

University of South Carolina in Columbia, SC, Features Works by Sophia Bruecker

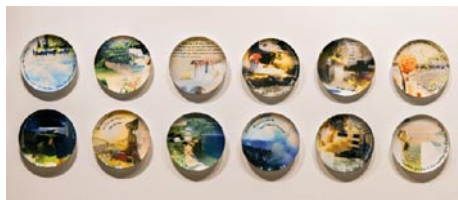
The University of South Carolina in Columbia, SC, is presenting *Unrequited United*, featuring works by Sophia Bruecker, on view in McMaster Gallery, through Dec. 6, 2024.

Unrequited United explores the unexpected emotional connections formed through Amazon Kindle's Popular Highlights feature in romance novels. A passage in an Amazon Kindle e-book becomes a Popular Highlight after a certain number of people independently highlight the same passage, revealing shared moments of emotional resonance. Contrary to expectations that romance readers would highlight only steamy scenes, the most popular highlights often focus on themes of grief, loneliness, and discontent - emotions rarely shared openly on social media.

Since 2010, Bruecker has collected thousands of these highlights, using over 100,000 individual selections to create works that reflect the vulnerability and empathy of readers. This project reveals an anonymous, unintended social network of collective support, offering a glimpse into the potential for future social technologies to foster meaningful connections.

Sophia Bruecker is a futurist artist/engineer who researches how technology shapes us. Inseparable from computers since the age of two, she believes she is a cyborg. As a software engineer at Google, she designed and built products used by tens of millions. At RISD and the MIT Media Lab, she researched the simultaneously empowering and controlling aspects of technology with a focus on haptic and social interfaces.

Since 2011, Bruecker has taught Sci-Fi



Works by Sophia Bruecker

Prototyping, a course combining science fiction, extrapolative thinking, building prototypes, and technology ethics. The class and the students' projects received international recognition and were featured by *The Atlantic*, *Smithsonian Magazine*, *Wired*, *NPR*, *Scientific American*, *Fast Company*, and many others.

Bruecker's work has been featured by *Artforum*, *SIGGRAPH*, the Peabody Essex Museum, Leonardo, Eyeo, ISEA, and more. She was an artist-in-residence at Autodesk Pier 9 and Nokia Bell Labs E.A.T. She is currently an associate professor at the Stamps School of Art and Design and co-director of the Center for Ethics, Society, and Computing (ESC) at the University of Michigan. Her ongoing objective is to combine her background in design and engineering with the perspective of an artist to inspire a more positive future.

McMaster Gallery is located in the University of South Carolina's School of Visual Art and Design on Senate Street, Columbia, SC, with accessible street parking on Pickens, Senate, and Henderson Streets.

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings, call Olga Dickey, Gallery Director, at 803/422-4289 or e-mail to (yukhno@mailbox.sc.edu).

Mike Brown Contemporary in Columbia, SC, Features Works by Michael Cassidy

Mike Brown Contemporary in Columbia, SC, is presenting *Michael Cassidy - Vulnerability*, on view through Nov. 27, 2024.

Michael Cassidy delves into his experience as a parent of a trans daughter through his paintings, using process as a means to learn, understand, confront fear, and bear witness to the journey. Animals become his symbols for expressing the loneliness, fragility, unpredictability, and vulnerability inherent in this experience. His delicate oil paintings, rich in depth and texture, expand his artistic vocabulary, leaving the viewer to appreciate the risks he takes with palette, brushstrokes, and layers. Cassidy treats his subjects with dignity and grace, capturing the intricate details of their often hidden lives.

These naturalist images are simultaneously delicate and fierce. There's a sense of bravery as Cassidy ventures from the center to the edge. Though the paintings tell the story of his personal journey, they carry a universal elegy, speaking to a historic moment of critical change. This shift is evident in Cassidy's approach to the canvas - the decisions of what to reveal and what to obscure, and where the viewer's gaze is drawn. Each drip, each shift in hue reflects



Work by Michael Cassidy

a moment of deliberate action, where the stroke becomes a bridge between memory and the present.

Mike Brown Contemporary features modern and contemporary art from South Carolina, the rest of the United States and Europe, especially Germany and The Netherlands.

For further information check our SC Commercial Gallery listings, call the gallery at 803/446-3399 or e-mail to (assistant@mikebrowncontemporary.com).

Stormwater Studios in Columbia, SC, Offers Member Exhibition For The Vista Lights Celebration

Stormwater Studios in Columbia, SC, will present the *Stormwater Studios Artists Exhibition*, on view from Nov. 19 through Dec. 1, 2024. A reception will be held on Nov. 21, from 6-9pm, during the 39th Annual Vista Lights celebration.

It's our semiannual Vista Lights holiday exhibition when we feature the works of all nine of our professional resident artists as well as art from USC's School of Visual Arts and Design.

This group exhibition provides an opportunity to meet and chat with our artists, visit Page 20 - Carolina Arts, November 2024

their studios where you can see even more art, and appreciate the diverse visions and techniques represented by the individual artists. Whether you are an art collector or an enthusiast, you will likely see something among the dozens of artworks on display that intrigues you.

Our newest resident artist, Quincy Pugh, will be participating in his first Vista Lights show, so this is a good opportunity to meet him and see his work. He will be showing some Asian-influenced paintings and

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photographs as well as work inspired by the recent passing of a family member.

If landscapes are your thing, you will find plenty to peruse in works by Stephen Chesley, Michel McNinch, and Gerard Erley. Eileen Blyth will show her abstracts and found-object sculptures, while Heidi Darr-Hope's paintings take you into the realm of spiritual narratives.

David Yaghjian's figurative paintings and sculptures capture both the real and the surreal elements of humans' (and sometimes other primates') lives. Pat Gilmartin will be displaying her botanical prints created using sunlight to expose the images on UV-light



Work by David Yaghjian

studio to be an ideal working environment for artists to test new ideas and experiment with materials. The SVAD Studio provides essential space for students and faculty, both emerging and established artists, and community members to develop new work, lead workshops, give educational talks, and host exhibitions. Our studio space joins the flexibility of a workspace with the simplicity of a gallery to also meet our exhibition needs. The SVAD Studio is also where bright thoughts and ideas are communicated to listeners and visitors during workshops, seminars, and lectures.

There's art for every appetite at Stormwater Studios, and it will all be on display during our Vista Lights semi-annual show.

For further information check our SC Commercial Gallery listings or visit (www.StormwaterStudios.org).



Work by Kirkland Smith

sensitive paper and textile media.

The School of Visual Art and Design at the University of South Carolina occupies an off-campus studio space inside of Stormwater Studios. We've designed our

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To start in the next issue call 843/693-1306 or e-mail to (info@carolinaarts.com)