

# Piccolo Spoleto Festival in Charleston Offers Works by Cheryl Baskins Butler

The Piccolo Spoleto Festival in Charleston, SC, is presenting *Cheryl Baskins Butler Invitational: The Birds of Desire*, on view at the Dock Street Theatre's Drawing Room, through June 9, 2013.

Featuring this year's Piccolo Spoleto Spotlight Concerts Poster Artist, this exhibition is a compilation of Cheryl Baskins Butler's recent paintings, drawings and collages.

According to Buddhist teachings, desire and its counterpart, attachment, underpin all suffering. Butler's birds of desire walk, perch, argue, feed and soar around this basic tenet of Buddhist philosophy. The artist/bird-watcher's study of this concept has required her to journey outward only so far as her birdfeeder and inward as near as her own psyche. Butler has made some discoveries from her reflections and created works that are both contemplative and whimsical. Her images are rich with grackles and blackbirds, ubiquitous avian species that often pass a birdwatcher's field of view without a second glance.

Butler's artist's eye, however, has rediscovered these birds and she has cast them as strong visual and metaphorical players in her work. They perform a variety of roles. Some are purely visual, illustrating the interplay of black objects and color fields. Other bold, black silhou-

ettes invite the viewer into the scenes. Devoid of extraneous visual trappings, they connect him/her to the compositions' underlying concepts and actions. The images cease to be about birds, and become about us. They explore such human conditions as distraction, doubt, aspersion, comfort, desire and attachment. This shift in perspective opens avenues for individual reflection and invites collective dialogues where questions may arise.

In creating *Aspirations*, the acrylic selected for the 2013 Piccolo Spoleto Spotlight Concert Series poster, Butler reflected on the latter concept- achieving greater heights. She drew upon her years of observation, experience and personal impressions of Charleston's cultural, creative and natural heritage. The painting's architectural features echo tradition and inspiration, components she considers synonymous with the city. While substantial and time honored, these shapes are also lyrical. They possess elements of spontaneity and asymmetry that represent Charleston's more contemporary visage and speak to her transition into the 21st century.

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings, call the Office of Cultural Affairs at 843/724-7305 or visit ([www.piccolospoleto.com](http://www.piccolospoleto.com)).

# City of North Charleston (SC) Features Works by Jimmy Leslie and John A. Malveto

The City of North Charleston's Cultural Arts Department is pleased to announce that landscapes by Jimmy Leslie of Shrewsbury, NJ, and stain paintings by John A. Malveto of Walker, LA, will be on exhibit at the North Charleston City Gallery in North Charleston, SC, from June 3-30, 2013.

In an effort to continually push boundaries and experiment, in the exhibit, *Road Trip - Landscape Paintings*, Jimmy Leslie works with diverse modes of expression. His body of work includes landscapes, portraits, and collages in oil, acrylic, watercolor, and mixed media. In this particular exhibit Leslie features scenes from the artist's travels painted in oil and acrylic.



Work by Jimmy Leslie

"I love to get out of the studio whenever possible to take part in the tradition of plein air painting," Leslie says. "There's something about hitting the road with a small paint box in the same way the Impressionists did; just my supplies and a desire to connect with nature."

Leslie's landscape paintings capture scenes of places both near and far, many of which are visited due to the travel associated with his position as Resident Artist and Sr. Technical Services Director at Colart Americas, Inc.

Sometimes the paintings made on location stand on their own and other times they form the basis for larger paintings that begin to push the boundaries of representation and even become non-representational images. The paintings that stem from these studies often share the qualities of topography and form becomes dictated by color, rather than the reverse. "Ultimately I look for these images to reference the locations they are based on rather than a strict verbatim translation; in this way they become a record which is much more personal," Leslie explains.

Leslie received an MFA from the Graduate School of Figurative Art of the New York Academy of Art and owned and operated the Leslie Art Studio in 2006 and 2007. After almost 15 years of teaching in the Art & Design departments of Monmouth University, St John's University, and Brookdale Community College, as well as working with gifted students in the Monmouth County Arts High School program, Leslie left the academic world behind.

In January 2009 Leslie began his role as Resident Artist and Sr. Technical Services Director at Colart Americas, Inc., the North American distributor of Winsor & Newton and Liquitex paints. As an artist with ColArt, he is involved with product testing and development and runs the Artist Outreach program. His landscapes, figurative work, and mixed media collages have been exhibited throughout New Jersey, as well as New York, Oregon, Texas, Nebraska, Idaho, Florida, Missouri, North Carolina, Massachusetts, and New Hampshire.

Leslie's work has most recently been seen at The Currier Museum Art Center (Manchester, NH), The NJ Resources HQ, (Howell, NJ), The Linner Gallery (Hudson, NY), the new Joan and Robert Rechnitz Hall on the campus of Monmouth University (West Long Branch, NJ), and the Paper World Art Material Trade Show (Frankfurt, Germany).

In *Recent Paintings* by John A. Malveto, the artist presents a collection of abstract works involving the resiliency of humanity versus nature and their eternal conflict to coexist harmoniously. Malveto's pieces are autobiographical in nature, thereby enabling him the opportunity to integrate personal iconography within the compositions. His works include a combination of visually energetic surfaces created through his own unique approach to "stain painting."

Malveto's process involves applying multiple stages of poured and brushed acrylic paint to numerous sheets of glass. Stencils are used to cut out shapes from the paint once it has dried. The shapes correspond to a detailed pencil composition created on a canvas. The cut-out shapes of paint are glued to the canvas, section by section, resulting in a finished painting

*continued above on next column to the right*



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Work by John A. Malveto

whose effect could not be achieved any other way.

"This form of painting is so unusual that I know of no other contemporary artist who employs it," Malveto says. "By utilizing this unique procedure I feel it has provided greater control of my visual expression. In addition this experience redefines the concept of stain painting."

Malveto received his Bachelor of Arts

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in Sociology from Park College in Missouri in 1967. He studied painting and drawing at the University of Rhode Island in 1974, and received his Masters of Fine Arts in painting and sculpture from Arizona State University in Tempe, AZ, in 1976.

Malveto has taught at many universities from New York to California to China and has been a professor at the Louisiana State University School of Art since 1983. He has been represented by numerous galleries, and participated in many solo and group exhibitions, earning multiple awards. Presently he is showing with the Kodner Gallery in St. Louis, Missouri.

The North Charleston City Gallery is situated in the common areas of the Charleston Area Convention Center, located in North Charleston. Inquiries regarding the artists or purchase information may be directed to the North Charleston Cultural Arts Department.

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings, call 843/740-5854 or visit (<http://bit.ly/culturalarts>).

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