

# College of Charleston in Charleston, SC, Features Works by Joshua Parks and David Antonio Cruz

The College of Charleston in Charleston, SC, will present two new exhibitions including: *Joshua Parks: Born in We: African Descendants of the Atlantic World* and *David Antonio Cruz: hauntme*, both on view at the Halsey Institute of Contemporary Art, from Apr. 11 through July 26, 2025.

Joshua Parks is a southern-raised Black image-maker and cultural worker with Gullah Geechee and Gulf Coast Creole heritage. His work analyzes Afro-descendant communities in the Atlantic world, their relationship to land and water as the basis of subsistence, autonomy, survival, and collective memory, and how these elements influence social and cultural development. The Halsey Institute is proud to present Parks's first solo museum exhibition.



Joshua Parks, "Homage To Chango, Matanzas, Cuba," 2022. Digital Photography.

In his practice, Parks puts intentional relationships and storytelling first, using image as his medium for communication. This exhibition explores the interconnectedness among communities of African descendants in the Lowcountry, the Caribbean, and West Africa through photography, film, and sounds of the Atlantic World. Bridging past and present, he presents a continuum of culture across time and space underscoring the resilience and ongoing evolution of African and Afro-descendant identities all while confronting and transcending the enduring legacies of slavery and colonialism. Dispersed throughout this global representation of shared histories, Parks incorporates archival family photographs and artifacts engaging the viewer with the context of his personal history. This body of work makes evident the intimate and complex relationships among African diasporic communities and the fight for self-determination.

*David Antonio Cruz: hauntme*, includes Wallpaper, chandeliers, performance sculptures, and paintings. Cruz is a multidisciplinary artist exploring the intersectionality of queerness and race, celebrating chosen family, and honoring not just where we consider home but who we consider home. Incorporating litera-



David Antonio Cruz, "AND I'LL COME CLOSE LIKE BEFORE", 2023. Oil and latex paint on wood panel, 60 x 48"

ture, language, and sculptural elements, his work engages portraiture as a place of permanence and as a form of resistance to normative conventions. Cruz's exhibition at the Halsey Institute will expand on his recent explorations in drawing and installation featuring new and recent work.

Cruz's drawings are created with layers of ink washes under silhouettes of maps, foliage, and whispers of wax pencil figure drawings, inviting viewers to spend time getting to know the people and place within and revealing more with each careful look. These drawings often reappear as wallpaper and textiles in the background of his playful paintings of chosen family, which center Black, Brown, and queer bodies in the art historical canon of Baroque seated portraiture, a genre from which they were often erased.

Culminating with an offering for the viewer to sit and linger, immersed in Cruz's work through a site-specific installation, the exhibition highlights companionship as wayfinding to empowered authenticity and safe harbor in the people we choose to surround ourselves with.

The Halsey Institute of Contemporary Art at the College of Charleston School of the Arts provides a multidisciplinary laboratory for the production, presentation, interpretation, and dissemination of ideas by innovative visual artists from around the world. As a non-collecting museum, we create meaningful interactions between adventurous artists and diverse communities within a context that emphasizes the historical, social, and cultural importance of the art of our time.

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings, call the Institute at 843/953-4422 or e-mail to (halsey@cofc.edu).

# Charleston Artist Guild in Charleston, SC, Features Works by Debbie Daniels

The Charleston Artist Guild in Charleston, SC, will present *Marsh Madness*, a stunning series of both large and small paintings by Debbie Daniels, on view in the Guild Gallery, from Apr. 1 - 30, 2025. A reception will be held on Apr. 4, from 5-8pm, during the Charleston Art Walk.

This collection of marsh landscapes showcases Debbie's mastery of color and light, inviting viewers to pause, breathe, and immerse themselves in the beauty of the Lowcountry.

Inspired by the fleeting magic of Charleston's sunsets and coastal vistas, Daniels' work captures those transformative moments when sunlight dances across marsh waters and skies ignite in hues of orange, pink, and blue. Her expressive brushstrokes and vibrant palette bring these scenes to life, preserving the tranquility of the marshlands on canvas.

