

Gallery West in West Columbia, SC, Features Fun Works of Art

Gallery West in West Columbia, SC, will present *For the Fun of It: Playfulness in Art*, on view from Nov. 3 through Dec. 23, 2017. A reception will be held on Nov. 3, from 6-9pm as part of the First Friday Art Crawl on State Street. The opening also coincides with the Fall Festival on State Street sponsored by The City of West Columbia.

The exhibition is a diverse collection of art objects that fall into the category of “playful,” or full of play. The gallery will be filled with works that are beautifully fun, and playfully beautiful, perfect for gift giving for adults and children during the holidays. The art will bring delight with its humorous and original concepts, and impress visitors with its craft. There are numerous definitions of “playfulness”, showing that you are having fun; the quality of being light-hearted; and being full of play and merriment, all concepts fully embraced by the participating artists.

Frances Turner, a contemporary doll-maker, is the featured artist for this exhibition. Turner is a native of Dayton, OH, whose work is greatly influenced by deep southern roots and African cultural heritage. Her passion for natural fabrics and African textiles, paired with her fifty-year career as a seamstress/tailor, result in astonishing beauty and precision in each doll. She uses both hand stitching and machine sewing in her meticulous creations, from the hand stitched tiny shoes, hats and accessories, to the beautiful clothing created for each piece. Many of her dolls are based on actual figures from African-American history. These particular dolls come with a story behind the subject.



Work by Jennifer Hill

The works included in this exhibition, created by fifteen artists, vary in medium and subject. Artists included are: Janet Oliver, Greensboro, NC - Watercolor; Marie van Vuuren Stone, Greensboro,



Work by Virginia Scotchie

NC - Watercolor; Jennifer Hill, Columbia, SC - Characters of hand-felted wool in glass containers; Lyon Hill, Columbia, SC - Handmade puppets and marionettes; Felted Shelter Pets, Lindenhurst, NY - Sculptural woodland animals of hand-felted wool; Kara Gunter, West Columbia, SC - Inventive fused glass wall lights; Plessinger Brothers Studio, Dayton, OH - Imaginative woodworking; Greyson Smith, Columbia, SC - Image transfers and ink on paper; Bobby Baker, Columbia, SC - Found and Altered lamps and sculpture; Marius Valdes, Columbia, SC - Paintings, drawings, and prints; Virginia Scotchie, Columbia, SC - Ceramic sculpture; Bri Kinard, Columbia, SC - Ceramic sculpture; Kelly and Spenser Schull (Jellykoe), Columbia, SC - Plush toys, vinyl and resin toys, art prints; and Tabitha Ott, Columbia, SC - Wearable art.

A fun and unusual addition to the show will be the Art-O-Mat, provided by One Columbia. The concept, originated by artist Clark Whittington of Winston-Salem, NC, is to repurpose vintage cigarette machines to now dispense small cigarette sized boxed art in place of actual cigarettes, each machine taking \$1 and \$5 bills. The Columbia Art-O-Mat is a magical machine filled to the brim with top shelf \$5 art by artists from all over the country.

Gallery West shares in Columbia’s creative life with art from around the world. Come and discover work from established as well as emerging artists, staged with objects designed to make you feel at home. Fine contemporary craft is likewise incorporated into our comfortable and welcoming surroundings. A feature of the gallery is the unusual and beautifully crafted art jewelry from international, national and regional designers.

Gallery West specializes in the unique, offering exquisite objects for every budget. Whether shopping for the home, a holiday or your own heartstrings, you will enjoy art, and all artisan-made objects, just across the Congaree.

For further information check our SC Commercial Gallery listings at 803/207-9265 or visit (www.gallerywestcolumbia.com).

Editorial Commentary

continued from Page 4 / [back to Page 4](#)

is pottery month in the Carolinas. While putting this issue together I quickly noticed that pottery events are taking place all over North and South Carolina this month.

The Edgefield Area Clay Guild has an ad on Page 13, where there is also an article about a pottery and bake sale at Central United Methodist Church in Spartanburg, SC. On Page 28 there is an article about the Cabarrus Arts Council’s annual clay invitational in Concord, NC. On page 34 is an article about the 10th annual Celebration of Seagrove Potters in Seagrove, NC, and an event by the Potters of the Piedmont in Greensboro, NC. On Page 36 you’ll find an article about the Coastal Carolina Clay Guild’s sale in Wilmington, NC. On Page 39

we have an article about the Durham (NC) County Pottery Tour. There are also works by potters and clay artists in many of the other exhibits mentioned in the issue. It’s time to go pottery wild.

But the “Mother” of all pottery sales events is the Celebration of Seagrove Potters in the pottery capital of the Carolinas and probably the Southeast. That’s why that event is being featured on our cover this month.

Taking place at the Historic Lucks Cannery in Seagrove, NC, this one event is probably responsible for many a wonderful Christmas present - to loved ones, good friends or to one’s self. I even hear rumor

continued on Page 27

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