

Artists' Guild of Spartanburg

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thing.”

As long-time members of the Artists' Guild and other community arts organizations, they feel the Spartanburg community has a rich artistic culture. Turner said, “The Artists' Guild of Spartanburg played a major part in welcoming me back to Spartanburg in 1979. It is a pleasure to see it thriving and apparently in good younger hands now. I have participated in most of the shows from Art in the Park on the Converse College fence, to other places. The Artists' Guild Gallery has come a long way from the first one, and we are proud to be showing here. I like it, always free, open

and with a large variety of members' work constantly being shown. The newsletters are informative and beautiful. Their outreach has been accomplished in many areas. Everyone knows that Spartanburg artists are exceptionally talented and there are many of them. The Guild gives a core, a platform for them to stand on. The Artists' Guild of Spartanburg makes us all proud and shows that art is indeed important.”

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings, call Executive Director, Robin Els at 864/764-9568 or visit (www.artistsguildofspartanburg.com).

Spartanburg Art Museum Features Works by Randy Shull

The Spartanburg Art Museum in Spartanburg, SC, is presenting *Out of Line*, a solo exhibition by Randy Shull, on view through June 20, 2014.

The exhibition will leave you with a lot of things to think about. This is not your traditional exhibition of paintings and sculptures. *Out of Line* is a body of work that continues Shull's central exploration of place and dislocation using the contour shape of the USA. With over twenty large scale mixed media pieces this exhibition presents an expanse of ideas that encourages a process of inquiry.

Living and working in both Asheville, NC and Merida, Mexico, the artist moves between countries several times a year. This routine of travel has given the artist many opportunities to observe the predominance of staying in line. Shull explains how one stays in this line for security, that line for passport control, this line for citizens, that line for foreigners, etc.”

Shull writes in his artist statement, “We are trained to stay in line beginning in preschool. The reality of staying in line throughout our lives is something I am addressing in this body of work. Which side of line are we on? How did we get there? Can you look over or under the line? Step over the line? Step out of line? What does the line define? When do lines become walls?”

Elizabeth Goddard, Executive Director of the Spartanburg Art Museum, became aware of Shull's work by way of a catalogue of Shull's *Channeling the USA* when she first started her position back in the fall.

“It took me about a minute once I began turning those pages when I knew this artist was perfect for the exhibition program at SAM. It's contemporary work, which can be challenging for viewers who think of fine art as traditional oil paintings and bronze sculptures”. Goddard knows that artwork created today can be made out of any type of material and it can seriously push the boundaries of traditional materials, which Shull does with such large paintings *Blurred Interpretation* and *Simultaneous Pattern*.

“The method in which the artist painted these forms was an incredibly inventive process – a process I am not revealing at the moment,” Goddard said.



Work by Randy Shull

The scale in which Shull works is impressive. His smaller paintings average 6' and the larger works start at 8'. The largest work *Saving Grace* is a mixed media piece that spans 12'. The works balance on the fulcrum of humorous and serious. For example the iguana skin stretched over the shape of America in a piece titled, *Reptiles Have Small Brains*, is a mix of natural history, curiosity and why not? And then on the other hand the ominous work, *Brooder* is visually the darkest work in the exhibition and has the densest use of materials. *Brooder* is a mesmerizing tangle of ropes and objects, some order is represented at the edges of the piece, but the dense dark composition tends to keep the eyes centered and searching the interior space.

“I tend to gravitate towards work that has some ties to contemporary culture; political, social, economical or environmental. As with all contemporary art, your inquiry about the work begins with what you already know”, Goddard said. For example with *Out of Line*, the portal of inquiry is, what do you know about the contour shape of the USA? What do you know about the materials Shull uses in his work? These basic questions will offer each viewer a unique and individual response to the artwork. That plurality of responses is exactly how the world works. We each have our impressions and conceptions and they are all valid and respected. Shull states, “Combining a wide range of materials in this exploration I am questioning the notion of what art is.”

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings, call the museum at 864/582-7616 or visit (www.spartanburgartmuseum.org).

Greenville County Museum of Art in Greenville, SC, Features Works by Sigmund Abeles

The Greenville County Museum of Art in Greenville, SC, is presenting *Sigmund Abeles: Pastels*, on view through June 15, 2014.

Although he was born in Brooklyn, NY, in 1934, Sigmund Abeles, PSA, grew up in Myrtle Beach, SC, where he frequented Brookgreen Gardens to sketch and draw the sculpture there. He graduated in 1955 from the University of South Carolina with a BA in Fine Art and went on to earn a Masters in Fine Arts from Columbia University in 1957.

Abeles has taught at Boston University,

the University of New Hampshire and the Art Students League of New York. He has worked and lived in New York City since 1994. Abeles' teaching and work continue to be focused on the human figure.

Named as a member of the National Academy in 1990, Abeles' works can be found in the Greenville County Museum of Art, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Whitney Museum, the Art Institute of Chicago and the Museum of Modern Art.

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings, call the Museum at 864-271-7570 or visit (www.gcma.org).

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