

Sunset River Marketplace

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for sale at Sunset River Marketplace.”

McCray’s highly textured oil paintings on gallery-wrap canvas range in size and subject matter inspired by the area’s natural beauty and landscape. Many pieces express the essence of sky, sea, and a dense lushness of trees. A bold palette with generous paint produces an energetic textured feel. These renditions are interpretations of moments in time in particular locations. Many of her oversized paintings are suited to large airy spaces where light and distance combine to emphasize a sense of freedom in the work.

Marrying beauty with function to harmonize space is a personal goal for McCray. She believes that one’s visual experience is both psychologically and emotionally significant to a positive life experience. She notices that art inspires and comforts, heals and rejuvenates—that the human heart rests in beauty. Convinced that art is meant to work as well as please, her pieces are placed in healing spaces in Texas, Ohio, North Carolina, and Montana.

An intuitive painter, McCray explains her process: “I begin a piece without defined intention; I wait for a composition to emerge. I listen to music, work quickly, choose colors and utensils by feel. Beginning with a brush, I often incorporate spatula or wooden brush handles. I turn the canvas, so a finished piece has been worked from a number of directions. I study each piece in a full-wall mirror—in its reversed reflection—for hints of additions or revisions. This technique helps me merge further with the painting.”

McCray studied art at Amarillo College in Amarillo, TX. She began a profes-



Ann McCray’s studio

sional art career 25 years ago, creating large hand-built nonfunctional pieces in high-fire stoneware pottery. As a potter, one of her favorite aspects was glazing - applying abstract designs to clay. Eventually, she turned full attention to painting on canvas. She works in both acrylic and oils.

Lassiter said, “Ann McCray is a hugely talented artist and her Studio Clean-Out offers a special opportunity to obtain one of her pieces. I urge everyone to come and see for themselves!”

For further information check our NC Commercial Gallery listings, call the gallery at 910/575-5999 or visit (www.sunsetrivermarketplace.com).

Tidewater Gallery in Swansboro, NC, Features Works by Paul Hee

Tidewater Gallery in Swansboro, NC, will present the exhibit, *Paul Hee, Maritime Paintings*, on view Oct. 5 through Nov. 19, 2012.

Tidewater Gallery will open a retrospective exhibition and sale of more than 30 maritime paintings by noted Beaufort, NC, artist Paul Hee. The featured works span Hee’s more than 20 year painting career.

The show collection includes Hee’s familiar historical ships and battle scenes as well as other works which were either experimental in nature or an attempt by the artist to delve into other pictorial realms. Hee typically researched his subject matter in advance of painting to insure historical accuracy.

“Light-dazzlingly exuberant, tranquilly evocative, or menacingly looming, Hee’s paintings are suffused with the world view of masters, but his work remains clearly and identifiably his own,” said Paul Fontenoy, NC Maritime Museum curator and historian.

In 1988, after a life at sea in the US Navy and as cruise line executive, Hee retired and began fulfilling a lifelong ambition to chronicle America’s maritime history on canvas. His formal studies included years of private training and extended study under Robin Hall of the Boston Museum School of Art.

“In my work I employ a luminescent approach such as that found in many desirable



Corvette of the Coast of Calais, by Paul Hee

19th century maritime paintings. Maritime art is a popular genre with today’s collectors,” said Hee.

In 1999, Hee settled in Beaufort, NC, where he lived and painted in his Marsh Street studio until his passing in 2011. During these years Hee painted regularly, having had two shows at the NC Maritime Museum in Beaufort. In addition, his work was shown in galleries in Rhode Island, Connecticut and at Tidewater Gallery in Swansboro, NC.

A Retrospective Show catalog will be available for purchase.

For further information check our NC Commercial Gallery listing, call the gallery at 910/325-0660 or visit (www.tidewatergallery.com).

Arts of the Albemarle in Elizabeth City, NC, Offers Works by Members of the Watercolor Society of North Carolina

The Arts of the Albemarle in Elizabeth City, NC, will present the *67th Annual Exhibit and Competition of the Watercolor Society of North Carolina*, on view at The Center, from Oct. 5 through Nov. 30, 2012. A reception will be held on Oct. 5, from 5:30-7:30pm.

The Watercolor Society of North Carolina, Inc. (WSNC) is a professional non-profit art organization. The purpose of WSNC is to strengthen and promote watercolor painting throughout the state. They Page 40 - Carolina Arts, October 2012

strive to do this by: elevating the standards of excellence in this medium, educating artists by hosting workshops by nationally recognized artists, sponsoring juried exhibitions, supporting the arts in public schools and involving the people of North Carolina in the arts.

From its beginning with 18 charter members in 1972, WSNC has grown steadily over the past 35 years and now boasts over 400 members. A volunteer Board of Directors

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Work by Kate Worm

tors supervises its activities. They invite anyone interested in the arts to support WSNC by becoming a member.

The juror for this year’s show was John Salminen NWS, AWS.DF., an award winning and nationally recognized watercolor artist and instructor. The exhibit includes 75 works by artists across North Carolina.

Over the past several years, support for art education in our public schools has continued to erode and it has become increasingly difficult for teachers to acquire the necessary materials. Since 2007, WSNC has partnered with Cheap Joes Art Stuff to support and promote emerging artists in public schools in the county where our annual juried exhibition takes place. This is a matching grant program. WSNC raises funds from the community and Cheap Joes matches the funds raised with art supplies. For the past two years, WSNC has raised \$2,000 and, with the addition of Cheap Joes match, was able to award a total of \$4,000 to enable local public school art programs to purchase supplies. The grant is split between a high school and a middle school.

Beginning in 2012, WSNC will award a scholarship to an outstanding art teacher from the county hosting our annual exhibition. The scholarship will allow the recipi-



Unlocking the Mysteries of Landscape Painting Dan Nelson- painting workshop

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Work by David Stickel

ent to attend the watercolor workshop to be conducted by our juror and workshop instructor, John Salminen. In addition to a waiver of tuition (a value of \$500) the recipient will also be given a check in the amount of \$800 to cover the cost of hiring a substitute teacher and purchasing supplies.

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, call The Center at 252/338-6455 or visit (<http://www.art-saoa.com/>). More information about WSNC visit (www.ncwatercolor.net).