designers to scientists, and we're looking forward to sharing it with all our visitors."

Escher's images pervade popular culture and fascinate audiences with their imaginative design, consummate draftsmanship, and dreamy visions. Initially inspired by nature, Escher's work later became submerged in what he referred to as "mental imagery," a host of subjects influenced by Moorish architecture, mathematical equations, alchemy, and the concept of metamorphosis.

This is the largest private traveling Escher exhibition in the world and includes

woodcuts, lithographs, drawings, and all eight mezzotints from his career. Visitors will see his best-known prints as well as lesser-known works, spanning his entire career from his earliest print to his final masterpiece, and also get a glimpse into the artist's process with a woodblock study and lithographic stone.

The Imaginative Worlds of M.C. Escher is presented through the support of our generous sponsors and grantors. Presenting sponsor: Dominion Energy. Contributing sponsors: Jeffrey C. Caswell, Caroline and Kester Freeman, and Susan Thorpe and John Baynes, and Mrs. Myrtle T. Robinson. Friend sponsors: Mary and John Kessler, Sam and Sandy McGuckin, Ann Marie Stieritz and John Carran, and The Weinkle Family. Patron sponsors: Barbara Boyd, Julie and Mike Brennan, Mr. and Mrs. David E. Dukes, Good Neighbour Foundation, Mr. William C. Schmidt Jr., Brenda and Rick Wheeler, and Dr. and Mrs. Peter A. Zvejnieks. Grantors: City of Columbia, Richland County Government, South Carolina Arts Commission, and South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation & Tourism.

Works in this exhibition came from the Collection of Paul and Anna Belinda Firos, Athens, Greece.

The CMA has implemented cleaning and physical distancing practices to safeguard staff and visitors. Face coverings are required for everyone over the age of two. Learn more about what to expect during your visit here.

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings or visit (columbiamuseum.org).

701 Center for Contemporary Art in Columbia, SC, Features Works by Lori Larusso

701 Center for Contemporary Art in Columbia, SC, is presenting *Lori Larusso Feast & Foe*, on view through Feb. 28, 2021.

Much of the work in the exhibition was developed during a residency at 701cca. Larusso deals with food, domestic labor and giving care. She explores how food, its preparation and presentation and its role in caregiving differs between socio-economic groups and changes over time. Her meticulous process, involving skill and labor beyond precise painting, echoes domestic labor. Her colorful shaped paintings of food and food-related items are seductive, reductive and surprising, inviting viewers to reexamine seemingly common objects and ideas.

For nearly 20 years, solo and group exhibitions of Larusso's work have graced local, national, and international venues. Her consistently evolving work has earned her multiple awards from the Great Meadows Foundation, SouthArts, Kentucky Arts Council, Kentucky Foundation for Women, and most recently, the Community Foundation of Louisville's 2020 Fischer Prize for Visual Arts. Additionally, Larusso has been



Work by Lori Larusso

awarded numerous residency fellowships from competitive International programs including Bemis Center for Contemporary Art, McColl Center for Art + Innovation, MacDowell, and chaNorth.

Larusso earned her MFA from the Maryland Institute College of Art's (MICA) graduate interdisciplinary program, the Mount Royal School of Art and a BFA from the University of Cincinnati's College of Design, Architecture, Art, and Planning (DAAP). Lori's work is represented by Skidmore Contemporary in Santa Monica,

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California and Mulberry & Lime in Lexington, KY. She currently lives and works in Louisville, KY.

701 CCA's mission is to promote understanding, appreciation and enjoyment of contemporary art. With a gallery and live-work space for an Artist-in-Residence program, the Center provides artists with resources to develop, create and exhibit visual arts in conjunction with performing, literary and media arts. 701 CCA also offers year-round cultural programming, including contemporary art exhibitions and events that are free and open to the public.

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings, contact Michaela Pilar Brown, Interim Executive Director, at



Work by Lori Larusso

803/319-9949 or visit (<https://www.701cca.org/>).

University of South Carolina in Columbia, SC, Features Works by Amanda Smith

The University of South Carolina in Columbia, SC, is presenting *Restless Sleepers*, featuring works by Amanda Smith, on view in the McMaster Gallery, through Feb. 18, 2021.

Smith is an award-winning interdisciplinary artist based in Missouri, where she is an Assistant Professor of Painting and Drawing at Missouri State University.

Smith's exhibition at McMaster Gallery, *Restless Sleepers*, features hybrid quilt paintings and cushion-stuffed works which challenge our common associations of quilts as sources of comfort and conduits to rest. Her works tap into our collective unease about transitioning environmental, political, and social landscapes. Smith adapts the forms of functional items for resting or sleeping outdoors - such as sleeping bags and hammocks - into varying shapes or substrates of wall works. These wall installations simultaneously embody aspects of comfort and uncertainty, and reference camouflage or protective cover while also being visually overt and maximalist.

Smith is a Visiting Artist at the Univer-



Work by Amanda Smith

sity of South Carolina for the 2020-2021 academic year.

Smith earned her MFA from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, and her BA from the University of Puget Sound in Tacoma, WA. She has exhibited and lectured nationally and internationally, including exhibitions at SPRING/BREAK Art Show in NY, the Rochester Art Center in MN, the Leedy-Voukos Art Center in Kansas

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