

New Bern ArtWorks

continued from Page 35



Work by Bruce Nellsmith

has returned to her love of painting landscapes and teaching art. Bruce Nellsmith often describes his work as Hoffman

tempered by a dose of Cezanne. Nellsmith is concerned with the solidity of the most flat abstract passages in the paintings.

Jim Carson's "plein air" work has been described by art critics as "fresh and painterly". Harrett Goode's paintings are always of women, although they sometimes appear amorphous. Five years ago Linda Ferguson was introduced to bead weaving and it immediately captured her interest. Her jewelry is primarily free-form which make each piece unique and is designed to enhance one's appearance, rather than overwhelm it.

For further information check out NC Commercial Gallery listings, call the gallery at 252/634-9002 or visit (www.newbernartworks.com).

Sunset River Marketplace in Calabash, NC, Features Works by Nancy Hughes Miller

Sunset River Marketplace in Calabash, NC, will present *Coastal Colors*, an exhibit of paintings by Nancy Hughes Miller, on view from Sept. 12 through Oct. 22, 2011. A reception will be held on Sept. 17, from 2-5pm.

Miller is a prolific, award-winning artist who is inspired daily by beauty in her surroundings. "I seek to capture a bold but quiet impression of everyday nature – as the colors of sky, earth and water converge on the horizon," the oil painter explains.



Work by Nancy Hughes Miller

Raised in Tabor City, NC, about 25 minutes from the coast, her subjects reflect the coastal and rural landscapes of southeastern North Carolina. Miller finds herself repeatedly drawn to the region's many open lakes, open fields, marshlands and, of course, the ocean.

The exhibition includes several of Miller's signature local scenes of Sunset Beach, where she and husband Bryan spend

much of the year at a second beach home.

In May, Miller had three works featured in the NC Museum of Art auction to benefit the Museum. Her work was a second place winner in 2010 at *The Road Show* in Raleigh, NC. She also showed work at *Saving the Places You Love*, the invitational exhibition benefiting the Conservation Trust of NC, also in Raleigh, in 2009. Several one-woman shows include a previous exhibition at Sunset River Marketplace in 2009.

According to gallery owner Ginny Lasiter, "Nancy's work is deceptively simple. She uses many layers of paint to evoke an emotional response to nature and the outdoors. Her work is stunning."

Sunset River Marketplace showcases work by approximately 200 North and South Carolina artists, and houses some 10,000 square feet of art work in virtually every genre. Custom framing, painting and pottery classes and art workshops are also offered through the gallery. Since opening its doors in 2002, Sunset River Marketplace has supported not only the visual arts, but literary and performing arts, as well. The gallery has become a popular community center and art hub for both NC's Brunswick County and nearby Horry County, SC. Community programs include the interactive Creative Exchange series on second Wednesdays during selected months and Coffee With the Authors on first Thursdays Sept. through May.

For further information check our NC Commercial Gallery listings, call the gallery at 910/575-5999 or visit (www.sunsetrivermarketplace.com). For daily updates, "like" the gallery's Facebook page.

Barton College in Wilson, NC, Offers Exhibit Focused on Book Arts

Barton College in Wilson, NC, is presenting the exhibit, *Il Libro: The Art of the Book*, on view in the Barton Art Galleries through Sept. 24, 2011.

The exhibition, organized by Barton professors Susan Fecho and Gérard Lange, include the work of nationally and internationally recognized artists and book presses including: Cara Barer, Gwen Diehn, Andy Farkas (Fablewood), Susan Fecho, April Flanders, Gabrielle Fox, Gérard Lange, Marvel Maring (Crying Dime Press), Donald Martin, Scott McCarney, Steven Miller (Red Hydra Press), Sarah Nicholls, Lisa Beth Robinson (Somnambulist Tango Press), Katherine McCanless Ruffin (Shinola Press), Lauren Scanlon, Shawn Sheehy, Robbin Ami Siverberg (Dobbin Books), Dolph Smith, Kathy Steinsberger, Melissa Walker, Jessica C. White (Heroes & Criminals Press), and Dorothy A. Yule (Left Coast Press).

Artworks featured in this exhibition represent contemporary bookmaking trends. The editioned books and one-of-a-kind artists' books showcase include traditional

sewn structures, altered books, sculptural books, broadsides and innovative approaches created in various media including letterpress, handmade paper, printmaking, photography, collage, fiber and ceramics.



Work by Andy Farkas

Among the exhibited art are three large scaled photographs showcasing the work of Cara Barer of Houston, TX, including *Manhattan*. These photographs document the evolution of her sculpturally re-purposed books. "I have changed a common object into sculpture in a state of flux," said Barer. "The way we choose to research and find information is also in an evolution. I hope to raise questions about these changes, the

continued above on next column to the right

ephemeral and fragile nature in which we now obtain knowledge, and the future of books."

Artist and author Gwen Diehn is exhibiting three multi-media, one-of-a-kind, layered books, *Living Below Sea Level*, *Imrana*, and *Ice Fishing in New Hampshire*, with stylistic commonalities. The third book, *Imrana*, juxtaposes boats, of which Diehn described as, "...those most fragile of temporary shelters, with the enormous watery world in which they move. It is about the trust we place in fragile systems and constructions as we set out into unknown places and emotions and experiences." She is the author of several books, including *Simple Printmaking* (1999), *The Decorated Page* (2002), *The Decorated Journal* (2005), and *Real Life Journals* (2010), all published by Sterling/Lark.

