

# Pickens County Museum

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Penland School of Crafts, Odyssey in Asheville, NC, the SC Governor's School for the Arts and Humanities, Francis Marion University in Florence, SC, USC Myrtle Beach, SC, and the currently teaches part-time at Christ Church Episcopal School in Greenville, SC where she currently lives and maintains a studio.

Speaking of her work, Ballard says, "My art is a reflection of my relationship with natural forms. These forms come to me on hikes and on walks in my neighborhood, while I am at work in my garden, on visits to the produce section of the grocery store or, appear as gifts from friends who share my fascination with beauty inherent in Nature's abundant variety of forms. To be more specific, it is often the metamorphosis of Nature's forms, as they change from season to season, that attracts me. Those seasonal changes are like the human capacity for spiritual renewal and rebirth. What astounds me both as an artist and as a human being is man's and nature's ability to withstand horrific abuse and to regenerate new life, to put forth a magnificent new budding."

Ballard Continued, "When I am at work in my studio, I spend countless hours contemplating a particular form in order to feel its energy. This quiet observation is like a meditation and allows me to capture the essence of what have felt and observed. Then I begin to bring the form to life in clay. This whole process is not unlike what I experience in my garden. It is all about looking closely as I watch things emerge from the soil and begin to grow and then responding. Clay sculpture requires the same kind of time, patience and careful observation. Both need to be brought to life through a process that combines knowledge, skill, intuition and nurturing."



Jackson Family, Kershaw, SC, 1972, by Blake Praytor

As an invitational exhibition that, in some sense of the word, surveys some established photographers in the South

Carolina Upcountry, this ambitious endeavor features work by twenty-five regional photographers. The premise of our "Now and Then" theme is that each photographer was asked to provide two current/contemporary works to be paired with two works from their youth or formative years as a photographer. Additionally, so that each photographer could share their own introspection, the museum has allowed them to self-curate in a manner that reflects what they feel shows their growth as an artist.

The worthy stable of photographers included in this exhibition are: Debbie Cooke, Nathan A. Einstein, Polly Gaillard, Bryan Hiott, Diane Hopkins-Hughs, J. Michael Johnson, Bill Jordan, Del Kimbler, Sandy King, Cindy Landrum, Steve Marlow, Blaine Owens, Bev Peeples, Lynn Pilewski, Blake Praytor, Owen Riley, Bruce M. Schlein, Kim Sholly, Stephen Stinson, Rebecca Stockham, Sam Wang, Patrick G. Welch, Skip Woodward, Anderson Wrangle and Oliver Yu.



Jackson Family, Kershaw, SC, 2008, by Blake Praytor

From this group of photographers, a cross section of styles is represented and a figurative pulse-taking of the photographic arts is accomplished. As each artist looks at the world around them, explores the variety of media and technique that are available, and then couple this with their own self-examination, they share with the viewer what it is that they have found themselves to be, "Then" and "Now".

The Pickens County Museum of Art & History is funded in part by Pickens County, members and friends of the museum and a grant from the South Carolina Arts Commission, which receives support from the National Endowment for the Arts.

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings, call the Museum at 864/898-5963 or visit ([www.co.pickens.sc.us/culturalcommission](http://www.co.pickens.sc.us/culturalcommission)).

## Black Mountain Center for the Arts in NC, Features Works by David Young and Julia Burr

The Black Mountain Center for the Arts in Black Mountain, NC, will present the exhibit, *David Young and Julia Burr: Streaming*, on view in the Upper Gallery from Sept. 7 through Oct. 12, 2012. A reception will be held on Sept. 7, from 6-8pm.

These two artists, diverse in approach, training and medium, are bringing their individual perspectives together in an encounter that will arouse the viewer's curiosity and stimulate a deeper awareness of the world through their abstract, innovative, and alternative views of nature. Young will be presenting photographs taken while wading in creeks and rivers all over the East Coast, and Burr has created a sculptural installation inspired by the property where she lives in Black Mountain.

Burr says, "Initially I was apprehensive

about doing a show with David's photography because how in the world did my work relate to his work? But as I studied three small proofs of his photos I had in my studio, I found myself getting lost in their almost molecular-like construction, and I suddenly understood how his images offer a glimpse into another world. This is when I realized I wanted to go into another world as well. Using the property where I live in Black Mountain as my guide and mentor, and observing its orchestration and portrayal of all things alive, dying and dead as my foundation, I've attempted to trust my intuition and imagination unconditionally and be pulled somewhere new."

Young, originally from Alabama, and now a NYC-based photographer, speaks of

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Look closely to find a detail of Julia Burr's mixed media leaf sculpture, *Portal*, placed in front of David Young's color photograph, *Mill Creek, NC II*.

his art: "My photographs are the result of a restless mind that's always wandering off into the woods. I like to explore the beauty of abstract forms, a beauty I find more arresting when it exists beneath and on the surface at the same time. Take a creek, a stream, a river: when I find a way to enter the dizzying whirl of color and light and reflection tumbling together in the currents, the camera lens becomes for me what the rabbit hole was for Alice, a portal to slip between the layers of representation and abstraction."

