

Artspace in Raleigh, NC

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lina Arts Council, the United Arts Council of Raleigh and Wake County, the Raleigh Arts Commission, individuals, corporations, and private foundations.

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, call the center at 919/821-2787 or visit (www.artspacenc.org).

Lee Hansley Gallery in Raleigh, NC, Features Works by Ben Berns

Lee Hansley Gallery in Raleigh, NC, is presenting the exhibit *Ben Berns: Landscape Drawings and Paintings*, on view through Apr. 7, 2012.

Precision drawings and paintings of rural landscapes in North Carolina, Montana and Wyoming will fill the exhibition spaces at Lee Hansley Gallery. The images are by Ben Berns (1936-2007), the Dutch born artist who spent a good part of his life in Greensboro, NC. The gallery was recently selected to represent the late artist, a former professor of art at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. This exhibition marks the first show of works by Berns in over fifteen years.



Saw Mill, Stokes County, NC by Ben Berns

Berns was proficient at both painting and drawing. He started out as a sculptor but quickly was recognized for his ability to draw. Upon initial encounter by viewers, his graphite works are often mistaken as photographs due in large part to their extremely precise detail. However, when examined at close range, the mark making approaches abstraction. "And keep in mind that these pieces were done at very close range," said gallery owner Lee Hansley, who organized the show. "That means the artist developed a method of drawing that, when viewed from a short distance, the marks coalesced into realistic representation," he added.

One drawing in the exhibition, entitled *Boseman, Montana*, is a four-panel work on paper. Each panel is 72 x 48 inches, creating a polyptych that is an amazing six feet tall by 16 feet wide when placed side-to-side. In the gallery, there was no wall wide enough to accommodate that configuration, so the panels were "folded" into a corner, taking up space on two perpendicular walls.



Fort McAllister, Georgia, by Ben Berns

Yet another drawing in the show is a sweeping view of the Wyoming hills that is 96 inches wide. Gallery owner Hansley added, "I cannot imagine any finer drawings ever exhibited in North Carolina than those in this show...not even in a museum setting."

While Berns was accomplished with

graphite, he added color and turned to painting in the last 30 years of his life. He was fond of the Sauratown Mountains in Stokes County, north of his home in Greensboro, and he painted scores of works there. He later moved to Maryland where he began painting wetlands and landscapes with water features like rivers, ponds and lakes.

It is interesting to note the absence of humans in the Berns landscape. Occasionally, the viewer will see a plowed field, a garden or a small structure among the lush, verdant scenes. But the viewer will see no human beings, just some evidence of human presence.

Berns was born in Ginnejen, The Netherlands, on May 15, 1936. Encouraged by his mother, he began painting at age eight. Bored with school, Berns quit at 14 and went to work in a printery. He later apprenticed with a lithographer in Amsterdam. He served his required two-year stint in the Dutch army and then settled in Paris, absorbing himself in the art scene for five years.

Berns immigrated to the United States in 1963 on an invitation of Pratt Graphic Art Center, where he taught printmaking. He supported himself by building lofts in the Soho section of Manhattan. While in New York City he sold Japanese prints and operated an art gallery.



Moore's Knobb, Sauratown Mountains, by Ben Berns

In 1970 Berns was invited to teach painting and drawing at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. In his second year there, he was awarded the prestigious Guggenheim Fellowship. He remained at UNC-G until 1982 when he left the university to paint full-time. He continued to live in Greensboro, later moving to Maryland where he split his time between Maryland and New York City.

The artist's first solo exhibition was in Amsterdam in 1965. It was followed by one-man shows in New York City, Washington, DC, Atlanta, Memphis and Raleigh. He had been in scores of group landscape shows.

Berns died in Virginia in February 2007. He was 70 years old.

Works by Berns live after him and have made their way to some of the world's great museums including the Stedelijk Museum in Amsterdam, the British Museum in London and the Musee Cantini in Marseille, France. In this country his works are found in the collections of the Library of Congress in Washington, DC, The New York Public Library, the High Museum of Art in Atlanta, GA, Brooklyn College in New York, the Wadsworth Athenaeum in Hartford, CT, the Corcoran Gallery of Art in Washington, DC, and the Walker Art Center in Minneapolis, MN.

In North Carolina, Berns' work may be found in the NC Museum of Art, the Weatherspoon Art Museum in Greensboro and the Greenville Museum of Art.

Berns' works are in scores of major national corporate collections including the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, NY, Coca-Cola in Atlanta, The Equitable Life Assurance Society of the United States in New York, American Express in New York, Pruden-

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tial Life in Newark, NJ, Sears in Chicago, Morgan Stanley-Dean Witter and the Bank of New York, among others. Locally his work is in the collection of GlaxoSmith-Kline, Duke University Medical Center

and Mitsubishi.

For further information check our NC Commercial Gallery listings, call the gallery at 919/828-7557 or visit (www.leehansleygallery.com).

ArtSource Fine Art Gallery in Raleigh, NC, Features Works by Brian Hibbard and Scott Harris

ArtSource Fine Art Gallery in Raleigh, NC, is presenting the exhibit *Resonance*, featuring works by Brian Hibbard and Scott Harris, on view through Apr. 7, 2012.

The exhibition brings together two modern artists who love experimenting with painting, surface and sculpture. Both Hibbard and Harris step away from the traditional canvas and paint on a large scale to help the viewer "step into" an intriguing experience.

Harris' unique paintings on aluminum give the audience a warm inviting scene on a cold, industrial surface; whereas Hibbard's portrayal of ancient and traditional images on wood give his work a more harmonious style. Both artists' expressionistic approaches establish a balance of reality and creative freedom.

For further information check our NC Commercial Gallery listings, call the gallery at 919/787-9533 or visit (www.artsource-raleigh.com).

Gallery C in Raleigh, NC, Offers Works by NC's Best Artists

Gallery C in Raleigh, NC, is presenting the exhibit *The Best of North Carolina 2012*, on view through Apr. 30, 2012. A reception will be held on Apr. 6, from 6-9pm.

Gallery owner and art historian Charlene Newsom has employs her extensive knowledge of North Carolina art to curate an annual collection of 20th century masterpieces by important North Carolina artists.

The biggest names in North Carolina art are included in this year's show. Museum quality paintings by greats such as Elliott Daingerfield, Robert Broderson, and Claude Howell will be for sale.

A complete list of the artists includes: George Aid, Ben Berns, George Bireline, Sarah Blakeslee, Robert Broderson,

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Work by Claude Howell