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N. Charleston Arts Festival - Main Event

continued from Page 9

by a number of community groups. The processional begins at 9:45am on Saturday, May 3, with community group performance spotlights taking place from 10-11:30am.

Roving entertainers, from mimes to magicians, can be found throughout the Complex interacting with Main Event patrons of all ages.

Over 50 fine artists, fine crafters, artisans, and art and craft guilds will have items on display and available for sale. Save your Mother's Day shopping for this weekend and find the perfect gift! The selection is vast and full of variety; costs vary by item and vendor.

The Village Antiques & Collectible Show is a show and sale that features numerous vendors offering home decor, fine antiques, furniture, collectibles, antique guns, art, jewelry, rugs, crafts, vintage toys & games, silver, pottery, china, salvage items, outdoor decor, vintage instruments, and more. Operating hours are 10am-5pm each day.

The Lowcountry Gem & Mineral Society's annual show and sale, *Art by Nature*, features numerous vendors offering a variety of beads, gemstones, gemstone jewelry, custom-designed jewelry, and collector

minerals & fossils. Other offerings include Lapidary demonstrations and a fossil dig. Operating hours are 10am-5pm each day.

The Main Event offers many opportunities for children to be creative! Creation Station projects, led by local artists, include painting, drawing, jewelry making, sweet grass basket weaving, and more. Box City, facilitated by area professionals and city planners, is a favorite for children to test out their architectural dreams while building a small city.

The Festival's food courtyard, located in the outdoor area between the North Charleston Coliseum and the Charleston Area Convention Center, provides patrons a variety of delicious menu selections to enjoy. Musical entertainment by bands performing on the Courtyard Stage creates a wonderful setting for having lunch or a snack. Tables, chairs, and umbrellas provided; costs vary by item and vendor.

For further information call the North Charleston Cultural Arts Department office at 843/740-5854 or visit (www.NorthCharlestonArtsFest.com).



Gullah Islander Toss by Amiri Geuka Farris, the winning design for the 2014 North Charleston Arts Festival

of 53 entries by artists from across the state. The selection was made by a review panel appointed by the Cultural Arts Department who judged the entries based on quality, originality, appeal to festival patrons from a broad range of backgrounds, and ability to convey the spirit of the festival as a public celebration of arts and culture.

According to Farris, *Gullah Islander Toss* honors the traditions of the Gullah-Geechee culture and is also an attempt to draw a greater focus to what he calls "a celebration of history." "You will see elements like dance and rejoicing with references to important cultural elements like the land, cast net making, trowing and artistic traditions," he explains. The piece is composed of a number of layers that involve design elements such as Adinkra symbols, paint drips, and paint embellishments. The dynamism of these elements represents the passing of time and movement into the future. As with many of Farris' other works, the piece makes reference to specific Gullah traditions and historic elements while blurring the boundaries between traditional and contemporary modes of representation.

Amiri Geuka Farris received his Masters of Fine Art in Painting, with his BFA in Illustration and Graphic Design, from the Savannah College of Art and Design. He is currently a Professor of Fine Arts at the University of South Carolina-Beaufort, in Beaufort, SC. Farris is known for dynamic, powerful artwork that combines an alluring blend of vivid colors, layered textures, and a signature use of Adinkra symbols. The images of Sea Island culture that are evoked in his work introduce viewers to uplifting moments and insight into his contemporary view of culture. At the heart of Farris' artistic vision is the desire to capture the essence and tell the history of the Gullah-Geechee people and their way of life. His dedication to that vision was rewarded in 2012 when he was the co-recipient of a very prestigious award for preservation from the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

In addition to the Smithsonian Museum of American Art, Farris' work has been exhibited and displayed in permanent collections nationally and internationally. He was named the 2008 "Artist of the Year" by the historic Penn Center on St. Helena Island, SC, and is the current artist-in-residence at the Gullah Museum of Hilton Head Island, SC. His client list includes numerous cultural, educational, and commercial organizations including the Telfair Museum of Art, The Savannah Children's Museum, Hilton Head/Bluffton Chamber of Commerce, Youth Opera International, the Gullah Museum of Hilton Head Island, Historic Penn Center Landmark, Savannah Jazz Festival, Heritage Jazz Festival, The Boys & Girls Club, The Coastal Discovery Museum, and many others.

Farris' art studio, located at the Sea Island Art Center at the University of South Carolina's Beaufort campus, is open by appointment.

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings, call the North Charleston Cultural Arts Department office at 843/740-5854 or visit (www.NorthCharlestonArtsFest.com).

City of North Charleston in North Charleston, SC, Features Festival Poster Artist Amiri Geuka Farris

The City of North Charleston in North Charleston, SC, will present an exhibit of works by the winner of the 2014 North Charleston Arts Festival Design Competition, Bluffton, SC, artist, Amiri Geuka Farris, on view at the North Charleston City Gallery, located at the Charleston Area Convention Center, from May 2 - 31, 2014.

As the winner of the statewide contest, Farris' mixed media piece, titled *Gullah Islander Toss*, will be used to promote the Page 10 - Carolina Arts, May 2014

2014 North Charleston Arts Festival, taking place May 2-10, 2014. In addition, the piece will become part of the City's Public Art Collection. The public is invited to meet the artist at the gallery on May 3 and 4 during the Main Event of the North Charleston Arts Festival. T-shirts and posters featuring the winning design will be available for sale.

Farris' design was selected from a total
continued above on next column to the right

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[Table of Contents](#)