

Richland County Library

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digital body of paintings on photographic paper. Leeke collected these plankton samples, then photographed them using Richardson's Nikon Eclipse TS100 inverted microscope and a Nikon Infinity 1 digital camera. The artistic interpretations were completed by manipulating the photographs with a digital paint brush.



Achnanthis duthiei by Alicia Leeke

This project uses art to educate audiences about the importance of phytoplankton in relation to all living things on the planet and the need to maintain healthy, sustainable oceans and water bodies.

"It's been wonderful to work with Alicia and to share the world of phytoplankton with her," said Dr. Richardson. "Phytoplankton are critically important to marine food webs. Through photo-



Ceratum furca by Alicia Leeke

synthesis, they provide the fixed carbon upon which almost all life in the ocean is based. I like to tell my students that, without phytoplankton, we'd not have the marvelous creatures we all love, like sea turtles, dolphins, sharks and whales. And, of course, fish!"

Leeke is also using the exhibition to encourage partnerships between scientists and artists as well as to increase community awareness about the importance of arts-based learning as an educational tool in non-artistic disciplines.

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings, call the Library at 803/799-9084 or visit Leeke's website at (www.alicialeeke.com).

Columbia Museum of Art Offers Exhibit of African-American Art

The Columbia Museum of Art in Columbia, SC, will present *REMIX: Themes and Variations in African-American Art*, on view from Feb. 5 through May 3, 2016.

The Columbia Museum of Art (CMA) opens a new year of programming by presenting a major exhibition featuring some of the most important artists of the 20th century and today. *REMIX: Themes and Variations in African-American Art* and its accompanying catalogue focus on work that reassembles and reconfigures prior sources from history and culture into new works of art. The 45 works in the show represent some of the most innovative and influential African-American artists including Jacob Lawrence, Elizabeth Catlett, and Romare Bearden, alongside contemporary superstars like Kehinde Wiley, Kara Walker, and Fahamu Pecou. Nine South Carolina artists are included such as Leo Twiggs, Michaela Pilar Brown, and Colin Quashie. This show is curated and organized by the CMA, which is its only venue.

"The CMA belongs to an era where a conscious invitation to hear all voices is the underpinning of the work we do every day," says Executive Director Karen Brosius. "We are the first museum to explore the underlying thesis that many dynamic African-American artists have taken their inspiration from images, stories, and styles of the past and remade them through their own unique perspectives, imbuing them with a fresh context and often a whole new meaning."

The lively form of the works - paintings, sculpture, works on paper, video, and textiles - showcase diverse styles that explore the American experience. "In the face of our current divisive political climate, it is important to deconstruct the master narrative," says Jonell Logan, independent curator specializing in contemporary American art and *REMIX* essayist. "*REMIX* provides us that opportunity - to include more voices in the conversation of history, identity, and the image - and to provide a truer picture of what our world, our society looks like."

The Columbia Museum of Art has a long history of presenting exhibitions featuring African-American art and African cultural heritage - more than 40 years, beginning in 1972. In addition to the more than 25 exhibi-



Fahamu Pecou (b. 1975), "Rock Well" (Radiant, Pop, Champ) (after Norman Rockwell's Triple Self Portrait). 2010, acrylic on canvas, 48 x 48 in. Courtesy of Scott and Teddi Dolph. © Fahamu Pecou.

tions, the museum's collection includes works by more than 35 African-American artists, including Romare Bearden, Sam Gilliam, Joseph Norman, Elizabeth Catlett, William H. Johnson, Betye Saar, Carrie Mae Weems, Willie Cole, and others.

The CMA is offering free admission to the exhibition during regular public hours on opening weekend (Feb. 5 - 7), courtesy of BlueCross BlueShield of South Carolina. "*REMIX: Themes and Variations in African-American Art* will unite our community and present a diverse collection of modern and contemporary art from a unique perspective," says President and CEO David Pankau. "BlueCross BlueShield of South Carolina is thrilled to serve as the Title Sponsor for this extraordinary exhibition. We've been proud to partner with the Columbia Museum of Art for more than 20 years and look forward to continuing our work together as we educate and inspire our community through the power of creativity."

REMIX: Themes and Variations in African-American Art is made possible through support of our sponsors and national foundations. Presented by Title Sponsor BlueCross BlueShield of South Carolina and Foundation Sponsor Henry Luce Foundation. Supporting Sponsors: Bank

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