

Anastasia & Friends Gallery

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diately translated into art. A fiber vessel was created in which the dead bird was photographed. These images became the foundation for other, framed art quilts. The presentations include a border of nails, screws, and found hardware that is meant to reflect the harsh realities of nature alongside the soft beauty of the bird's feathers.

Lenz's residency proposal called for a concentration on fiber vessels. She wanted to explore conceptual possibilities that would transcend the ordinary functionality of a crafted container. The vessel made for the dead flicker set Lenz off in the right direction. Other vessels were created with white crackled acrylic interiors that reflect the parched lakebed. One vessel incorporates rusted barbed wire found on site. A visit to nearby Paisley Caves inspired a special artwork. Recent archaeological discoveries found in the four caves are recognized as the oldest definitively dated evidence of human presence in North America. While there, Lenz collected animal bones and gun shells to fill a small fiber vessel called "Man in Nature".

Lenz also looked to the very soil and pond water at PLAYA for a series on paper. "Much work happened during



Work by Susan Lenz

October but more has resulted since I've returned. I'm very much looking forward to this exhibit. It is an opportunity to share a magical time with those who were out of touch during the month." Lenz is also planning to create a shrine to the flicker, a project that she envisioned during her first week but knew would have to wait until the right location was found.

Anastasia & Friends Gallery is providing that perfect place to showcase "a month in paradise".

For further information check our SC Commercial Gallery listings, call Anastasia Chernoff at 803/665-6902 or e-mail to (anastasiachernoff@gmail.com).

Gallery West in West Columbia, SC, Features Works by Will South

Gallery West in West Columbia, SC, is presenting *Will South: Recent Works*, on view through Mar. 13, 2016.

South has become known on the Columbia scene over the past four years for his work at the Columbia Museum of Art, but also for his role as a painter in his own right. Wearing two hats, in South's view, is fine "as long as the hats fit." As a museum curator, he is known for making art accessible, whether in writing, on the wall, or in public talks. He shares his passion for art freely, and sees museum work as an ongoing opportunity for public service. Back in the studio, however, he reverts to the artist who has made art his entire life, only now one who has learned a great deal from art history.

In a number of his most recent paintings, the influence of art history is out in the open. One painting features a lounging cat with a painting by the great Italian modern Modigliani in the background. The Modigliani is interrupted by a floral spray, and the entire image is in a blurred, smoky light. There is no specific message here (or in any of the work, according to the artist) other than the poetry of the moment. The Modigliani in question sold recently for 170 million dollars, but the cat sharing its space is completely unconcerned. The atmosphere is one of quiet and detachment, where, for the artist, what is depicted supports the mood first and foremost.

In addition to oils on canvas, South is a



Work by Will South

prolific draftsman and a number of recent figure drawings will be featured. His attitude toward figure work is unabashedly selfish, "The world doesn't need any more figure drawings, but I do, and so that's why I make them. There is a world of difference between hearing someone sing and singing yourself. Happily, in the shortness of life, we get to do both."

For further information check our SC Commercial Gallery listings, call the gallery at 803/207-9265 or e-mail to (gallerywest.sara@aol.com).

2nd South Carolina Clay Conference Takes Place in Newberry, SC - Feb. 26-28

Making Clay Personal is the theme of the second annual South Carolina Clay Conference, held Feb. 26-28, 2016, in Newberry SC. During this three day conference, presenters Michael Sherrill, Glenda E. Guion and Bill Griffith will take attendees through the journey of creating objects in clay that are uniquely personal and expressive of the individual artist. All levels of ability and experience are invited to attend.

"I hope that the topic of making clay personal will open a dialogue about sorting out what is important to the clay artist when, at times, the choices seem endless," Says conference presenter Glenda E. Guion.

"We are bombarded with visual images and fragmented thoughts on a daily basis, either through our physical experiences or the new 'virtual realities'. Regardless of the clay material resources, or the artist experience, trusting your gut instincts to develop a

personal visual language for your work can be the most challenging part of creating the work."

