



# Arts International

A celebration of Art and Culture

April 9, 2011 ❖ 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
[www.fmarion.edu/news/artsinternational](http://www.fmarion.edu/news/artsinternational)



## Arts International Activities

Kassab Recital Hall	Chapman Auditorium	Blues Stage	Theatre	International Stage
Palmetto State Boychoir	USC Dance Company Performances	Marcelo Ponce and Viviana Dallas	Three Tales from Japan	Presentation of Flags
Northside Young Singers		Drink Small	Senora Tortuga	Foothills Band (German Oompah Band)
Cobb Festival Singers	On the Grounds	Wanda Johnson and Shrimp City Slim	Performed by the FMU Theatre Department.	Maturiza (Japanese drummers)
Brass 5x5		Ike and Val Woods		Buen Ache (Afro-Latino dancers)
Graham Wright Baritone		Mingo Big Bear Claw	Beach Music	Chief Kamu's Fire and Hula Show
	Accordion Bob	Rick Strickland Band		

### International Foods

• Cajun • Carribean • Chinese • Filipino • German Beer Garden • German Pastry • Greek • Indian • Italian Ice • Japanese • Mexican • South African • Thai

### Art Show

Youth Art Activities

### Cultural Displays

Corporate World  
Global Village  
International Bazaar

## FRANCIS MARION UNIVERSITY Florence, SC

# Green Hill Center for NC Art in Greensboro, NC, Features Works by André Leon Gray and Shaun Richards

Green Hill Center for NC Art in Greensboro, NC, will present the exhibit, *André Leon Gray & Shaun Richards*, on view from Apr. 8 through May 29, 2011. An opening reception will be held on Apr. 8, from 5:30-7:30pm.

This exhibition presents an in-depth view of the work of two Triangle artists who both incorporate mixed media in their respective mediums of sculpture and painting. Cultural icons and the influence of advertising, role models and education on identity are investigated by both artists.



Work by Andre Leon Gray

André Leon Gray participated in *Sculpture Retold* at Green Hill Center in 2004 and in the 2009 *Gallery Nomads* exhibition. His sculptural relief *Black Magic (It's Fantastic)* is on view at the new West Building of the North Carolina Museum of Art. Shaun Richards work was first exhibited at Green Hill in 2008 at the *Winter Show* and in *Facing South: Portraits by North Carolina Artists*. His large scale works on panel and paintings on mylar will be presented in the Triad for the first time. Both artists are represented by the Flanders Art Gallery in Raleigh.

"Eye gumbo" is the term Gray uses to refer to his assemblages, sculptures, installations, tar paintings, and drawings.

As he describes it, the work is "thickened with a roux of Black culture, marinated in social commentary and seasoned with consciousness." The culinary metaphor based on a dish that combines ingredients and cooking practices of several cultures would also apply to Gray's use of assemblage and combinations of various media.

Gray has a penchant for discarded, abandoned and time worn objects "that possess their own stories." Role models, notions of ethnicity and social status, the influence of the media and the education are a strong theme in the works in the current exhibition in which several major pieces incorporate chalkboards, school desks and chairs and textbooks such as *Head Full of Doubt*, *ctl/alt/del* or the eloquent *Manchild in the Promised Land*.

In a recent interview in the *art: 21* blog Gray defined the underlying narrative that informs his work as "(in)visibility, a shared history, and the contemporary livelihood of African Americans."

Gray was born and raised in Raleigh, NC, and is a self-taught artist. He has received several honors. In 2000 he was the first artist to participate in the six-month Regional Emerging Artist in Residence program at Artspace in Raleigh, and received a Regional Artist Project Grant from the United Arts Council of Raleigh and Wake County. He also participated in the Raleigh Red Wolf Ramble public art project, and in 2003 received an Indies Triangle Arts Award for his contribution to the local art community. In addition, Gray's work figures in the public collections, of the Mary Lou Williams Center for Black Culture at Duke University, the North Carolina Museum of Art, and the Four Sisters Gallery Permanent Collection of Contemporary Self-Taught Art at North

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Carolina Wesleyan College in Rocky Mount, NC.

