

Ella W. Richardson Fine Art in Charleston, SC, Features Works by Renee Levin

Ella W. Richardson Fine Art in Charleston, SC, will present *Renee Levin: Riches from the Sea*, on view from May 6 through June 2, 2022.

Levin's compositions sometimes read like musical notes; at other times like a single chord. They strike with singularity, as such commonplace findings - sea shells, for instance - are suddenly writ large, as on a 5' x 4' panel.

"I wanted the viewer to be forced to examine the details of the subject painted, get intimate with it, therefore scale allows me to do so," she said. "Scale allows the textures to come forth along with celebrating the beauty of the subjects - the natural patterns, the beautiful lines and curves, sometimes reminding me of the feminine form."



Work by Renee Levin

Levin considers her work still life, and the finished pieces belie her painstaking process. "Initially, I set up a photoshoot using shells from my found collection, creating compositions for the painting at hand. This is a very time consuming process as I want the composition to look natural but flow and please the eye. I can turn a shell 50 times in one-degree increments to get it right," said Levin. "This process is worth it all as I believe the composition is a big draw to my work. The photoshoots also allow me to work with lighting to create dramatic shadow play. Once a composition is set, I use the photograph in combination with the actual shells, for those intimate details a



Work by Renee Levin

camera does not catch, for reference when painting," she said.

"I like to experiment with the arrangement of the object(s), creating a composition that feels right, with the perfect amount of negative space along with movement. However, when painting singular objects, it could very well fall into the portrait genre I suppose," adds Levin. "As a portrait glorifies a human, I do the same but with an object such as a shell, acknowledging my admiration for the subject."

Levin selects shells based on their imperfections, shapes, and patterns and the shadows they cast, she said. Hinged clams are a favorite as they have character and create dramatic shadows. "The scallop has been catching my eye with its beautiful ribbed pattern, oysters with their textures and cracked whelks alike," she said.

Combining polish with grit is a recurring theme in Levin's work. "It is that juxtaposition that actually creates a harmony for me," she said. It also turns up outside of the studio - in "my home, my clothing, pretty much anything I create."

For further information check our SC Commercial Gallery listings, call the gallery at 843/722-3660 or visit (www.ellarichardson.com).

Lowcountry Artists Gallery in Charleston, SC, Features Works by Lyssa Harvey

Lowcountry Artists Gallery in Charleston, SC, will present *Wisdom of the Wetlands*, featuring new works in watermedia on paper and canvas by Lyssa Harvey, from May 6 - 31, 2022. A reception will be held on May 6, from 5-8pm.

Harvey offered the following statement, "The simple but stunning images of the marsh have burned a visual template in my artist's soul. I never tire of looking at the beauty of the wetlands. I could paint them for the rest of my life. Knowledge of the importance of the wetlands has enhanced my work. I hope to share this invaluable source of South Carolina's environment with you."

"Painting the impressive South Carolina wetlands reminds me of not only the beauty, but also the fragility of our coast and the balance of nature."

"The Wisdom of the Wetlands is key in keeping our coastal landscape healthy. The ever changing *Spartina* or *Sporobolus* grass works hard to filter our waters and to hold intact our marshes that protect our ecosystem," adds Harvey.

"I invite you to learn more about the *Wisdom of the Wetlands* with the inclusion of



Work by Lyssa Harvey

brief environmental videos from Charleston Outdoor Adventure with my paintings."

For further information check our SC Commercial Gallery listings or call the gallery at 843/577-9295.

Art League of Hilton Head on Hilton Head Island, SC, Features Works by Dennis Lake

The Art League of Hilton Head on Hilton Head Island, SC, will present *People, Places and Things*, featuring works by Dennis Lake, on view at Art League Gallery, from May 24 through June 25, 2022. A reception will be held on May 25, from 5-7pm.

Dennis Lake, Lowcountry artist and art teacher, will be showcasing his work in a variety of media at Art League Gallery this May and June. Lake's work is known for its intricate detail, traditionally realistic style, Page 10 - Carolina Arts, May 2022

and subtle colors. His subjects range from portraits and wildlife to landscapes and still life.

"I look at the world around me as a constant source of inspiration," says Lake. "My hope is that the viewer can see the beauty that I have tried to preserve for a time."

Lake earned his BFA and worked briefly as an art director, but only returned to art after spending 20 years as an Air Force pilot.

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After retiring, Lake earned his Masters in Art Education and began painting, exhibiting, and teaching art in Tennessee, where he won numerous awards in juried shows. Since relocating to the Lowcountry in 2009, Lake has taught art and exhibited at Art League Academy and Society of Bluffton Artists, and has served on the board of Art League of Hilton Head. He has won Best of Show at SOBA and People's Choice at Art League's annual show.



Work by Dennis Lake



Work by Dennis Lake

170 member artists. All artwork on display is for sale and exhibits change every month. Located mid-island inside the Arts Center of Coastal Carolina, next to the box office.

"Inspiring visual arts for our community and its visitors through exhibitions, education and partnerships" is Art League of Hilton Head's mission.

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings, call the League at 843/681-5060 or visit (www.artleaguehhi.org).

Anglin Smith Fine Art in Charleston, SC, Features Works by Shannon Smith Hughes

Anglin Smith Fine Art Gallery in Charleston, SC, will present *Tributes*, a collection of new paintings by Shannon Smith Hughes, on view from May 6 - 20, 2022. A reception will be held on May 6, from 5-8pm.

The exhibition at Anglin Smith Fine Art is being presented in honor of all mothers out there on a special Mother's Day weekend. Please join us with your mother, daughter, or son in hopes that this new body of works will inspire you to spread more love and celebrate that unique bond of mother and child.

When we lose someone we love, we must learn not to live without them, but to live with the love they left behind."

-unknown



Work by Shannon Smith Hughes

"I lost my sweet mother in law, Anna, in January, and this quote has really resonated with me since. All the love she left behind has inspired me to be a better mother to my daughter as well as a better daughter to my mother. Each painting in this show pays tribute to the powerful impact of a mother's love. I have chosen beautiful quotes by famous icons describing the strength of a



Work by Shannon Smith Hughes

mother's love to pair with each painting," says Smith Hughes.

The gallery is a Charleston destination for contemporary realism and color, located at the corner of State Street and Queen Street in the French Quarter. Works by Betty Anglin Smith and her triplets, painters Jennifer Smith Rogers and Shannon Smith Hughes, and photographer Tripp Smith are featured as well as hand selected artists that are talented friends of the Smith family circle. Sculptures in bronze by Darrell Davis, glass works by John Geci, and works in oil by Kim English and Colin Page are available. The gallery also represents paintings and drawings from the estate of Carl Plansky. Subject matter ranges from local and European landscapes to architectural works and still life, figurative and abstract.

For further information check our SC Commercial Gallery listings, call the gallery at 843/853-0708 or visit (www.anglinsmith.com).



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