

## Florence County Museum in Florence, SC, Features Works by Robert Garey

The Florence County Museum in Florence, SC, will present *The Fiddler's Tale: Recent Works of Love and Loss* by Robert Garey, on view in the Waters Gallery, from Apr. 10 through June 16, 2017.

The exhibition will be composed of 23 works which explore the existential nature of the human condition, as expressed in the subject matter of traditional Appalachian folk music.

Garey, who is also a musician, has spent the past five years drawing upon the lyrics of this music to create darkly-toned allegorical imagery, rendered with a high degree of technical familiarity in the medium of oil paint.

Although he began creating and exhibiting art in the 1970s, Garey's instruction in the atelier style of realist painting first came in 1989, as a student at the New York Academy of Figurative Art. The school was a late career project of the Pop Art protégé, Andy Warhol, who founded the Academy as a safeguard against the potential loss of such skilled lineage in American art instruction. The result of the school's immersive and demanding curriculum can be seen in Garey's masterful details and in the rich surfaces of many of the paintings in the exhibit.

The show's title is taken from one of its larger paintings, which depicts a verse in the popular Appalachian murder ballad, *Pretty Polly*. Although fans of the genre may recognize familiar scenes from a diversity of other song lyrics, Garey's images are often connected by the appearance of the "fiddler" character, who narrates their fateful events from a nearby corner of the stage.

Although reminiscent of the Regionalist style of paintings by 20th century American artists like Thomas Hart Ben-



"The Fiddler's Tale" by Robert Garey

ton, Garey confides, "This series of work is really inspired by the narrative paintings of the Renaissance, which depict the great tales from the Bible and Roman myths."

Florence County Museum Curator, Stephen W. Motte, has this to say about the exhibit, "The artist's inspiration and his intent are readily apparent in the final product, which is not an easy thing to achieve. The museum is always looking for artists of Garey's caliber, who can express complex ideas in complex media, and produce bodies of work which are so cohesive and formally well executed, without losing their subtlety."

Garey's many other artistic accomplishments include his work for the film industry, Sotheby's Auction House, public murals, interior trompe l'oeil, and historic preservation.

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings, call the Museum at 843/676-1202 or visit ([www.flocomuseum.org](http://www.flocomuseum.org)).

## Coker College in Hartsville, SC, Offers Works by Cianne Fragione

Coker College in Hartsville, SC, is presenting *Pocket Full of Promises*, featuring an exhibition of sculptures by Cianne Fragione, on view in the Cecelia Coker Bell Gallery, through Apr. 7, 2017.

Fragione received her BA in painting and mixed media in 1981 at Goddard College in Plainfield, VT, and received her MFA in painting and mixed media at the John F. Kennedy University in Berkeley, CA.

"*Pocket Full of Promises* is an assemblage series that uses pocketbooks as a basic form, and reflects my long commitment to the medium," says Fragione. "Pocketbooks bear the implements of everyday life, and indeed they are 'books' whose chapters take form as I add other objects to them. This process uses both art and non-art materials to develop tremendous density of evocation, connection, and poetic interaction, as well as sculptural presence."

The Cecelia Coker Bell Gallery is located in the Gladys C. Fort Art Building on the campus of Coker College in Hartsville, SC. Parking entrance for the art building is directly across from 306 E. Home Ave.

Coker College upholds and defends the intellectual and artistic freedom of its faculty and students as they study and create art through which they explore the full spectrum of human experience. The college considers such pursuits central to the spirit of inquiry and thoughtful discussion, which are at the heart of a liberal arts education.



"Nucleus of the Ancient City", by Cianne Fragione, drawings, paintings, photograph by artist, text, netting, map pins, metals, perfume bottle, oil and encaustic on repurposed round purse, 8" x 12" x 5", 2014

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings, contact exhibition director Ashley Gillespie at 843/383-8156 or visit ([www.ceceliacokerbellgallery.com](http://www.ceceliacokerbellgallery.com)).

## Black Creek Arts Center in Hartsville, SC, Features Works by Stefan G. Gustafsson

Black Creek Arts Center in Hartsville, SC, is presenting *Moments of Reflection*, featuring works by Stefan G. Gustafsson, on view through Apr. 28, 2017.

"My approach to art is deeply philosophical and yet very organic, physical and concrete in nature," says Gustafsson. Page 34 - Carolina Arts, April 2017

"Using subtlety as a tool to create space for contemplation, I invite the viewer to go beyond simply observing the tangible properties of the materials, and perhaps also discover the stories they want to tell."

"I always try to let my surroundings  
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SC Governor's School for Science & Mathematics PRESENTS

# Art in the Interim Exhibit

March 5 – April 15

EXHIBIT LOCATION  
Doctors Bruce and Lee Foundation Library  
509 S. Dargan St. • Florence SC

EXHIBIT HOURS  
Monday–Thursday: 9:00<sup>AM</sup> to 8:30<sup>PM</sup>  
Friday and Saturday: 9:00<sup>AM</sup> to 5:30<sup>PM</sup>  
Sunday: 2:00<sup>PM</sup> to 6:00<sup>PM</sup>

RECEPTION  
3<sup>PM</sup> Sunday, March 12, 2017  
Open to the Public

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speaking to me about invisible realities, and in this way the world becomes a mirror for my soul. My hope is that my work will stir these kinds of reactions; I want my art to cause people to stop and look again, to slow down and listen, to hear the things one can only hear when the soul is still."

"In working with both refined and robust materials, I consider the complexities of the human experience," adds Gustafsson. "I ask questions about the polarities

of life, searching for value and purpose within the paradoxes."

The exhibit is sponsored by Coldwell Banker Deborah Gandy & Associates. Works by Thornwell School for the Arts, students, will also be on display in the Center's foyer.

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings, call the Center at 843/332-6234 or visit ([www.blackcreekarts.org](http://www.blackcreekarts.org)).

## Artworks Gallery in Winston-Salem, NC, Features Works by E.O. Hill and Alix Hitchcock

Artworks Gallery in Winston-Salem, NC, will present *Natural Selections*, featuring works by E.O. Hill and Alix Hitchcock, on view from Apr. 2 - 29, 2017. Receptions will be held on Apr. 7, from 7-10pm and on Apr. 9, from 2-4pm. E.O. "Ted" Hill is showing landscape

drawings, often with a graphite/turpentine wash, and Alix Hitchcock is showing encaustic wax paintings on panels and encaustic wax monotypes on paper.

Hill is a native of Winston-Salem. He has exhibited internationally with work in  
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