

# 30th North Charleston Arts Festival Takes Place Throughout North Charleston, SC - May 4 -12, 2012

Now in its 30th year, the North Charleston Arts Festival will take place May 4-12, 2012. The nine day event draws thousands of residents and visitors each year and is one of the most comprehensive arts festivals in the state, highlighting national, regional, and local artists and performers in the areas of Dance, Music, Theater, Visual Arts, Crafts, Photography, Media Arts, and Literature.



Official Festival Design Image by Elena Barna

Organized by the City of North Charleston Cultural Arts Department, the festival strives to maintain the spirit of a public celebration with the mission of presenting a broad, multidiscipline event schedule that provides a wide range of performances, exhibitions, and activities for people of all ages and backgrounds. Many of the offerings are free, and those that are ticketed are moderately priced. Recognized by the Southeast Tourism Society as a Top 20 Event, the North Charleston Arts Festival offers something for everyone.

“The Arts Festival is truly a point of pride for the City of North Charleston,” says North Charleston Mayor, Keith Summey. “It provides our residents and thousands of visitors with a myriad of opportunities to experience high quality entertainment, exhibits, and programming from every arts discipline in a variety of traditional and non-traditional settings.”

The Arts Festival Main Event, held on Saturday, May 5, from 10am-4pm, and Sunday, May 6, from 2-5pm, at the North Charleston Performing Arts Center and Charleston Area Convention Center, offers free admission and parking to over forty performances on four themed stages: General Audience, Cultural Heritage, Youth Entertainment, and Bands. Other features include judged fine art and photography exhibits; the 12th annual *South Carolina Palmetto Hands Fine Craft Exhibit*; youth art from Charleston, Berkeley and Dorchester county students; the Lowcountry Gem & Mineral Society show and sale; the Village Antiques & Collectibles show; children’s activities at Box City and Creation Stations; art & craft vendors, a food court, and much more.

The Festival continues with over fifty events throughout the week at various locations. An exciting array of free and ticketed events include concerts, street dances, theatre presentations, film screenings, art workshops and demonstrations, an art walk, children’s programs, an Art & Fine Craft CoOp Gallery & Sale, the 7th annual *National Outdoor Sculpture Exhibition*, and a Grand Finale at the beautiful North Charleston Riverfront Park. This year’s Grand Finale on May 12 features a Tri-County school showcase, dance performances, a slam poetry show, children’s activities, and an evening concert by The Shem Creek Boogie Band. The event concludes with a fantastic fireworks display over the Cooper River.

For further details and a complete list of events visit <http://northcharlestonartsfest.com/>.

## Visual Art Offerings

Charleston Area Convention Center:



Work by Patz Fowle

The *South Carolina Palmetto Hands Fine Craft Competition & Exhibition* will be on view from May 5 - 12, 2012. Fine craft artists from across the state will display inspiring objects in the media of clay, fiber, glass, metal, wood, and three-dimensional mixed media in this 12th annual juried competition and exhibition. This year’s juror was Clay Burnette, basketmaker, handweaver, and Director of Grants and Fellowships at the SC Arts Commission.

*Works by Elena Barna*, on view at the North Charleston City Gallery, from May 1 - 31, 2012. Barna, winner of the 2012 North Charleston Arts Festival Design Competition, will display a variety of works in acrylic and oil, including her



winning design, *My Muse*. Barna’s pieces, often portraits, use vivid colors, thick application of paint, and distinctive brush strokes to convey an emotional vision of the world. Form and color are central to her aesthetic and shimmering surfaces and rich dabs of paint characterize her paintings. The public is invited to meet the artist at the gallery on May 5 & 6 during the Main Event.

*Judged Fine Art & Photography Exhibitions*, on view May 5 - 12, 2012. View entries in Fine Art and Professional & Amateur Photography. Fine Art Juror: Kimberly H. Spears, Executive Director of the Anderson County Arts Council. Photography entries judged using the Photographic Society of America Print Guidelines.

