

Gibbes Museum of Art in Charleston Offers Works by Jill Hooper, Ben Long, Frank Mason, & Robert Rauschenberg

The Gibbes Museum of Art in Charleston, SC, will present two new exhibits including: *Influence and Inspiration: The Art of Jill Hooper, Ben Long, and Frank Mason*, on view in the Museum's Gallery 8, from Sept. 6 through Jan., 5, 2020 and *Rauschenberg in Charleston*, on view in Gallery 9, from Sept. 6 through Jan. 5, 2020.

The exhibition celebrates three artists devoted to classical training and united by friendships that span multiple generations. Mason was an influential teacher at the Art Students League for over fifty years and a passionate supporter of the arts. In the 1960s, Mason taught Ben Long, a promising young artist from North Carolina. Long has since distinguished himself on the international stage as a realist and a prolific fresco painter. Charleston-based artist Jill Hooper studied under Ben Long, who remains an important mentor to this day. Like Long, Hooper is a realist painter who has earned international acclaim for her powerful portraits, landscapes, and still-life paintings.

Together, these artists demonstrate a commitment to the techniques of the Old Masters while offering their unique artistic perspectives on contemporary life. *Influence and Inspiration* includes both paintings and drawings by each artist. The drawings reflect the rigorous training and preparation behind each finished painting and offer a glimpse into the artists' working process. Subjects range from portraits and genre scenes to large-scale religious paintings.

Long before Robert Rauschenberg (1925—2008) became one of the twentieth century's most influential artists, he found much of his inspiration through the lens of his camera. Rauschenberg's first experienc-



"Charleston, South Carolina", 1981, By Robert Rauschenberg (American 1925-2008); Gelatin silver print, 13 x 19 inches; © Robert Rauschenberg Foundation.

es with photography were in the South as a student at Black Mountain College between 1949 and 1952, and Charleston was one of his earliest subjects. He was reunited with the city in the early 1980s for his monumental photography project *In + Out City Limits* that ultimately resulted in photographic essays on six American cities - Charleston, Boston, Baltimore, Los Angeles, New York, and Fort Myers, FL. Forty-seven of the Rauschenberg's Charleston photographs were displayed at the Gibbes Museum of Art in the autumn of 1981. This exhibition revisits a selection of Rauschenberg's Charleston photographs taken between 1952 and 1981 and examines their appearance in several later works.

The Gibbes Museum of Art is home to the foremost collection of American art that incorporates the story of Charleston. The Museum connects the city and region's artistic past to a vibrant contemporary art scene.

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings, call the Museum at 843/722-2706 or visit (www.gibbesmuseum.org).

City of North Charleston, SC, Features Works by Vik Hart and Pascale Bilgis

The City of North Charleston, SC, will present two new exhibits including: *Far Fields*, featuring new work by Vik Hart of Charleston, SC, and *HOME*, featuring new work by Pascale Bilgis of Lexington, SC, both on view in the North Charleston City Gallery, located in the Charleston Area Convention Center, from Sept. 1 - 30, 2019. A reception will be held on Sept. 5, from 5-7pm.

In his exhibition, *Far Fields*, Vik Hart presents a series of imaginative acrylic paintings set in a fictional land he calls "Firn." By setting all of his paintings in this imaginary land, Hart creates narrative strands between his paintings.

"I love the idea of world building in fiction," says Hart, "and one of my goals when I paint is to have information in the work for the viewers who want to know more beyond the initial visual image. I often get comments that my pieces remind the viewer of different things they've seen before. Oftentimes these will be books, movies, cartoons, and TV shows. While my work isn't directly derived from any one piece of existing media, I enjoy the general sense of nostalgia it gives to others who see it."



Work by Vik Hart

Hart seeks to preserve spontaneity in his artistic practice and works in fast-drying



Work by Pascale Bilgis acrylic and watercolor medium so that he can quickly make corrections and changes to his images.

Hart received his Associates Degree in Commercial Graphics in 2014 from Trident Technical College. His paintings have been exhibited in group and solo shows throughout Charleston, SC, including shows at The Southern, Redux, Beresford Studios, and Saul Alexander Gallery. He currently teaches a Character Creation class through Fabulon Studios.

Abstract Expressionist Pascale Bilgis is a multimedia artist focusing on landscapes. In her series *HOME*, Bilgis recalls significant landscapes from her own life: the small French village of her childhood; Turkey, where she worked as an archeological photographer; and her current home, South Carolina.

Working in acrylic, Bilgis splits her compositions into geometric sections using different color palettes to show the landscapes in different times of day or

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