

Hickory Museum of Art

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where she met and was greatly influenced by painter Alice Neel. She earned an MA in art at Appalachian State University. She has lived and taught in small colleges in western North Carolina for 25 years, teaching summer 2007 in Provence, France. In 2008 her work was chosen by art critic Dr. Irving Sandler for inclusion in the exhibit, *Irvin Sandler Selects*, at Prince Street Gallery in New York City. Riviere-Blalock is a 2011 recipient of the North Carolina Regional Artists Project Grant from NC Arts Council and Charlotte-Mecklenburg Arts and Science Council.



Chrys Riviere-Blalock, *Morning, Jordan Lake*, 2010, oil on linen, 24" x 48"

Andrew Fullwood is a self-taught artist with a background in biology. He is part of a family craft tradition spanning five generations of skilled furniture makers.

Origins features 16 sculptures, many of which are life-size, accompanied by some of the artist's biomedical illustrations. In his personal statement, the artist writes: "I love the warmth and great material diversity of wood: each species has different colors, grains, properties. The variety of organic shapes into which wood naturally grows, and the character-giving knots and imperfections stretch imagination into new territory."

Fullwood resides in Chapel Hill, NC. He has a Bachelor of Science in Zoology and a medical degree, both from the University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill. Fullwood recently was awarded Best in Show at the 2011 North Carolina Woodcarving Festival in Raleigh, NC.

Fullwood will give a gallery talk at the Museum on Jan. 29, 2012 at 2pm. Join the artist for a walk-through of his exhibition. He will also bring a selection of wood-working tools and demonstrate his process.

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, call the Museum at 828/327-8576 or visit (www.hickoryart.org).

Vista Studios in Columbia, SC, Features Annual Winter Exhibition

Vista Studios in Columbia, SC, will present the exhibit, *Yaghjian, Chesley, Williams, Wimberly / Winter Exhibition*, featuring works by David Yaghjian, Stephen Chesley, Mike Williams, and Edward Wimberly, on view in Gallery 80808, from Jan. 27 through Feb. 7, 2012. A reception will be held on Jan. 27, from 6-9pm



Work by Mike Williams

Stephen Chesley, Mike Williams, Edward Wimberly, and David Yaghjian are friends and full-time artists living and working in South Carolina. For the past 12 years they have convened at Gallery 80808 in January with a selection of work from the course of the past year to hang an exhibition. This exhibition began as a holiday social where we would get together with our friends and collectors to catch up and look at examples of our production from the previous year. Each of these artists have worked diligently throughout their careers to create artwork that is distinctively their own.

Chesley paints poetic and dramatic landscapes where saturated colors are juxtaposed against rich dark grounds. He is dedicated to creating daily visual records of a landscape that is devoid of the unsightly evidence of man's presence. If and when an actual figure does appear in his work, it is someone who is fishing or oystering - someone who is reliant upon the earth for sustenance. As the casual observer, Chesley places you in the unique position of viewing a scene - an important place which he chooses to preserve as a reference in time.

Williams' interest in fish, fishing, and the habitats where fish may be found, has been the primary subject of his work throughout his career. His vibrant and bold abstract paintings are expressionistic and loose, with a palette that ranges

widely from earth tones to pure cadmium colors. At times, however, focus shifts and Williams's work takes a more representational turn. While the choice of subject matter reflects his love of nature and fishing, the actual artwork - whether paintings or sculptures - reveals the enthusiasm with which he works. A great love of music manifests itself in the lyrical quality of his compositions where his subjects assume ever-shifting forms.

Wimberly's pastels, oil paintings, and ink drawings sublimely merge fancy with a true surrealist view of society. His carefully crafted pictures delve into philosophy, state of mind, and serve as commentaries on life. Wimberly thoughtfully and suggestively weaves a myriad of surfaces and textures into his symbolist works such as: patterned cloth or drapery, chrome, gold, porcelain, and glass. Surprising arrays of unexpected elements are combined into a single work for the sole purpose of illustrating an idea or thought in a completely unique way. Within his narratives, it's not uncommon for inanimate objects to literally come to life through his beautifully executed renderings, and the viewer is often drawn into a scene where they too become a participant.