Presenters Michael Sherrill and Glenda Guion will be taking the stage on Friday and Saturday to demonstrate their work while interacting with attendees, answering questions and offering inspiration for finding a personal clay voice. Sunday, Bill Griffith will introduce attendees to the personal journey of many well known clay artists.

"As makers, we often can reach a point when we become disengaged with our work and feel a need to change technically or aesthetically using new materials, forms and or content," says Griffith. "Why and when does this occur and how and where do we find inspiration and motivation to make this meaningful shift? My lecture will include images and testimonials from sev-

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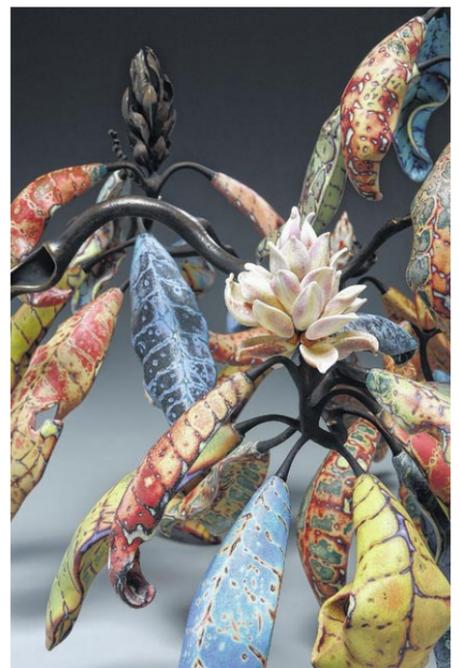
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eral well-known ceramic artists who have experienced this transition along with their personal thoughts and perhaps some helpful suggestions".

"Our goal in having a yearly conference is to bring together clay artists and potters from across South Carolina in an effort to build a stronger clay community. The number of people working in clay in South Carolina is growing and so is the number of area clay groups. By joining together once a year, we gain knowledge from collaborative conversations, share upcoming workshop information statewide, as well as discuss individual challenges and successes," says conference organizer, Marquerite Palmer. "Through interaction, communication and education we hope to move clay forward for the benefit of all SC clay artists and potters."

In addition to the 2016 SCCC, attendees and presenters are invited to participate in the 2016 SCCC Pottery Sale. The sale is open to the public and advertised throughout the state. All conference attendees, amateur and professional, are encouraged to bring pottery and sculpture to sale. A small percentage of the sale goes toward the support of the Newberry Arts Center and the South Carolina Clay Conference. Art work from this year's presenters will also be available for sale.

Some of Newberry's top restaurants will provide food for meals, the reception and the Saturday night Barbecue. Coffee, drinks, snacks and more are also included in the registration fee. Several vendors will be displaying their pottery related items as well as offering demonstrations and infor-



Works by Michael Sherrill

mation. The South Carolina Clay Conference's purpose is to assist in the growth and direction of South Carolina potters through presentation, demonstration, and networking opportunities. The Conference seeks to create a flourishing clay community in the state of South Carolina, with the aspiration to move clay forward.

For more information and to register go to (www.southcarolinaclayconference.com) or you can contact Marquerite Palmer by e-mail at (mpalmer@cityofnewberry.com), call 803/321-1015 or visit (www.southcarolinaclayconference.com).

South Carolina Clay Conference Pottery Sale Takes Place in Newberry - Feb. 26-28

The public is invited to attend the 2016 South Carolina Clay Conference Pottery Sale, Friday through Sunday, Feb. 26-28 in historic downtown Newberry, SC. All things clay; from functional pottery, clay sculpture, wall pieces and hand built pottery, will be on display from 10am to 6pm Friday and Saturday and 11am to 2pm on

Sunday. This year's South Carolina Pottery Sale will be held at 1200 Main Street in Newberry. Shoppers can choose from a variety of pieces created by professional and amateur clay artists and potters who are attending and presenting at the 2016 South Carolina Clay Conference.

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