Shaun Richards' works also are created using a variety of media (acrylic, graphite, oil, paper and silver leaf). Nine large works on panel present an overview of his thematic preoccupations. *Empire* (2008) contains collaged pages from a textbook on the "media of mass communication radio & television" as well as its title in large broadside lettering. These decorative elements jostle with figurative representations in oil of several young boys who look upward where a man and woman with an extended arm resembling a Gustav Klimt mural, and the skeleton of a large bird or dinosaur appear to be rising. Hovering in front of the figures are diagrams of molecules, atomic symbols and chemical formulas.



Work by Shaun Richards

Though Richards distances himself from any "overt" interpretation of his work, many of his paintings suggest rather

dark scenarios of desire, emulation, and social dynamics. In his more recent works such as *Closed Captioned* and *Crash #2: National Treasure* painted texts figure centrally in the compositions suggesting the influence of economic and marketing icons from the tobacco and car industries in often apocalyptic scenarios. The jewel-like backgrounds of the artist's works on mylar are in glowing contrast to the gnarled and burnt black forms of tangled steel that once were cars.

Richards attended Hagerstown Junior College in Maryland before transferring to UNC-Wilmington, where he earned a BA in Art in 1999. In 2003, he enrolled in SUNY Empire State College as a non-matriculated graduate student. He moved to Raleigh in August 2006, and in January 2007 he was awarded the Regional Emerging Artist Residency at Artspace. In September 2007, he was featured in Southwest Art's annual emerging artist issue, *21 Under 31*. In spring of 2012 he will hold a solo exhibition at the Flanders Art Gallery.

On Apr. 20, 2011, from 5:30-6:30pm, André Leon Gray will give an artist talk. On May 11, 2011, from 12:30-1:30pm, Edie Carpenter will give a curator's talk. On May 18, 2011, from 5:30-6:30pm, Shaun Richards will give an artist talk.

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, call the Center at 336/333-7460 or at ([www.greenhillcenter.org](http://www.greenhillcenter.org)).

# Waterworks Visual Arts Center in Salisbury, NC, Offers New Exhibitions

The Waterworks Visual Arts Center in downtown Salisbury, NC, presents its Spring exhibition, *Identification*. Two solo exhibitions and a group show take a broad variety of approaches to the theme of contemporary identity and personal sovereignty. *Identification* will be on view through May 14, 2011.

either give the viewer further access into the psychology of the subject or deny it."

Claiborne received her MFA in painting from UNC-Greensboro and has served as an adjunct instructor in painting, drawing, and art appreciation at Catawba College in Salisbury.

Columbia, SC, artist, Susan Lenz, presents a collection of emotionally charged paintings with embroidered messages conveying the importance of decisions as aspects of our individual characters. Her exhibition entitled, *Personal Grounds*, "is a location in life determined by the doors opened, keys turned, and decisions made."

Lenz says of her works: "From rising to dying, people make decisions. Some are profound; some are routine; some have significant repercussions; others are cause for celebration. In each instance, more than one option is available and the choice helps define the person making it. This solo exhibition includes portraits selected from the 107 in the ongoing series. Each examines personal decisions without making a value judgment. The focus is on the faces of real individuals and the decisions they've made. The titles and works are meant to reflect the choice, confront and challenge the viewer, and stimulate consideration."

Lenz received a BA in Medieval and



Work by Katie Claiborne

Katie Claiborne from Greensboro, NC, is a rapidly emerging young painter whose subtly expressive paintings pinpoint the delicacy of a human moment, hinting at the vast array of emotion beneath the surface of a gesture. She says of her work: "For me, painting is an act of empathy. It demands something intimate, something specific. It demands that I call on my own physicality and psychology in order to find places of connection between the person I am painting and myself."

In this body of work entitled *New Works*, Claiborne works with the same models for an extended time and composes multiple paintings while creating dense spaces that function as extensions of the figure, and calling attention to the relative distance between the viewer and subject.

"The tension between physical closeness and accessibility or inaccessibility has become crucial in painting these portraits," says Claiborne. "The point of view I use places the viewer physically close to the subject, however, the paintings demand an amount of work on the part of the viewer that defies notions of immediacy. The gaze of the subject can



Work by Susan Lenz

Renaissance Studies from Ohio State University. She began embroidering in 1986 and has studied under several international fiber artists, such as Valerie Campbell-Harding, Jean Littlejohn, Jan Beaney, and Tilleke Schwarz.

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