

## UNC-Asheville in Asheville, NC, Offers Works by Jon Michael Riley



Work by Jon Michael Riley

UNC-Asheville in Asheville, NC, will present the exhibit, Horizons – Past and Present, an exhibition of photographs by Jon Michael Riley, on view in the University's Blowers Gallery, from Aug. 10 through Sept. 12, 2012. A reception will be held on Aug. 10, from 5-6:30pm.

The exhibition includes photographs from around the world, including Croagh Patrick, a mountain which is an ancient Celtic pilgrimage site in Ireland, Yosemite's Half Dome, and dunes at Myrtle Beach, SC. Some are new photos by Riley; others were

shot long ago but revisited.

"In the past year or so, I have chosen certain images and worked with them, which felt like visiting with an old friend from years past," says Riley. "I could see new ways of working with them ... knowing there was something there I could work with differently."

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, call the Library at 828/251-6436 or visit (<http://bullpup.lib.unca.edu/library/cal/index.html>).

## MESH Gallery in Morganton, NC, Features Works by Lance Turner

MESH Gallery in Morganton, NC, is presenting, *Infinite Interruptions*, a single artist show featuring the work of Lance Turner, on view through Sept. 21, 2012. A reception will be held on Aug. 3, from 6-9pm.

Turner's latest exhibition of portraits and installations intends to further refine our understanding of the mechanics of painting and the situation of the viewer through a seemingly limitless amount of patterning, mirrors and Photo-realist painting. Turner has re-invented the space at MESH gallery through murals of abstract landscapes that contain psychedelic systems of teeth and eyeballs. The installation will draw from a wide range of influences, from Rococo painting to skateboard graphics and process art. The gallery will be filled with paintings on top of murals that give a sense of information overload and rapid transition as an exaggeration of our sense of the present.

Turner offers the following statement about his work: "My work has evolved out of my need to correct what seems to be a flaw in Photorealism as it was originally validated as a process-based form of Conceptualism. It is the act of transcribing photographic information through paint onto a canvas, yet the large, obsessively detailed images emphasized the painting as an illusion and not a process. I show the grid and emphasize the mark-making process within its increments to show that the painting is an object, after all the process and materials are real, and not a photographic illusion. I've incorporated space and stripes as measurements into my paintings to further emphasize the painting as a real object."

"Taking 'the real' one step further, I have related the subjects of my work to my own ideas, perception of Art History and the internet, and my own aesthetic stylizations," continues Turner. "The faces that I paint are only the product of my experience. Therefore, they more accurately depict what I believe to be the essence of painting, which is self-reference. My paintings are about my thought process as I create fictional characters through the relationship of stylistic devices."



Work by Lance Turner

Turner adds, "Because the subjects of my paintings are about a single identity, they are like avatars made for the internet. They reveal a sense of isolation that comes with specialization and distortion of the real through ideas and simulations such as Facebook. As the objectives of my painting have become a quest to find what is real and true, the subject matter of my work has become an exaggerated unreality of constructed identity."

Turner was born in North Carolina in 1985. He graduated magna cum laude from Memphis College of Art with a BFA in Painting and Art History, and a MFA in Painting at Savannah College of Art and Design.

Turner has exhibited in galleries and Museums throughout the United States, including the National Ornamental Metals Museum and the Powerhouse Gallery in Memphis, TN; the Visual Arts Center in Punta Gorda, FL; The Southern Nevada Museum of Art in Las Vegas, NV; The Farmington Museum of Art in Farmington, NM; and the Woodruff Arts Center and the Museum of Contemporary Art in Atlanta, GA.

Turner's work is currently published in *Artbuzz 2012*, *Studio Visit Vol. 18*, and *BlueCanvas issue #13*. A recent solo show entitled, *Lance Turner: Process and Documentation*, was included in the *Memphis Flyer's Best of 2008* as "one of the most wildly imaginative shows of the year".

For further information check our NC Commercial Gallery listings, call the gallery at 828/437-1957 or visit ([www.meshgallery.com](http://www.meshgallery.com)).

## Mooreville Artist Guild in Mooreville, NC, Offers Works by Barbara Moncrieff and the Florence Thomas Art School

The Mooreville Artist Guild in Mooreville, NC, will present an exhibit of works by Barbara Moncrieff, as well as the Florence Thomas Art School Traveling Show, on view from Aug. 1 - 31, 2012. Preliminary plans for the proposed renovation of the Historic Mooreville Depot will also be displayed. A reception will be held on Aug. 10, from 6-8pm.

Painting nature and keeping it alive on paper or canvas is the essence of a landscape artist. Barb Moncrieff uses watercolor, oil and acrylic media to capture the moment. She honed her technique at community college and by attending workshops in Texas, Ohio, New Mexico and North Carolina. She was previously a member of

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the Lone Star Art Guild and is now a member of MAG.

Florence Thomas Art School, Inc. is a non-profit art school made possible by the late Florence Thomas. She was probably the greatest artist - with many hundreds of paintings - the High Country has ever produced. Born in 1909 in Ashe County, NC, she lived nearby until her life ended peacefully on March 30, 2007, at age 98. In her lifetime, she painted hundreds of paintings, capturing the soul and the mystery, and ultimately the comfort, of common things - farm animals, flowers, landscapes.

Thomas' paintings convey a certain mood, vivid color, and warmth that draw the viewer into a sense of comfort and familiarity. Upon her passing, she provided the means to establish a non-profit art school in

Ashe County, thus continuing her legacy of providing quality instruction in the arts. In 2008, Thomas' dream was realized when the school held its first workshops. With continued growth and support, the spirit and lessons of her presence will continue to inspire students into the future.

The vision of the Florence Art School is to be a destination inspiring excellence in the arts. Their mission is to provide resources for instruction, exhibition, and experience in the fine arts, master crafts and heritage crafts for Ashe County, the region and the world.

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, call the Guild at 704/663-6661 or visit ([www.MAGart.org](http://www.MAGart.org)).

## Editorial Commentary Continued

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Arts - another big drop in downloads - due to the 4th of July holiday weekend.

After three months in a row with downloads reaching the 100,000 + mark, July was another huge drop. Almost twice as many downloads as a year before, but a big bump in the road for our growing number of followers.

Much like August in France - everyone seems to take the week of the 4th of July off and when they do - they drop everything to get out of that door. And, when they get back - some things seem too late to do anything about - like sending our link out to e-mail lists. It's hard when you come back to 100-200 e-mails to think about sending out more to people who might be facing the same pile.

Hopefully, we'll figure out some way to deal with this problem.

I'm really not complaining, as the amount of downloads that we did get were still five times more than the number of papers we used to distribute two years ago, plus there are all those downloads of past issues - which is also a bonus. It's was hard for most people to run into an older issue

once it was thrown in the trash or recycled. Sure, you could go to a few libraries around the Carolinas to see an old issue, but how many people would do that? Now they can just access it online.

### Saving the SC Arts Commission - The Musical

The limited run opera - *Saving the SC Arts Commission*, took place in Columbia, SC, again this year. Our tea bagger Governor played her part as the conservative slasher of government waste (meager funding for the arts). The director of the SC Arts Commission showed up as Indiana Jones, whipping out his cell phone, and a few hundred artists and art lovers who showed up as supernumeraries.

This was the third performance of this opera, where the Governor of SC vetoes the Arts Commission's budget, a very small part of the public makes protest, and the Legislature overrides the veto. That's the entire script. To read more of my views visit (<http://carolinaarts.com/wordpress/>).



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