

Furman University in Greenville, SC

continued from Page 33

new spirit brought about by the returning soldiers. Grateful to put the war behind them, soldiers were noted to take their studies seriously. In addition to a serious attitude, veteran students brought back with them a newfound lust for life. After spending so many years face to face with the atrocities of war, veterans wanted to take time to enjoy all that they had been fighting for. Post-WWII Furman could not return to prewar 'normalcy,' but it did propel the university into the future.

The exhibition was curated by Furman

history major Tyler Edmond (Class of 2017) with assistance from Professor Courtney Tollison (Class of 1999) and Jeffrey Makala, Special Collections Librarian and University Archivist, as part of Edmond's internship project in Special Collections and Archives for her Fall 2015 Public and Local History Studies class.

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings, contact Jeffrey Makala by calling 864/294-2714, or e-mail to (jeffrey.makala@furman.edu).

images remind us that though we are in an oasis, it an artificial. Do these constructed floating leaves provide us with more succor and comfort than the living, breathing gingko outdoors?

Laurel was able to conceive and complete this installation during 2 artist residencies, one at the Hambidge Center for Creative Arts in Rabun, GA, and the other at the Paducah Arts Alliance in Paducah, KY. She was awarded a grant from the Metropolitan Arts Council for much of the materials used in this installation. This is the inaugural exhibition of *Refugium*.

Laurel lives in Greenville, SC. She is

an active member of the local arts community and has exhibited widely in the region as well as in upstate SC, New York and Kentucky.

RIVERWORKS Gallery is operated by and for the faculty and students of the Department of Visual Arts at Greenville Technical College. RIVERWORKS Gallery is located on River Street, Suite 202, along the scenic Reedy River in downtown Greenville, SC.

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings, visit (www. gvltec.edu/dva) or e-mail to (fleming. markel@gvltec.edu).

RIVERWORKS Gallery in Greenville, SC, Offers Works by Christina Laurel

RIVERWORKS Gallery in Greenville, will present *Refugium*, an installation by Christina Laurel, on view from Mar. 10 through Apr. 17, 2016.

Refugium is a quiet space filled with orderly floating strands of constructed paper gingko leaves. The gentle currents created by movement through the strands activates the leaves. The strands and individual leaves rotate, wave, quiver in response to this movement through the gallery.

RIVERWORKS Gallery becomes a meditative oasis created to relax and refresh. Mirroring the interior gingko leaves are the fresh, spring leaves of a specimen gingko growing outdoors near the gallery entrance. The gingko itself is a fossil tree that has been growing for thousands of years. The gingko is a survivor. Its leaves are an iconic fan shape that allows them when brilliant yellow in fall to gracefully perform their deciduous dance as they end their growing season.

Laurel previously centered her work on constructing collages. The images and colors within her collages were an homage to Japan and particularly the historical

Page 34 - Carolina Arts, March 2016



Work by Christina Laurel

Edo culture of Japan. Here she has recycled the imagery of her collages to color the hundreds and hundreds of gingko leaves whose dance she memorializes in Refugium. The subtle blue, purple, mauve

continued above on next column to the right

Furman University in Greenville, SC, Features Works by Armin Mühsam

Furman University in Greenville, SC, will present Clear Cut Spaces, featuring paintings by Northwest Missouri State University (Maryville, MO) Professor of Art Armin Mühsam, on view in the Thompson Gallery, in the Roe Art Building, from Mar. 17 through Apr. 7, 2016. A reception will be held on Apr. 5, from 6-7:30pm, with a talk by the artist at 6:30pm in the gallery.

About his work, Mühsam says, "Landscape is the stage where people and land interact; on it, the drama between the natural, or the given, and the human-built, or technology, plays itself out. Technology in this sense encompasses all human activity to assert control over the land; in this process, technology also transfers its values and its symbols to architecture. I have come to the conclusion that technology (read: western man) writes or draws into a landscape just like an artist would draw on a sheet of paper - through and with technology, forms are assembled and manipulated to compose a kind of environment that suits man's needs."

"My diptychs are expressions of this idea, in terms of content as well as form," adds Mühsam. "These landscapes are completely artificial, consisting of basic parts drawn from a pool of man-made



Work by Armin Mühsam

elements such as dikes, tunnels, excavation holes, roads, foundation walls, etc., all set in a pictorial atmosphere that aims to communicate a sense of misgiving, of unease, of shifting ground despite the concreteness of the portrayed structures."

"This suspicion that there might be something wrong is, I believe, central to the contemporary mindset: As progenitors and products of our industrial and scientific revolutions, we know with certainty that we are out of joint with nature but we seldom admit that we are also out of joint with our own natures as a consequence. For me, our surroundings are clear manifestations of this process - we walk and drive through dreary, meaningless environments, man-made replacement landscapes in a world rendered sterile after the disappearance of the natural," says Mühsam.

continued on Page 35