Andy Farkas, proprietor of Fablewood, is exhibiting *Crab, hmmm...*, *Four Stories*, and *River*. "I have made prints throughout my artistic career, although a more accurate description of my work would be story telling," Farkas explained. "It is a medium that goes beyond ink, paint, words, and music, of which life itself is a tool, and in its best examples makes active participants of all those involved in the hearing, seeing, reading, telling, or handling."



Work by Dolph Smith

Barton College professor Susan Fecho of Tarboro, NC, has two books on view: *A Woman's Work is Never Done*, a soft, quilted book of repurposed clothing (printed and dyed cotton, linen, rayon, and silk), and *Relative Randomness: 365 Color*, an accordion folded book that documents the usage of color terms used in daily news articles with word-cloud designs that utilize the researched colors. "Before I construct a piece, I am constructing its meaning for myself – a story – a matrix of personal, cultural, and archetypal associations within which my assembled fragments will find their place," Fecho shared. "The works reveal multiple layers of material and meaning."

April Flanders of Boone, NC, is showcasing works that include *Toxic Irritation* and *Codex Scolex*, two artists' books produced with screen printing, lithography, and collage. Flanders explained that her creative research reflects a commitment to social change. "Through prints, paintings, and installation, I investigate the relationship between what we consume and our collective future," she added, "Over-consumption is devastating the planet and the human spirit. The consumer diet is out of balance with the needs of the environment, but we continue to treat consumer goods as if they were vitamins needed for nutrition." Flanders currently teaches full time at Appalachian State University in Boone.

An accomplished artisan in the binding, conservation, and restoration of fine books, Gabrielle Fox, is author of *The Essential Guide to Making Handmade Books*. On view in the exhibition are her works: *Water*, *Nothing to Wear*, *Haiku and other poems*, and *Queen Mab*. Fox shared, "A book opened reveals a world each of us interprets individually. We paint our own pictures from the descriptions, and we create our own stories with the visual stimulation of colors and images. It is our very own world to keep, and only if we choose do we share the view or story we have experienced. Books provide us with a space, which can be put aside and reentered when we want to continue the story, remember a person, or express ourselves. What a wonderful thing to share, and what a delightful way to express oneself."

Barton College assistant professor Gérard Lange, reflecting on his inspiration, said, "Having always been a collector of things – bottle caps, scientific apparatuses, cameras, fabrics, fibers, dirt, and coffee cups to name a few – my eyes are constantly scanning the environment for interesting articles of any sort to add to my cabinet of curiosities. Often articles gleaned from my endeavors are things, which go with sets of items I have amassed over time. But occasionally, some-

thing comes along that sends my mind to a purpose I could direct the newly discovered object. This is my primary modus for book-binding. The three books in the exhibition, *Evening News*, *Hair Reliquary*, and *Burning Chair Prophecy*, are all responsive to an object come across in my travels."

Marvel Maring is a practicing book artist, creating one of a kind artist books and design bindings. She publishes fine press limited editions under the imprint of "Crying Dime Press." Maring also serves as the Fine Arts and Humanities Reference Librarian at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. Her current position as Fine Arts and Humanities Reference Librarian has impacted her studio activity directly in recent years. She shared that her role as humanities librarian requires her to travel to the National University in León to train a group of jointly appointed Nicaraguan English Department faculty.

"Meeting these faculty members and exploring their literary culture has opened up a magical assortment of folk tales that are visually evocative and literarily rich and compelling," Maring shared. Interested in the tunnel book structure, which originated in the Renaissance to teach perspective, she was looking for stories that might lend themselves to this format. The folk tales exhibited, *The Golden Crab*, *The Weeping Woman*, *The Bad Cadejo*, and *The Good Cadejo*, are iconic in the Nicaraguan culture.

Donald Martin of St. Augustine, FL, has on exhibit *Book of Nature: Muir and Second Nature Series: Dusky Seaside Sparrow*. The latter is described by the artist as an altered book with a hand bound book insert, cast paper, and wood. "This piece is meant as a memorial to the now extinct Dusky Seaside Sparrow," explained Martin. "The inserted book is an Ethiopian Coptic codex book form that demonstrates the disappearance of the bird through simple cut out shapes."

Scott McCarney of Rochester, NY, is showcasing two one-of-a-kind altered books. *Knowledge in Depth: West to East* was originally created for the 2008 *Information Is Not Knowledge Project*, organized by James Prez with Amanda Thackray and exhibited at the New Jersey City Canco building. Also on display is *Pre-Columbian Sacred*, which was originally created for the 2010 *Information Revisited: The Encyclopedia Britannica Project* at the Martin Hicks Gallery, Belskie Museum of Art and Science in New Jersey.

Steven Miller, professor and coordinator of the Book Arts Program at the University of Alabama, is the founder of Red Ozier Press (a fine art press devoted to publishing literary first editions in handmade limited editions). Miller is also the proprietor of Red Hydra Press and the co-director of Paper and Book Intensive, a nationally recognized annual series of summer workshops in the book arts. Miller, exhibiting *Lion-froth Crown*, has a passion for making books by hand and letterpress printing, as well as teaching letterpress printing and hand paper-making. "Words are the motivating factor in my desire to create a book," he shared.

Sarah Nicholls, program manager at The Center for Book Arts in New York, NY, has on view *Phosphorescent Face Highlighter* and *The McGinley Paper Company Sample Book of Faults*. "My work revolves around

continued on Page 37



Ceramics by Jim and Shirli Parmentier

Hand crafted Jewelry • Pottery
Art Furniture • Wood • Glass
Paintings • Scarves & Bags
Representing over 200 regional
& national artists
Open 7 Days a week

CAROLINA CREATIONS
317 Pollock St
Downtown New Bern, NC
252-633-4369
Shop online www.carolinacreations.com