

Clemson University - Brooks Center

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"When the Body Breaks," by Hilary Siber

enrolled in Clemson's Master of Fine Arts program in the art department. There, she began to understand that creating paintings is two-fold: I am putting a puzzle together while presenting one to my viewers." Shifting Ground opens on the heels of Siber's thesis exhibition, which, she said, "reflected on the grief and emotion of the death of my father." In contrast, this oilon-canvas collection focuses on "universal landscapes that suggest unknown outcomes, unstable grounds, and shifting panoramas." Her landscapes are not literal, but rather subjective interpretations that she believes "model accurate representations of the rational and irrational landscapes of our emotions, experiences, and intellect." Siber's work has been exhibited both regionally and internationally: at the Piccolo Spoleto Festival in Charleston, SC, the Nelson Gallery in Lexington, VA, and the Art Museum of Nanjing University in China, not to mention several others in South Carolina and North Carolina. Susan Kaplar, Business Manager at the Brooks Center and current BFA student, has admired Siber's work for a while. She and Denise Woodward-Detrich, Director of the Lee Gallery, approached Siber several Page 42 - Carolina Arts, September 2015

months ago with the idea of a solo exhibition in the Brooks Center Lobby. Kaplar was first drawn to Siber's work when she

USC-Upstate in Spartanburg, SC, Features Works by Debbie Cooke

The Curtis R. Harley Gallery at USC-Upstate in Spartanburg, SC, is presenting *Debbie Cooke: Altered Images*, in the first exhibit since her passing in February of 2015. The exhibit is on view through Sept. 25, 2015. A reception will be held on Sept. 10, beginning at 4:30pm.

The exhibition presents a survey of works by the late Debbie Cooke. The show's title, *Altered Images* represents her work of the last decade where she uses techniques using Polaroid film, Gum Bichromate processes and photo cloth printing. The show contains over 27 artworks including a large, ten piece installation using cell phone captured images printed on cloth titled "Shams of Comfort".

"Debbie as an educator and as an artist was a leader in the Upstate visual arts scene for many years. This show in a small way honors that legacy," said Jane Nodine, Assistant Chair and Professor Fine Arts & Communication Studies and Director of the Curtis R. Harley Gallery, at USC Upstate. Artist and educator Cooke has worked for over 40 years in art and photographic education. Born in Florence, SC, Cooke credits her lifelong interest in art and history to a childhood spent at the little-known Florence Museum.



"Cabbage," by Debbie Cooke

Education Program, Cooke developed the "Polacollage" technique. She has served as an Artist in Residence with the University of Georgia's International Studies Pr gram in Cortona, Italy, and as Co-Chair of the Visual Arts department for the South Carolina Governor's School for the Arts and Humanities Summer Program. Cooke taught photography at the Fine Arts Center in Greenville, SC, before retiring in 2011. She has received awards and grants from The National Endowment for the Humanities, The Robert Rauschenberg Foundation, The South Carolina Arts Commission, The South Carolina State Department of Education, and the South Carolina Art Education Association. She was selected to be a fellow for The Fulbright Memorial Fund in Tokyo, Japan. Her artwork has been featured in magazines and publications, and in 2013 she was selected to be one of the featured artists in the book Gum Printing and Other Amazing Contact Printing Processes. For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings, contact Jane Allen Nodine by calling 864/503-5848 or email to (jnodine@uscupstate.edu) or Mark Flowers at (mflowers@uscupstate.edu).

and Woodward-Detrich put together an exhibition for the Brooks Center last year. "We've seen her style and we thought anything she does will be a good fit for our audience," Kaplar said. The exhibition includes art works created since January, including two pieces originally from her master's thesis exhibition and now on loan from private collections.

When patrons attend the exhibition, Kaplar hopes it will be a time for deep selfreflection. "I hope it will encourage people to look within themselves, to engage in inner contemplation." Siber's wish is that people see an opportunity to consider both the here-and-now and the everlasting. "I hope that viewing these paintings conjures up a consideration for the temporal. Perhaps by contemplating our finitude and flux, we are more apt to consider what is infinite and never-changing."

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings or contact Susan Kaplar at 864/656-7951 or e-mail to (skaplar@clemson.edu).



"Shams of Comfort," installation by Debbie Cooke

Cooke received her undergraduate degree from Winthrop University in 1973 and her MFA from Clemson University in 1989. A former consultant for the Polaroid

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