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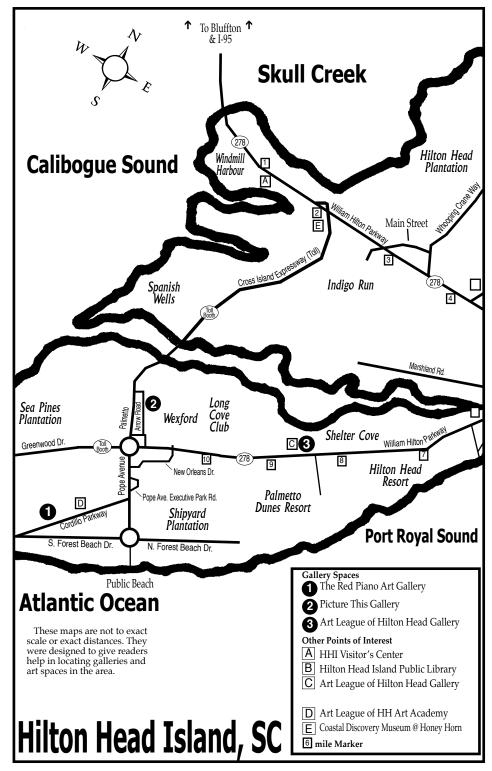
## **USC-Beaufort in Beaufort, SC, Features Works by Susan Lenz**



Work by Susan Lenz

USC-Beaufort in Beaufort, SC, will present Anonymous Ancestors, a solo installation by Susan Lenz, on view at the Sea Islands Center Gallery, from Sept. 2 - 30, 2016. A lecture will be offered on Sept. 30, from 4:30-5:30pm, followed with a reception from 5:30-7:30pm. For this installation, thousands of anonymous, vintage photographs have been altered to create a nostalgic interior. Works include the fifteen foot long *Grid* of Photos and over two hundred individual framed images in The Wall of Ancestors. Other anonymous family photos have been transferred to fabric and used to upholster an old chair. Viewers are invited to sit, browse through altered photo albums and scrapbooks, and contemplate the future of their own heirlooms. Additional images were used to create three sculptural garments, lending a sense of the people who inhabit the pictures. To stand within Lenz's Anonymous Ancestors is to become immersed in the myriad of family stories handed down through generations. Lenz intentionally uses snapshots as frozen moments on life's timeline. Her collaged words allow viewers' minds to wander, to envision forgotten friends, past holidays, ancient occasions, former cars, and hilarious fash-Page 12 - Carolina Arts, September 2016

ion trends. The exhibit suggests the narratives of distant aunts and uncles, cousins, grandparents, siblings, and in-laws. Anonymous Ancestors is society's family a collective wall of ancestor



pierce and pull ... hour after hour ... day after day ... year after year. My sewing machine hums with near constant activity. My fingers are nimble and quick. Productivity is in my blood. Finished pieces stack up on out-of-the-way shelves, begging to be noticed, ready for the vague chance to hang on an exhibition wall. I don't hold my breath. I just work. I work with the faint hope that something, perhaps just one little work of art, might be kept through coming generations, cherished .... admired ... remembered ... regarded as quality ... something to mark my existence on this planet."

Located in the heart of the Carolina Sea Islands, the University of South Carolina Beaufort (USCB) is a baccalaureate member of the USC system, serving the southeast coast of South Carolina and Georgia. The Historic Beaufort campus, located on Beaufort's downtown waterfront, houses an innovative baccalaureate Studio Art program in close proximity to Beaufort's many art galleries. The University of South Carolina Beaufort offers



SC Institutional Gallery listings, call Lynn McGee, Ph.D., vice chancellor for Advancement and External Affairs, at 843/208-8240 or e-mail Kim Keats, visiting assistant professor of Art and interim department chair of the Fine Arts Department at (kkeats@uscb.edu).

Lenz resides in Columbia, SC, and received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Medieval and Renaissance Studies from The Ohio State University. She has had solo engagements all over the United States, including the Mesa Contemporary Art Museum, Mesa, AZ; Southeastern Quilt and Textile Museum, Carrolton, GA; International Quilt Festival, Houston, TX; City Gallery at Waterfront Gallery, Charleston, SC; and the University of South Carolina-Aiken, Aiken, SC. Her work has also been selected for national and international group exhibitions, earned merit and purchase awards, and included in corporate and museum collections.

Lenz describes her motivations and creative processes in the following statement, "I ply an age-old needle pulling timeworn thread through layers of vintage fabric. I work like so many women all over the world from every century since the dawn of time. There's nothing new about a straight stitch. Repetitive ...

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students an exceptional place to learn and live in an environment focused on growth, preservation and opportunity.

For further information check our

## Society of Bluffton Artists in Bluffton, SC, Offers Works by Past Presidents

The Society of Bluffton Artists in Bluffton, SC, welcomes its past living presidents as the featured artists in September at the SOBA Gallery. These nine talented people will have a wonderful and varied collection of their recent work to share with us from Sept. 6 through Oct. 2, 2016. A reception will be held on Sept. 9, from 5-7pm.

The Society of Bluffton Artists (SoBA) began in 1994 with a handful of artists meeting monthly and displaying their artwork at Bluffton's Town Hall once a year. Lynda Potter was the very first president of that initial tiny group. By 2001 Helen Evans had a goal to create a new Gal-



Work by Sandra Wenig lery for the growing membership. With the help of Bluffton's Town Council and continued on Page 13