

ARTSPACE 506 in North Myrtle Beach

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and Kandahar and returned through those same cities, spending time with the troops, the Afghani people, and discovering the country.

Olsen documented the entire excursion through his photography. Many of the photographs from this experience are exhibited here for the first time. The narratives that accompany the photographs in this gallery were written by Dr. Townsend.

The second floor galleries contain selections of work by the artist. The small entry gallery on the second floor presents five large scale hand-painted photographs of figurative subjects. While photography is typically an art form that can be easily reproduced, these hand-painted works are one of a kind. With a technique that brings together both photography and painting, the artist photographs the subject, prints the image on paper that will accept a painting medium, then hand-paints the image.

The larger gallery includes photographs taken in Egypt and Greece. Olsen has focused his camera on these foreign lands, their people, places and customs. One notable photograph in this collection is a stunning panorama of an Egyptian marketplace that is six inches high and ninety inches long.

Also presented here are a collection of recent works where Olsen has sought out and photographed abandoned places in North and South Carolina. These photographs of rural American "ruins" are beautiful tonal images of interiors that seem haunted for lack of human presence, indeed a sense that there have been no humans here for a long time. A sense of emptiness, even sadness is conveyed in these works that confront the viewer with images of neglect, abandonment and decay.

Olsen is originally from Connecticut but has lived in South Carolina for twenty-six years. He received his BFA and MFA degrees from the University of Miami, FL. He worked in Connecticut and New York as an art director and creative director for several advertising agencies then returned to Miami where he started a business as



Work by Paukl Olsen

a freelance designer. He began his teaching career at Mississippi University for Women in Columbus, MS, where he taught Graphic Design and started the photography program. He moved to Missouri and taught Graphic Design at Columbia College, in Missouri, serving as Chair of the Department of Art for three years. He is now Professor of Art at Coastal Carolina University where he established the photography and graphic design programs. He has taught courses in graphic design, photography and digital arts. Olsen is also Faculty Advisor for Archarios, Coastal Carolina University's award-winning art and literary student magazine. He served as Chair of the Department of Art for four years.

Olsen's photographs have been included in regional, national and international exhibitions and can be found in public and private art collections.

For further information check our SC Commercial Gallery listings, call the gallery at 843/273-0399 or visit (www.artspace506.com).

Burroughs-Chapin Art Museum in Myrtle Beach, SC, Features Works by Laurie Blum

The Franklin G. Burroughs-Simeon B. Chapin Art Museum in Myrtle Beach, SC, is presenting *My Inner Garden*, featuring works by local artist Laurie Blum, on view through Apr. 23, 2015.

Stuck in the dead of winter, wouldn't we all like to escape to a lush, exotic garden fragrant with flowers under a canopy of vibrantly green trees? Escape winter's doldrums by visiting the Franklin G. Burroughs-Simeon B. Chapin Art Museum.

Blum's exhibition comes to life in this enchanting display of gouache paintings of the natural, and sometimes fantastical, world, as it exists through the eyes and soul of the artist. In 2003 and 2004, Blum made three trips to Iran, where she discovered a profound connection with the Bagh-e Eram Garden (Garden of Paradise) in the city of Shiraz. The garden was the living embodiment of the paradise imagined by Blum during her youth, her "Inner Garden," and so she put the brush to paper, painting a world both rich in color and feeling.

Since finding and painting the Garden of Paradise, Blum's inner and outer worlds have become one, and her art is a testament to the beauty of both. In 2007, Blum's paintings of Iran were exhibited at the United Nations Secretariat Building and The National Arts Club in New York City. Now, for the first time, Blum's work will be on view at the Art Museum in her hometown of Myrtle Beach.

While at the Museum guests are able to enjoy four other exhibits: *Swim: An Artist's*



Work by Laurie Blum

Journey by Charles Williams and *Voices of the Island: The Cuban Art Collection of Reynier Llanes* open through Apr. 23, *Visual Poetry: Metal Leaf Paintings* by Joseph Bradley, through Mar. 8 and *Kathleen Elliot: Imaginary Botanicals* through Apr. 12, 2015.

The Franklin G. Burroughs-Simeon B. Chapin Art Museum is a wholly nonprofit institution located across from Springmaid Pier on South Ocean Boulevard in Myrtle Beach. Admission is free, but donations are welcomed. Components of Museum programs are funded in part by support from the City of Myrtle Beach, the Horry County Council and the South Carolina Arts Commission, which receives support from the National Endowment for the Arts.

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings, call the Museum at 843/238-2510 or visit (www.MyrtleBeachArtMuseum.org).

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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 Feb. 24th for the March 2015 issue and Mar. 24 for the April 2015 issue. After that, it's too late unless your exhibit runs into the next month. Don't be late - send your info well before the deadline.