



LANDER UNIVERSITY VISUALart

Lander art students are ambitious, diverse, creative, and current. These characteristics are evidenced not only in faculty accolades, but also in award-winning students. In addition to being skilled, Lander visual art students are hard workers and high achievers. They succeed in internships, and exhibit original artwork at campus, local, and regional juried competitions and maintain meaningful ties to the vibrant art community of greater Greenwood, SC.

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Furman University - Mühsam

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Mühsam holds a Master of Fine Arts degree from Montana State University (Bozeman, MT) and a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from the University of Applied Sciences, Munich, Germany.

The exhibition is presented by the Fur-

man University Department of Art.

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings or call the Furman University Department of Art at 864/294-2074.

University of South Carolina Upstate in Spartanburg, SC, Offers *Foundations Exhibition*

The University of South Carolina Upstate Visual Arts in Spartanburg, SC, is hosting the first *Foundations Exhibition* for students in 2D, 3D, Drawing, and Design Foundation classes, on view in the Curtis R. Harley Gallery in the Humanities and Performing Arts Center, through Mar. 25, 2016. A reception will be held on Mar. 3, beginning at 4:30pm.

The exhibit will showcase the work of students in the first and second year curriculum. The exhibition is curated by Michael Marks, Assistant Professor and Foundations Coordinator for the Fine Arts Department at USC Upstate.

The University of South Carolina Upstate Visual Arts program is dedicated to quality and integrity in educating students. Important to any program is the ability to evolve with the ever-changing landscape of technology, theory and cultural at-

titudes. It is the goal of the USC Upstate program to attract and maintain a faculty of recognized professionals active in their fields of specialization, support program development appropriate to the discipline, develop and maintain instructional facilities and equipment current to the curriculum, attract students that seek higher education to prepare for professional career options, develop a commitment to lifelong-learning and prepare to participate in a global world, and serve as a facilitator to bridge education with the community at large.

The department offers two degrees in their program, ART STUDIO, Bachelor of Arts, ART STUDIO, emphasis Graphic Design and ART EDUCATION, Bachelor of Arts, Art Education.

For more information about the Fine Arts classes and degree program offered, please contact Jane Nodine at 864/503-5838.

Spartanburg Art Museum in Spartanburg, SC, Offers Exhibit of Serious Ceramics

The Spartanburg Art Museum in Spartanburg, SC, is presenting *Cognitive Dissonance*, which explores some of the difficult and complex issues of our time, from political polarity and unending military conflict to the effects of overconsumption

and its impact on the ecological health of our planet, on view through Mar. 25, 2016.

The nine exhibiting artists, five of whom live outside of the United States, are all ceramicists. They represent a broad spectrum

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of creative processes within the confines of their chosen material, from improvisational and impulsive work to formal, conceptual, and highly refined pieces. The title, *Cognitive Dissonance*, refers to the anxiety that arises from holding two or more contrary attitudes, beliefs, or positions.

Guest curator, Anthony Merino writes, "As humans, we are both intellectual and physical creatures. We think, plan, dream, and build. At the same time, our base appetites govern most of our behaviors. This condition elicits two reactions. One is to try and deny the limits of our physical forms, to transcend our bodies, which pits the two aspects of our nature against each other. The second is to embrace both conditions, for our limits, flaws, quirks, and kinks, which allows us to create."

Cognitive Dissonance artists include: Nel Banner, Daniel Bare, Marie Bourlanges, Elena Khurtova, Alfredo Eandrade, Anthony Merino, Melissa Stern, Madeline Stillwell, and Valerie Zimany.

Clay, as a creative medium, has been used by humans for thousands of years. One of the first pre-historic ceramic figurines was created more than 28,000 years ago, the famous *Venus of Dolni Vestonice*, which was unearthed in the Czech Republic. Since then, humans have created ceramic objects for domestic, decorative, and industrial purposes. "One of the delightful aspects of this current exhibition is learning how today's ceramic artists create objects that have this incredible material history, and yet explore innovative and unique ways to work with it," Executive Director Elizabeth Goddard says.

Some of the works in the exhibition reference complex global issues. Nel Banner's four imposing columns represent the four directions as well as a generalization of four ethnic groups. Ceramic figures of children rise from the tops of each column and express the artist's concerns of children caught in military conflict and how they are the smallest victims of violence brought on by people they have never met or to whom they might not have any political or religious affiliations. At the base of each column are 13 pairs of ceramic feet, all modeled after real people, which brings to bare this notion



Work by Daniel Bare and Valerie Zimany

of humanity and how we move in the world or stay still.

The issue of overproduction and consumption and its impact on the ecological health of the planet is explored by a large site-specific installation titled, *Evergreen*, created by Daniel Bare and Valerie Zimany. Found objects covered in white clay are arranged across four walls in the back of the gallery space. The artists bound and bundled many soft objects together in such a way that viewers may associate what they are looking at with a digestive system. "This is a powerful representation of a break in the process of object production, finding its self no longer useful and headed to a landfill," Goddard says. "It's a mysterious and elegant piece and one of my favorites in the exhibition."

The museum staff had a lot of fun putting the Family Activity Guide together for this exhibition. These interactive materials are one of the ways they teach children and parents a little bit about the history of clay and how artists and industry utilize it today from electrical insulators, to flat irons to cell phones. "We encourage families to learn together, and we are always free so the museum is accessible for everyone. I have never thought of art as a privilege. The goal for SAM's future is to present the best contemporary visual art experiences for all of Spartanburg and beyond," comments Goddard, who was recently named Museum Educator of the Year by the South Carolina Art Educators Association.

For more info check our SC Institutional Gallery listings, call the Museum at 864/582-7616 or visit (www.SpartanburgArtMuseum.org).

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