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COCO VIVO Art for Living in Charleston, SC, Features Works by Mitch Billis

COCO VIVO Art for Living in Charleston, SC, will present *Mitch Billis Solo Show*, featuring more than a dozen extraordinary paintings by our most recognized and nationally renowned artist, Mitch Billis, on view from Apr. 1 - 30, 2014. A reception will be held on Apr. 4, from 5-8pm.

This is the first 2014 exhibition to highlight the work of Billis, a member of Who's Who in American Art. Most are neverbefore-seen pieces that capture the artist's personal styles of light casting shadows in romanticize views of the Lowcountry and Italy.

The show was organized by Mary Phelps. Created especially for this exhibition, this solo presentation features oil paintings depicting coastal nautical scenes, Italian and Lowcountry architecture, and coastal marshes.

Boothbay Harbor, ME, artist Mitch Billis loves to paint Charleston, Maine, and Italy. In all places, he finds the flower-draped porches, snug harbors, and time-worn buildings that attract his keen eye. Billis sees life as a continuum of learning, "If you are being honest about what and how you paint,



Work by Mitch Billis

learning to see keeps on forever. I am still learning. That's the joy and frustration of painting. I am constantly experimenting and trying to improve the quality of my work. Sometimes a step back can mean two steps forward. Other times it's just a step back, but the inherent struggle always leads in new directions. As Robert Henri says in *The Art Spirit*, 'Painting is about the process, that's where the joy lies." The paintings are merely a by-product of the life I have been privileged to lead." His own life is testimony to this idea of continual learning.

For further information check our SC Commercial Gallery listings, call the gallery at 843/720-4027 or visit (www.cocovivoartforliving.com).

The Real Estate Studio in Charleston, SC, Features Exhibit of Works Made Using Instagram

The Real Estate Studio in Charleston, SC, is presenting the first Charleston InstaGallery show, on display through Apr. 22, 2014.

The Charleston InstaGallery is a curated photographic tour of Charleston through the eyes of the Charleston Instagram community. The InstaGallery is curated by Mark Swick and Paul Dunker, local Instagram users who have a passion for capturing the unique beauty of Charleston.

The InstaGallery will feature twelve of the Lowcountry's talented Instagram artists, whose photographs were selected from thousands of submissions. Featured photographs will be available for purchase throughout the show.

Instagram is one of the world's most popular online photo-sharing, video-sharing, and social networking services. Its signature feature is the ability for users to apply digital filters to pictures, and then

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share them on a variety of social networks such as Facebook and Twitter.

The Real Estate Studio is the downtown office of dunes properties, a boutique real estate, vacation rental, and property management company serving the Charleston area since 1989.

For further information check our SC Commercial Gallery listings, contact Traci Magnus at 843/722-5618 or e-mail to (tmagnus@dunesproperties.com).

Lowcountry Artists Ltd. in Charleston, SC, Offers Works by Rana Jordahl and Robb Helmkamp

Lowcountry Artists Ltd. in Charleston, SC, is presenting *Renewal: New Works by Rana Jordahl and Robb Helmkamp*, on view through May 31, 2014.

The exhibit presents works in oil by Rana Jordahl and works in wood by Robb Helm-kamp. They will come together to show each of their interpretations of the renewal of Spring.



Work by Rana Jordahl

In recent months, Jordahl has been preoccupied with Spring. During this seemingly endless and harsh winter, she has been pondering the beautiful aspects of Spring's renewal process: the rebirth of animals, the blooming of flowers that bring delicate green, yellow and pink hues of new leaves, buds and grasses that transform the drab and

dirty winter landscape. She has put together a collection of paintings knitted together by the theme of renewal that is undeniable in May in Charleston.

Jordahl, originally from the midwest state of Iowa, earned a bachelor's degree in advertising which brought her to the south working on accounts as varied as the 1996 Summer Olympics, the US Marine Corps and Norfolk Southern Railroad. It was after the birth of her children that she pursued a career in fine arts. Her work is identifiable by its rich texture of thick oil paint and her use of color in interpreting her subject matter.

Jordahl lives and works in Charleston. Her artwork is represented in private collections nationally and internationally as well as in corporate collections. She is the current President of Lowcountry Artists Ltd. gallery.

Surrounded by creativity and art throughout his childhood, Robb Helmkamp was encouraged to explore his imagination and delve wholeheartedly into his interests. His mother, painter and lifetime potter, Marty Biernbaum, has always been a wealth of inspiration, providing he and his brother freedom which led them to each become artists in their own sculptural medium and master craftsmen. The creative energy within a family of artists is unparalleled and with this encouragement Helmkamp has been making and designing furniture for over 10 years.

Reaching an understanding in the correlation between metal and wood in the past continued on Page 13

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