

Appalachian State University

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Fullwood.

"My sculptures also reflect my great curiosity about our origins: organic, ancestral, and cultural. With my sculpture I want to generate curiosity and allure. I like there to be an element of surprise. I enjoy exploring both abstract and realistic forms (usually human figures), and sometimes both blended together, a style I refer to as "organic surrealism". Part of the challenge is to integrate opposing imagery and the tensions created therein. Treacherous forms search for harmonious cohabitation amongst nurture forms. A whale and a cocoon and pollen may all fuse together into one form."

An immigrant to the United States from former Yugoslavia, Tanja Softić, explores questions of cultural identity, national belonging and experience of exile.

Softić's paintings, drawings and prints include elements of landscape, microscopic life forms, architectural details and renderings, obsolete geographical maps, astronomical charts and anatomical fragments as visual signifiers of a displaced existence.

"My work explores concepts of locating oneself in ever expanding notions of universe and society and the nature of memory," says Softić. "As an immigrant to United States from Bosnia, I am acutely aware of the inadequacy of established definitions of cultural or national identity. Our histories are recorded and pose the questions of how they shape our notions

of identity, what is our place and our task in the web of life of the planet, what is cultural memory and to whom does it belong? These questions loom large, and there are no reassuring answers. My work aims to capture this state of flux, acknowledge the obsolescence of categories, and work with the tattered web of memory."

"By the time you get this I will have moved on," says artist Les Caison III. "A local periodical quoted me as saying "It's OK to take two steps back as long as you put your best foot forward". There is flow in that logic to most - obviously you are going backward - fabulously backward. When you dance - which is what the quote is referring to - you move backwards, forwards, and around & around. Context and perspective - choosing to get out there and dance is in fact moving forward."

"It is perspective and appropriate positive attitude that get us moving in the right direction," says Caison III. "These paintings explore using whatever we have to go forward."

The Turchin Center for the Visual Arts presents exhibition, education and collection programs that support Appalachian State University's role as a key regional educational, cultural and economic resource.

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, call the Center at 828/262-3017 or visit (www.tcva.org).

Skyuka Fine Art in Tryon, NC, Offers Works by the Nelson Family

Skyuka Fine Art in Tryon, NC, will present *Art... A Nelson Family Tradition*, on view from Dec. 5 through Jan. 1, 2015. A reception will be held on Dec. 5, from 5-8pm.

Richard Christian Nelson is an award-winning portrait and gallery artist, and remarkably much of his family happens to have similar creative successes as well. Rich's Grandfather, A. Lincoln Nelson was an inventor and his Great Aunt Ruth Sigrid Grafstrom was a fashion illustrator for *Vogue* from the 1930-40s, earning four covers with the magazine.

Not only will we have some of this historic work on display, but we will also have artwork from other Nelson family members. Budding photographer Lillian, daughter of Rich and Kim, has captured some very interesting subjects recently. This past summer Lily joined an abandoned building photography tour in downtown Detroit, MI. This young photographer has quite the eye for an interesting composition and creates some very compelling images.

Other art will include Kimberly's small paintings, her Tryon Fine Arts Center 2014 Morris Ornament, and Samuel's figurative sculpture, completed under the tutelage of well known sculptor William Behrends. The Nelson's extended family will display items such as; Dawn's jewelry and knitwear, Isabel's jewelry, Bennett's photography, Lisa and David's paintings and digital art, and Tom and Celia's national advertising campaign samples.

Music runs deep with this talented crew as well and Isabel, Bob and Jim have produced multiple cds together, in addi-



Work by Richard Christian Nelson

tion to writing original music for movie soundtracks and even performing in major motion picture films.

The work to be featured by Richard was recently painted with the Plein Air Painters of the Southeast (PAPSE) on their annual trek to Boothbay, ME. In August Rich participated in the invitational "Painting on the Green" in Cashiers, NC, which also adds to this fresh body of work. His recent 'Honorable Mention' from the Portrait Society of America's "International Portrait Competition" for "Look Homeward Angel" will also be on display. Other awards Rich has recently won with the PSOA include: 'Top 10 Placement-International Portrait Competition', 'First Place-Commissioned Portraits Members Only Competition', 'Certificate of Excellence-International Competition', '1st Place-Oil' and 'Honorable Mention-Drawing' in the 'Choose Your Medium Portrait Competition', and '2nd Place-Outdoor Portrait Competition'. His work has been featured in *American Artist*, *American Art Collector*, *International Artist*, and he is listed in *Who's Who in American Art*.

For further information check our NC Commercial Gallery listings, call the gallery at 828/817-3783 or visit (www.skyukafineart.com).

TC ARTS in Brevard, NC, Offers Holiday Studio Tour - Dec. 13, 2014

The Transylvania Community Arts Council will host its Holiday fundraiser on Saturday, Dec. 13, 2014, with a Holiday Tour of Artists' Studios from 10am-5pm. There are eleven art studios in Transylvania County featured on the tour with more than 23 artists participating. Tickets are on sale now at the TC Arts Council located at 349 S. Caldwell Street and at Number 7 Arts Gallery at 12 East Main

Street. Tickets are \$20. Proceeds will benefit the TC Arts Council youth programs including Arts In Schools, scholarships to Summer Art Camp and Pottery Camp and Kids Art Days.

Artists' participating in the TC Arts Council's Holiday Tour of Artists' Studios include: Ann DerGara, owner of Red Wolf Gallery with guest painter Eric DerGara;

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