

Hidell Brooks Gallery in Charlotte, NC, Features Works by Herb Jackson

Hidell Brooks Gallery in Charlotte, NC, will present *Herb Jackson Paintings*, on view from Apr. 7 - 29, 2017. A reception will be held on Apr. 7, from 6-8pm.

"In honor of my return to showing in the Charlotte area, this will be one of the largest exhibitions I have ever done. Over 20 large paintings will fill the three rooms of the gallery space," says Jackson.

Jackson has had over 150 one-person exhibitions in the US and in England, Peru, Portugal and Canada. His work has been featured in group exhibitions throughout this country and abroad. Critic, Donald Kuspit, included Herb Jackson's paintings in the first exhibition of contemporary American art presented in the former Soviet Union. His work is in over 100 museum collections.

In 1999, Jackson was given the North Carolina Award by the governor. This is the highest civilian honor bestowed by the state.

Jackson's paintings are built up in many layers which are scraped off as they are being applied. Shapes and marks come and go as the painting develops to a hundred or more layers. The final outcome is the result of a process of discovery similar to the life experience itself.

"To require that an image, to be a bearer of content, must be recognizable is to suggest that there is no form to the unknowable," said Jackson, adding, "My inner journey through art confirms, for me



"Torso" by Herb Jackson, 54x42, acrylic on canvas, 2016

at least, that it is not necessary to rob life of its mystery in order to understand it."

Jackson received a BA from Davidson College, Davidson, NC, in 1967; attended Philips Universitat, Marburg, West Germany (1965-66); and received an MFA from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC, in 1970.

For further information check our NC Commercial Gallery listings, call the gallery at 704/334/7302 or visit (www.hidellbrooks.com).

Fine Arts Center of Kershaw County in Camden, SC, Features Works by J Michael McGuirt

The Fine Arts Center of Kershaw County in Camden, SC, will present *Form & Flow*, featuring works by J Michael McGuirt, on view in the Bassett Gallery, from Apr. 4 through May 5, 2017. A reception will be held on Apr. 4, from 5:30-7pm.

Reflective of McGuirt's artistic journey over the last three years, *Form and Flow* is a basic timeline of his development and growth as an artist over the past 36 months.

McGuirt's foray into the professional art world began with geometric designs in black and white acrylic paint that reflected his desire to express his creativity in a bold straight forward yet interesting way. His experimentation with acrylic paints made him realize that the color combinations he saw were endless and more beautiful than he ever imagined. After a year and a half of what he describes as his "mad scientist" phase, he finally figured out how to control the process enough to capture it on canvas.

"I was finally able to flow movement, depth and life onto a canvas and maintain its integrity," said McGuirt. "My basic structured geometric black and white paintings had evolved into more complex and 'outside the lines' paintings dominated by color and movement."

When asked who influenced his work, McGuirt said, "I realized along the way how much the German Bauhaus School of Design (1911-1922) influences many artists' styles. It was the forerunner of the modernistic design movement. The Bauhaus philosophies embodied minimalism, geometrics, clean lines with bold simple coloration. My geometrics were certainly influenced by this school of thought. I have incorporated my own designs of Bauhaus-like figures into my show using simple colors drawn from the large flow paintings on display to tie the 'form' of geometrics with the 'flow' of color and life."



Work by J Michael McGuirt

McGuirt is a native of Camden, SC. He is a 1989 graduate of Furman University in Greenville, SC. He is primarily a self-taught artist and has always been artistically driven by the rich diversity of culture and inspirations of the region. Gravitating toward nonrepresentational abstract acrylic paintings, McGuirt has developed a unique technique of painting that results in life, depth, movement, and personality in each painting. Although his process is free in spirit and movement, it is very much scientifically driven. The results are truly original and unique pieces of art that project heart and soul.

