

the eighth annual

ARTISPHERE

ARTS. CULTURE. LIFE.

May 11-13, 2012

Call for Entries

Visual and performing arts festival in Greenville, SC

Ranked a Top 20 Fine Art Festival by Greg Lawler's Art Fair Sourcebook

- 120 Artists
- \$10,000 Cash Awards
- Patron Program Average \$15,000/year
- \$30 Jury Fee

For more information contact: 864.271.9355
 liz@greenvillearts.com
 Application link available at www.artisphere.us
Applications Accepted:
 August 5 - October 20, 2011



Artwork by Carol Gentilnes

Skyuka Fine Art in Tryon, NC, Features Works by Keith Spencer

Skyuka Fine Art in Tryon, NC, will present the exhibit, *Keith Spencer - Carolina Color*, on view from Sept. 10 through Oct. 9, 2011. A reception will be held on Sept. 10, from 5-8pm.



Work by Keith Spencer

Spencer's artwork displays extraordinary use of color and brushwork that when combined produce a visual feast for the eyes. In his new show *Carolina Color*, intense local as well as expressive color flood the canvas

in delicious hues. There is a boldness to his creativity and the works are full of life and energy. The result is a striking range of paintings that can be found in galleries and collections throughout the United States and Europe.

Spencer has been described as "both an expressive painter and a true colorist" by William Kortlander, Professor of Art at Ohio State University. His landscapes are frequently done in the alla prima tradition (one sitting) and feature North Carolina and South Carolina; the mountainous upstate, where he now lives, as well as the Low-country surrounding Charleston, SC. He is included in the upcoming book by Edward Emory and Stephen Stinson called, *Artists Among Us - 100 Faces of Art in Spartanburg*, available at Barnes and Noble Nov. 6, 2011.

For further information check our NC Commercial Gallery listings, contact Kim Nelson at the gallery at 828/817-3783 or visit (www.skyukafineart.com).

Black Mountain Center for the Arts in Black Mountain, NC, Features Works by Carolyn Capps and Steve Miller

The Black Mountain Center for the Arts in Black Mountain, NC, will present the exhibit, *Twigs and Burls*, features the nature-inspired paintings of University of Virginia professor Carolyn Capps, and the turned wood art of Black Mountain artist Steve Miller, on view from Sept. 9 through Oct. 7, 2011. A reception will be held on Sept. 9, from 6-8pm.

Steve Miller, who began working with wood while living in Miami, further explored his medium under the watchful eyes of members of the South Florida Woodturn-

ers Guild. He favors the warmth and tactile immediacy of wood for his creations and prefers to turn pieces with classic form using highly figured domestic and imported woods.

Miller's vessels are visual celebrations of color and form. He writes, "The majority of my pieces are meant to hold nothing more than your attention. My intent is to expose the figure in the wood to draw attention to what nature has created. The objective and challenge of my work is to discover and reveal the natural beauty and character which

continued above on next column to the right



Work by Carolyn Capps

lies hidden beneath the bark."

Miller specializes in revitalizing discarded wood, such as root balls, or pieces with knotholes, cracks or other "flaws," of which "burls" are included. Wood destined for trash pick-up or the natural decaying process evolves into his most stimulating challenges.

Carolyn Capps, has degrees in art from East Carolina University and the University of Georgia, previously taught at Washington & Lee, James Madison, Salem Fine Arts Commission, and Roanoke College.

About her work, much of which features paintings of animals, she says, "The overarching goal of my current body of work entitled *Twig* is the creation of a small window to a more sympathetic world view, a connectivity of spirit. The show consists of animal drawings in which I have focused on bringing out the intrinsic emotional intelligence of the animals. I strive not to anthropomorphize but to consider that nonhuman thoughts and emotions have significance. Collectively the work acknowledges our ambiguous feelings about nature as a whole while allowing us, I hope, to see ourselves in others and others in ourselves."

Capps stresses that the works are com-

pleted quickly in what she calls an "almost gestural approach, in order to give them a sense of life and immediacy."

The natural world that calls to both these artists in different ways is celebrated and complemented in the *Twigs and Burls* exhibit. Capps works with twigs through its meaning as a small branch which can be seen as "a comfort object, a ritual object, an offering, a toy a home, an embellishment or sustenance." Twigs suggest to us how things branch out, whether from the natural world, from the family tree in genealogy or the inner workings of the physiological system of humans and animals.



Work by Steve Miller

The Brits also use the word "twig" to mean to understand something. To understand requires us to pay attention, observe and interact. Burls are growths on a tree where the grain of the wood has grown in response to some form of stress or injury. Yet when turned into a wooden vessel, the hidden pattern rewards the turner and viewer with its spectacular beauty with patterns that are among the most sought after in nature.

For further info check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, call 828/669-0930 or visit (www.blackmountainarts.org).