

2025 North Charleston Arts Fest

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Gallery in Charleston, SC.

Award winners for photographs by professional and amateur photographers in color and monochrome will be selected by Charleston-based photographer and multimedia artist Kirsten Hoving. Most pieces on display are available for purchase.

The *Tri-County Youth Art and High School Sculpture Competitions & Exhibitions*, will also be on view at the Charleston Area Convention Center, Exhibit Hall C, from Apr. 30 - May 4, 2025. Public, private, and home-school students in Charleston, Dorchester, and Berkeley counties will display two-dimensional pieces and sculptural works in a variety of subjects and media.

Youth Art award winners will be selected by 2024 North Charleston Arts Fest Poster Design Competition Winner Jirah Perkins (grades 1-5) and interdisciplinary artist, educator, and arts administrator Carson Carroll. (grades 6-12). High School Sculpture award winners will be selected by ceramic sculptor Nadia Stieglitz.

The *18th Annual African American Fiber Art Exhibition – In Praise of the Ancestors*, will be held at the North Charleston City Hall's 2nd & 3rd floors, from Apr. 30 through June 15, 2025. This annual juried exhibition features works in fiber created by more than 60 African American artists from 22 different states. Ancestor worship is a central custom of African religion and is practiced throughout the African Diaspora. In addition to their deep reverence for elders, followers of traditional African religion believe the ancestors maintain a spiritual connection to and powerful influence on their living relatives, and their wisdom is considered invaluable.



Work by Yolanda Cofield, part of the "18th Annual African American Fiber Art Exhibition – In Praise of the Ancestors"

No matter your culture or background, the act of honoring ancestors is sacred, and we can all benefit from recognizing and respecting our lineage. This year's theme aims to honor legends of the Diaspora, known and unknown, whose lives and sacrifices gave birth to our many celebrated accomplishments and have carried us to the present. Fiber pieces in this 18th annual exhibition will cover a vast

Robert Lange Studios in Charleston, SC, Features Works by Mia Bergeron

Robert Lange Studios in Charleston, SC, will present *Book of Hours*, featuring new works by Mia Bergeron, on view from Apr. 4 - 29, 2025. A reception will be held on Apr. 4, from 5-8pm, during the Charleston Art Walk.

RLS is excited to present *Book of Hours*, a deeply introspective exhibition featuring 20 original oil paintings by Mia Bergeron. This captivating new series invites viewers to contemplate the nature of time and the complex, often contradictory ways in which we experience both the external world and our inner realities.

In *Book of Hours*, Bergeron creates a dialogue between the ordinary and the other-worldly, examining how small moments accumulate to define our larger experience of existence. The artist explains: "This series is a meditation on time and the presence of our daily interactions. That presence is often both external AND internal."



Work by Amy Stewart, winner of the North Charleston Arts Fest poster competition

range of topics that have great significance for the African American community, highlighting figures from our collective African American history, as well as from the artists' own family history.

Created and curated by award-winning and nationally exhibiting textile artist, Torreah "Cookie" Washington, this unique exhibition offers African American fiber artists an opportunity to showcase their original and innovative designs executed in a variety of traditional and non-traditional fiber techniques.

On view at the Park Circle Gallery, on Jenkins Avenue in North Charleston will be the exhibit *Intersections*, featuring mixed media works by Amy Stewart, on view from Apr. 30 - May 31, 2025. The public is invited to meet the artist at the gallery on Saturday, May 3, during a free public reception from 5-7pm. Stewart, winner of the 2025 North Charleston Arts Fest Poster Design Competition, will display her winning piece, *Intersections*, along with a collection of abstract mixed media paintings that explore the ripple effect of our actions on others and vice versa. Every action we take, every place we go, or even the way we change direction can lead us to encounter someone, even if we don't realize it at the time. We may never fully comprehend our network of connections, but they are undeniably part of our shared human experience.

The 19th National Outdoor Sculpture Competition & Exhibition, on view at the North Charleston Riverfront Park, on Everglades Avenue in North Charleston, from Apr. 30 through Mar. 15, 2026. View 12 thought-provoking outdoor sculptures by established and emerging artists from 5 different states in the annual juried competition and exhibition. Selections and awards will be made by the juror, Greg Shelnett, artist and professor of art and head of the sculpture area in the Department of Art & Design at the University of Delaware in Newark, DE.

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings, call the North Charleston Cultural Arts Department at 843/740-5854, or visit (NorthCharlestonArtsFest.com).



Work by Mia Bergeron

Drawing from the conundrum of living with an overactive mind, Bergeron reflects on the peculiar duality of our experience. "I can witness a powerful storm or churning ocean, and yet be wondering about what I will have for dinner and if I have enough laundry detergent. It doesn't always go that way of course, but it's an

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interesting thing to notice the degree to which we can all have a foot in the other-worldly and another in the ordinary."

This series focuses on the union of these two realms, exploring how this balance manifests throughout the hours of the day. "Interestingly, this conversation can also go the other direction: a seemingly small act like cutting an orange the wrong way can make me think about my own mortality, and question the reason for pain. We live in this dichotomy of two realms constantly, and this series is about how that union shows up at different hours of the day."

Bergeron takes a unique approach to realism, using it as a tool rather than a strict rule. The artist believes that "all painting is abstraction and interpretive" and often asks, "if painting something realistically will add or take away from my narrative." For this series, realism becomes a question of whether it supports or detracts from the experience of the piece. The artist continues: "Sometimes adding too much detail ruins the mystery that may be the goal of what I'm trying to get across. On the other hand, sometimes hyper-focussing on the details can guide a sharp arrow directly to a conceptual target. I have no rules or goals around style, I simply ask myself if realism will do the job."

For the past few years, Bergeron has been creating smaller sketches as part of the process, which allow for more freedom and experimentation. "They aren't as much of a time commitment, so I feel freer to experiment. I also love that they are more surprising and visceral than trying to photoshop everything," the artist shares.

With an extensive library of photos collected from years of daily observations, Bergeron pays close attention to the moments that make up each day. "The pursuit of contemplation is my ultimate goal, and my hope is for my pieces to act as mirrors for viewers. The biggest compliment I can receive is when people say they experienced their own reality differently because of one of my pieces. My hope is for viewers to see their nuanced selves in my



Work by Mia Bergeron

work, whatever that may look like."

The artist also draws inspiration from the words of Annie Dillard: "How we spend our days is, of course, how we spend our lives. What we do with this hour, and that one, is what we are doing." These words encapsulate the essence of *Book of Hours* — the larger themes of existence are made up of small moments of time. "This series is a dedication to those smaller microcosms that collectively create our reality."

Join us for the opening of *Book of Hours* at RLS on Apr. 4, where gallery owner Robert Lange says, "You can engage with these evocative pieces and experience a new lens through which to view your own moments of time. We look forward to welcoming you to the gallery for this inspiring exhibition."

Robert Lange Studios is located in the very heart of Charleston, built in 1840, our 6,000 sq. ft. warehouse with original brick walls and ancient wood floors is the perfect backdrop for contemporary art. Voted best gallery as well as on Condé Nast's top 10 things to see in Charleston list, we think of ourselves as a gallery that welcomes anyone and inspires everyone.

For the past 20 years we have been

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