Young further elaborates, "These are digital images created in-camera, using available light and without special lenses or filters. I essentially seek to enter the frame of the photograph and discover what lies within. The disorienting sense of scale and subject matter mirrors my experience of these aquatic landscapes."

Young's images are decidedly more abstract than traditional nature photography, but he recognizes that the streams and rivers that inspire his art depend upon the dedication of groups committed to protect-

ing and preserving the environment. One such group is Wild South, an organization based in Asheville, NC, and with offices in his native Alabama. As their tagline says, their work is all about "protecting forests for life." Young is honored that they have chosen to sponsor this exhibit. His photography has been in shown in galleries and exhibits up and down the East Coast.

"Here's what I've got under my belt," says Burr. "I've got the University of Tennessee and the California Institute of the Arts for schooling. I've got working smack dab in the middle of Hollywood, CA, during a period of explosive growth and innovation in the film and TV industry. I've got carving 50-foot billboards in Florida and fabricating sculptures for the Neverland ranch. I've got thousands of miles around the world doing 3-D design and handling historic rock and roll memorabilia. I have had an extraordinary life, and yet, the most profound singular influence on my art has been living on these two acres for the last thirteen years in Black Mountain. Inspired by this rich environment, my three-dimensional voice continues to gain fullness and momentum. Larger recent public works include 'Honor,' an 18-foot abstract work permanently installed at the NC Veterans Park in Fayetteville, NC, and the much photographed 45-foot sculptural elliptical steel railing in downtown Asheville's Pack Square Park."

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, call the Center at 828/669-0930 or visit ([www.blackmountainarts.org](http://www.blackmountainarts.org)).

## Coastal Carolina University in Conway, SC, Offers Faculty Exhibit

Coastal Carolina University in Conway, SC, will showcase the talents of its Department of Visual Arts at the *Biennial Faculty Art Show*, on view in the Rebecca Randall Bryan Gallery, from Sept. 3 - 28, 2012. A reception will be held on Sept. 6, beginning at 4:30pm.

A variety of work will display the studio art professors and will range from watercolors to sculptures to mixed media works. Paintings, photographs, book art, textile design and printmaking will also be featured by the 20 artists.

Faculty artists whose work will be featured include: James Arendt, Carmen Bilton, Robert Bilton, Steven Bleicher, Larry Bunch, Jeffrey Case, Stephanie Danker, Claudia Dominguez, Sandra Hardee, Elizabeth Keller, Maura Kenny, Treelee MacAnn, Scott Mann, Armon Means, Paul Olsen, John Schiro, Talbot Selby, Brian Taylor, Chris Todd, Brad Williams and Logan Woodle.

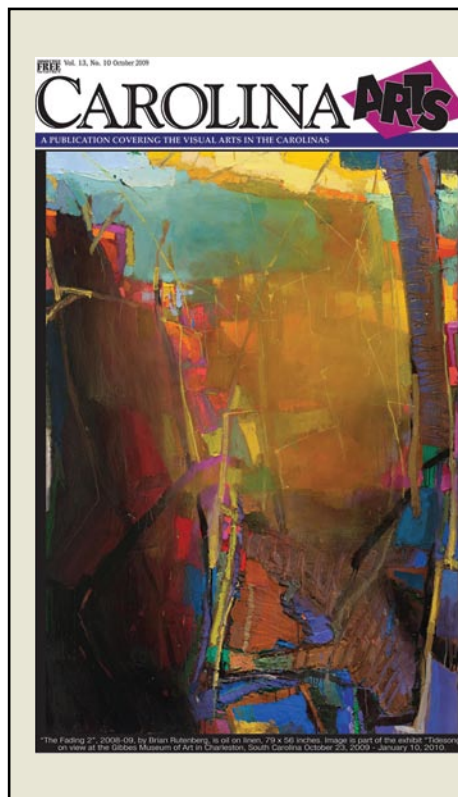
The Rebecca Randall Bryan Art Gallery is located in the Thomas W. and Robin W. Edwards College of Humanities and Fine Arts, located on Chanticleer Drive West in



Homage to Frog Baby by Maura Kenny

Conway.

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings, call the gallery at 843/349-6454 or e-mail at ([bryangallery-ccu@gmail.com](mailto:bryangallery-ccu@gmail.com)).



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The deadline each month to submit articles, photos and ads is the 24th of the month prior to the next issue. This will be Sept. 24th for the October 2012 issue and Oct. 24 for the November 2012 issue. After that, it's too late unless your exhibit runs into the next month. Don't be late - send your info well before the deadline.