"I never tire of Charleston's stunning landscapes," says Daniels. "Those magi-



Work by Debbie Daniels

cal moments of color and light remind us to slow down and appreciate the beauty around us."

The Charleston Artist Guild Gallery is located on East Bay Street, in historic downtown Charleston, SC. A portion of the proceeds from Daniels' art sales will benefit the Lowcountry Land Trust, reflecting her commitment to coastal

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## Whimsy Joy© by Roz



Family of Frogs --Healing Families In Color

"We Are Frogs; Can't You See?"  
 "Can You Jump Like Him and Me?"...  
 "In the Day, We Look Up At the Sun."  
 "At Night, the Moon Shines In the Dark Sky."  
 "Come And Play and Have Some Fun."  
 "You Can Jump and We Can Run!"  
 "WhimsyJoy's Family Taught Her To Love and Hug."  
 "She Was Taught To Pass It on To You!"  
 "Have you learned? Have You Accepted?"  
 "Can We Join Together?"  
 "Can We Make It Work?"  
 "Sure We Can; Work Doesn't Hurt!"

Images are available on:  
 Prints • Notecards • T Shirts  
 Decals • Aprons • Stickers  
 Calendars • Mousepads  
 Children's Paint Smocks



"Hearts Propel Me"



"Lila's Blue Porpoise Floating Along"

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# City of North Charleston, SC, Features Works by Christine D. Johnson and Shamsad Rahman

The City of North Charleston's Cultural Arts Department is pleased to announce that concurrent exhibitions of paintings, collages, and poetry by Christine D. Johnson (Summerville, SC) and silk paintings by Shamsad Rahman (Orangeburg, SC) will be on display at Park Circle Gallery, from Apr. 2 - 26, 2025. A reception will be held on Apr. 4, from 5-7pm.

Charleston-based artist and author, Christine D. Johnson, presents *Art Journey to Authenticity*, a captivating exhibit of mixed media paintings, collages, and poetry that explores the path to personal authenticity. This immersive experience encourages viewers to reflect on the question, "Where am I in my journey to authenticity?" Each work guides the viewer from deep introspection to a place of joy, inviting them to bring a journal and engage in thoughtful reflection on their own journey toward authenticity and inner peace.

Johnson creates images that represent the characteristics that we strive to embody, such as authenticity, humility, patience, and resilience. Her art is also a reminder to continuously seek the strength within us and to have the courage to fulfill our divine purpose. Growing up in Jamaica, she was surrounded by people with deeply rooted internal strength and community regardless of their lack of material wealth. This is the energy that her art reflects and reminds others to harness.

Johnson majored in psychology and minored in art at Shippensburg University and later received a Master of Human Resources and Industrial Relations degree from St. Francis University. She started exhibiting in 1994 and continues to participate in group and solo exhibits. In addition to art, her passion for holistic health and building community led her to create the "Art Journey for Inner Peace" multisens-



Work by Christine D. Johnson

sory workshop that includes art, yoga, sound, and aroma to aid in the journey to inner peace.

Johnson's first coffee table art book, *Art Journey to Inner Peace*, a collection of her paintings, poetry and photography, is currently available for order on her website. Johnson looks forward to a lifetime of bringing inspiration through the arts.

In her exhibit, *Luminescent Thread*, Orangeburg, SC, based artist Shamsad Rahman presents a collection of silk paintings that render the beauty of the natural world using innovative techniques. Each piece showcases Rahman's unique artistic vision, blending the tactile elegance of silk painting with the evocative power of photographic imagery. Silk painting has a long and rich history. Through this exhibition Rahman aims to share the beauty and versatility of this unique medium.

Originally from Bangladesh, Rahman has lived and worked in Orangeburg, SC, for more than 20 years. Her background is in Architecture and Digital Art, having worked as an architect, digital designer, and webmaster. Her career, combined with

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