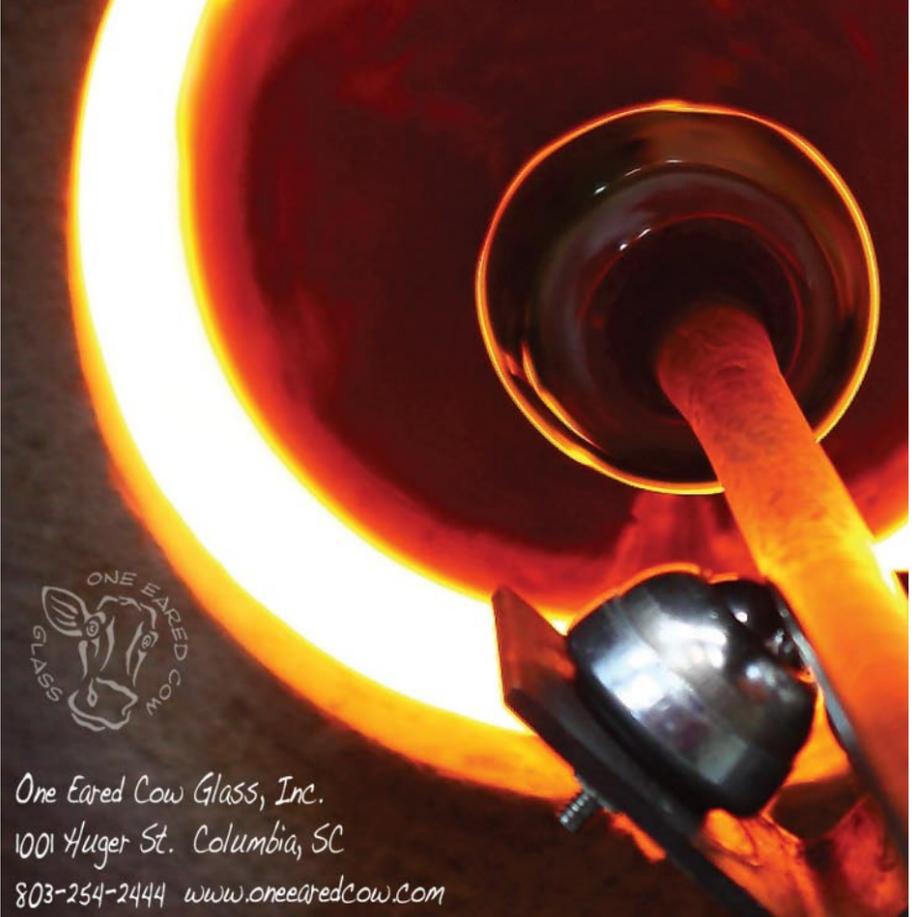
McGuirt is currently represented at the Village Artists Gallery at the Village of Sandhills in Columbia, SC; M Gallery in Lexington SC; and the J Michael Gallery in Camden SC.

The Fine Arts Center is funded in part by the Frederick S. Upton Foundation and the South Carolina Arts Commission, which receives support from the National Endowment for the Arts. Additional funding is provided by the City of Camden, Kershaw County, and BlueCross BlueShield of South Carolina along with donations from businesses and individuals.

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings, call the Center at 803-425-7676, ext. 300 or visit (www.fineartscenter.org).

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University of South Carolina in Columbia, SC, Features Works by Julie Marie Hamer

The University of South Carolina in Columbia, SC, will present *Busy Day (dreams)*, a MFA Thesis Exhibition by Julie Marie Hamer, on view at the McMaster Gallery, from Apr. 3 - 7, 2017. A reception will be held on Apr. 6, from 5-7pm, with an artist talk at 6pm.

"When caught up in stressful activities, my mind tends to wander off. Because of this, I create multiples of a miniature character and place them in scenarios that reflect my overwhelming experiences, but they act out in mischievous ways. For me, this acts as an escape from those stressful situations and helps me relax and keep focus on tasks I need to accomplish. *Busy Day(dreams)* invites viewers to escape in an imagined world, my world, as it interacts playfully with our reality."

Julie Marie Hamer was born in Portsmouth, OH. She is currently pursuing a Masters of Fine Arts degree in studio art at the University of South Carolina in Columbia. She recently completed her Museum Management Certificate from USC, and earned her Bachelors of Arts degree and a minor in Marine Science from Coastal Carolina University in 2013.



Work by Julie Marie Hamer

Hamer has assisted with gallery exhibits at McKissick Museum and she curated *Time and Place: The Artwork of James Fowler Cooper* at the South Carolina State Museum in 2016. She also received an assistantship as a work study to Penland School of Crafts, she has participated in exhibits throughout South Carolina and her artwork will be on display in Artfields, Lake City, SC, from Apr. 21-29, 2017.

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings, contact Shannon Rae Lindsey, Gallery Director by e-mail at (slindsey@email.sc.edu) or call 803/777-5752.

Vista Studios in Columbia, SC, Features Works by Eileen Blyth

Artist Eileen Blyth will present work from a month-long residency in Assisi, Italy, at Vista Studios' Gallery 80808 in Columbia, SC, on view through Apr. 10, 2017.

A mixed media painter and sculptor, Blyth's solo exhibition is a sampling of paintings done during a 30-day pilgrimage to Assisi, Italy, last spring. The experience was filled with a wide range of weather, terrain, inspiration, creativity and growth.

A different language, a different work environment, and people from different parts of the world were anticipated challenges. Drastic, ever-changing weather, unfamiliar tools and an ancient work space were not. Blyth found herself pushing away from her paints in fits of frustration.

The mountain offered ruins, centuries old vineyards, and unfamiliar trees and

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The deadline each month to submit articles, photos and ads is the 24th of the month prior to the next issue. This will be Apr. 24th for the May 2017 issue and May 24 for the June 2017 issue.

After that, it's too late unless your exhibit runs into the next month. But don't wait for the last minute - send your info now.

And where do you send that info?
E-mail to (info@carolinaarts.com).