*Tri-County Youth Art Exhibition*, on view May 5-6, 2012. Schools and individual students in Charleston, Dorchester, and Berkeley counties will display works in a variety of subjects and mediums. The juror for this show was Lori Starnes Isom, City of North Charleston Artist-in-Residence 2011/12.

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North Charleston City Hall:



Work by Mariannic Parra

*In the Distance of the Dream – Works by Mariannic Parra*, on view May 1 - 20, 2012. Following in the footsteps of French impressionist artists such as Claude Monet, Paul Signac, and Georges Seurat, Mariannic Parra seeks to explore dimensions of light. But, like more contemporary artists such as Dan Flavin and Walter di Maria, Parra’s works move beyond the impressionists by using light as a medium. Her featured body of work includes landscape thematic paintings using natural materials, like volcanic sand and coal, and contemporary materials, such as plexiglass.

Pieces in the exhibit are inspired and accompanied by original poems by her husband, Jean Pierre Parra. Her work leaves us with an impression of luminosity and opens the door for the viewer to become part of the art experience and to work with the light, both natural and industrial, as it moves across the surface of the canvas throughout the day. Light enters each piece and becomes a part of the painting, creating movement and

*Art Exhibition*, on view May 1 through June 10, 2012. Creation, or Virgin Mother, stories such as Yemaya, are universal. Inspired by the folklore and visual history of African water divinities and explorations of this subject by scholars, the 6th installment of this annual exhibition will feature African American fiber artists from across the nation interpreting stories and depictions of water spirits in African and the Afro-Atlantic world through cloth. Juried pieces will include art quilts and cloth dolls created through traditional and non-traditional fiber techniques.

*Contemporary Fiber Art Exhibition*, on view from May 4 - 12, 2012. Art That Works is a 10 member fiber art group in the Charleston area. Its members strive to encourage, share, and support one another in the fiber arts through a network of caring friendship, creativity, and education. Collectively, the group seeks to demonstrate that fiber art has moved beyond the traditional boundaries of clothing and bed quilts and into the realm of fine art. Pieces in this exhibition represent each individual artist’s unique artistic background and perspective, covering a variety of subjects and incorporating a number of textiles and techniques. Exhibiting artists include Tommie Burwell, Zoe Butler, Lynne Gettelfinger, Doreen Larimer, Corky Ledbetter, Jennifer Ley, Pat Perry, Lucretia Pope, Dotty Roberts, and Linda Trestman.



Work by Dr. Katherine Houghton

*A Journey of Insight & Understanding: Women and Children of Dominica, West Indies – Works by Dr. Katherine Houghton*, on view May 4 - 12, 2012. For many personal and professional reasons, photographer Dr. Katherine Houghton is compelled to visually depict and seek understanding of the lived experiences of women and children encountered throughout her world travels. This exhibition features an excerpt from the visual story captured during her two circum-navigations of the globe. Houghton’s eye for cultural context allows viewers to understand the complexities of these individuals’ challenges, whether they be historical, societal, economic, cultural, or political. In addition to photography and travel, Houghton is an active advocate for access to higher education for a diversity of learners. She has been featured as a keynote speaker and presenter on topics including leadership in higher education, multicultural programming, students with invisible handicaps, higher education and single motherhood, and global issues impacting women and children.



Work by Lori Starnes Isom

*Unadorned: Everyday People, Everyday Life – Works by Lori Starnes Isom*, on view May 1 - 20, 2012. In this exhibition of realist portraits, Lori Starnes Isom presents “snapshots” of individuals going about their daily routines. The featured pieces are executed in various mediums and strive to capture the beauty of the everyday. Starnes Isom is the current Artist-in-Residence for the City of North Charleston. As a figurative and portrait artist, she has been commissioned to do hundreds of individual and family portraits, many of which include military personnel and heads of companies. Her work has been featured in the pages of *American Art Collector*, juried into numerous exhibitions, and honored with

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Work by Marion Coleman

*Mermaids & Merwomen in Black Folklore – 6th Annual African American Fiber*