Yaghjian is dead serious, almost. Painting is a mandated must in his life. The reality of being an artist and having heightened sensitivity causes him to respond visually. While it is said that the character seen in much of his work resembles him, it more so represents mankind - all of us. Whether the impetus be social, political, or mythical, and whether his muse be the psyche or observed phenomena, his pictures describe the human condition. Expressions of joy, success, failure, illness, and well-being can be found here. The pictures engage, and, on occasion, lead the view to consider his own condition and mortality. In addition the figurative paintings, Yaghjian has been creating three-dimensional versions of his character in the form of cardboard or pine board cut-outs.

Call to see what hours the gallery will be open during this exhibition.

For further information check our SC Commercial Gallery listings, call the gallery at 803/252-6134 or visit (www.vistastudios80808.com).



Gone But Not Forgotten, an art quilt by Susan Lenz

Last Words

A solo show by Susan Lenz

January 7 - May 13, 2012

Reception: Sunday, January 29, 2012 2-4pm

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Anastasia & Friends in Columbia, SC, Offers Exhibit Based on Surrealism

Anastasia & Friends art gallery, located in the front of the *Free Times*' building on Main Street in Columbia, SC, will present the exhibit, *The Surreal Show*, on view from Jan. 5 through Feb. 23, 2012. A reception will be held on Jan. 5, from 6-9pm during Columbia's Main Street's First Thursday. The reception will include a performance art by Alternacirque and Dr. G. Fredric Mau.

The Surreal Show will feature sculpture, paintings, mixed media, photography and textiles by Natalie Brown, Anastasia Chernoff, Janice Dittmar, Nathan Fiveash, Libby Gamble, Michelle Rogers, Kirill Simin, Lyra Stephens and Lindsay Wiggins.



Work by Lindsay Wiggins

Surrealism is a movement in art and literature which began in the 1920's that sought to release the creative potential of the unconscious mind, characterized by the evocative juxtaposition of incongruous images in order to include unconscious and dream elements.

The word surrealist was created by Guillaume Apollinaire and breathed into existence in the preface to his play, *Les Mamelles de Tirésias* (The Breasts of Tiresias), which was first performed in 1917.

During World War I, many artists who were living in Paris scattered and became involved with Dada, believing that excessive rational thought and bourgeois values created the war. The Dadaists protested with anti-art gatherings, performances, writings

and art works. Back in Paris, Andre Breton, who trained in medicine and psychiatry and served in a hospital where he used Sigmund Freud's psychoanalytic methods with soldiers suffering from the effects of the war, joined in Dada activities. Breton began to experiment with automatic writing (spontaneously writing without censoring thoughts) and published the writings and accounts of dreams in a magazine.

Freud's work with free association, dream analysis, and the unconscious was of utmost importance to the Surrealists in developing methods to free imagination. Besides the use of dream analysis, they emphasized that one could combine elements not normally found together to produce illogical and startling effects. The more extreme the relationship between the two contrasted realities is, the stronger the image will be -- the greater its emotional power and poetic reality.

In 1924, Breton declared the philosophy that defined the purpose of the group in the Surrealist Manifesto. Breton defined Surrealism as "pure psychic automatism by which one proposes to express, either verbally, or by any other manner, the real functioning of thoughts. Dictation of thought in the absence of all control exercised by reason, outside of all aesthetic and moral preoccupation." The Surrealists aimed to revolutionize human experience,

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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 Jan. 24th for the February 2012 issue and Feb. 24 for the March 2012 issue. After that, it's too late unless your exhibit runs into the next month. But don't wait for the last minute - send your info now.

And where do you send that info?

E-mail to (info@carolinaarts.com) or mail to:
Carolina Arts, P.O. Drawer 427, Bonneau, SC 29431