

RIVERWORKS Gallery

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sensations and the “aha” of irony. *Toys and Games* could be an homage to Duchamp.

These sculptures are probably closet kin to music boxes, the old, possibly extinct, “Hop Scotch”, as well as current computer games. So the exhibition also presents a history of play from the elegant drawing room to the bygone street play to the current rec room video game.

David Detrich in his artist statement records a definition of artist, “as a trickster that employs sleight of hand.” Detrich, Stewart, and Wood embody that definition. Referencing his sculpture Stewart says “By creating functional devices designed for interaction, passive viewing is transformed into an active, full body experience.” According to Wood, “I make toys with my friends.”

Detrich is currently Professor of Art, Sculpture and the Graduate Program Coordinator at Clemson University, Clemson, SC. Stewart, a recent Clemson MFA graduate is the Project Manager, Public Art for the Arts & Science Council in Charlotte, NC. Wood, alumni of Greenville Technical College and recent Magna Cum Laude, BFA graduate of Clemson is currently co-owner of Gemini Minds.

RIVERWORKS Gallery is operated by and for the faculty and students of the



Work by David Detrich

Department of Visual and Performing Arts at Greenville Technical College. The gallery is located on River Street, along the scenic Reedy River in downtown Greenville.

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings, call the gallery at 864/271-0679 or visit (www.gvltec.edu/vpa/) and click on Riverworks.

Greenville County Museum of Art in Greenville, SC, Features Works by Leo Twiggs and The Joe Bonham Project

The Greenville County Museum of Art in Greenville, SC, is presenting two new exhibits including: *Leo Twiggs: Last Flags* and *The Joe Bonham Project: Drawing the Stories of America's Wounded Veterans*, both on view through Nov. 16, 2014. On Sunday, Oct. 5, from 2 - 3:30pm, plan to join project organizer and combat artist Michael Fay, fellow artist Victor Juhasz, and featured subject and Medal of Honor recipient Lance Corporal Kyle Carpenter for an illuminating conversation about how art provides a powerful lens into the realities of war, heroism, and sacrifice. On Sunday, Nov. 5, at 2 pm, Leo Twiggs will discuss his exhibition and reflect on how his work, which explores the human condition, is rooted in his experiences growing up in South Carolina. The event is free and open to the public.

Controversial and divisive and yet at times inexplicably unifying, the Confederate flag serves as a powerful subject for South Carolina artist Leo Twiggs. Born in 1934, he grew up in St. Stephen, SC, and earned his bachelor of arts from Claflin University in Orangeburg, SC, where he studied with Arthur Rose. After graduation, Twiggs served in the Army Signal Corps for two years. He returned to South Carolina to teach high school art in Sumter; during the summers he earned his master of arts from New York University, studying under Hale Woodruff.



Work by Leo Twiggs

Twiggs was hired as the first professor of art at South Carolina State University, where he developed the art department and founded the university museum, eventually becoming the chair of the art department. During his tenure at the university, Twiggs brought in nationally recognized artists such as Jacob Lawrence and Elizabeth Catlett. He was the first African American to receive a doctorate in art education from the University of Georgia. Twiggs has received the Elizabeth O'Neill Verner Award, the South Carolina Governor's Award and his work



Work by Leo Twiggs

has been exhibited throughout the country, including the Studio Museum in Harlem and the Georgia Museum of Art.

Twiggs began experimenting in the mid-1960s with batik, a method in which fabric is dyed using wax as resist, as an alternative to painting. In his *Last Flag Series* Twiggs contrasts the folksy quality of the batik medium with the polarizing imagery of Confederate flags. By using the flag as a motif in his work, Twiggs claims it as part of his history. The artist states, “the Confederate Flag is an icon that Whites in the South love to remember, and most Blacks would like to forget; yet, within the dichotomy of these two views is the passion within us all to remember the past and to hold on to some special moment of triumph.” Through the repeated image of a torn and tattered flag, Twiggs addresses subtle issues about the shared Southern history of African-Americans and Caucasians, and the continued complexity of race relations.

Taking its title from the main character in Dalton Trumbo's 1938 novel *Johnny Got His Gun*, the challenging exhibition known as *The Joe Bonham Project: Drawing the Stories of America's Wounded Veterans* tells the stories of America's wounded veterans through the eyes of contemporary artists working in a range of styles.

Founded by Marine Corps combat artist Michael Fay, the project is dedicated to depicting the stories of American soldiers who have been seriously wounded while serving overseas. As part of the long tradition of war art, these images move beyond the battlefield to portray the lengthy recovery process of soldiers who escaped with their lives but not without grave physical injuries.

The artists who have participated in The Joe Bonham Project represent diverse artistic styles and backgrounds. Some, like Fay, are military artists, while others, like Steve Mumford, are accomplished contemporary painters who have chosen war as their pri-

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LEO TWIGGS TOWARD LAST FLAGS

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mary subject matter. Others are illustrators and cartoonists, including Victor Juhasz, a frequent contributor to *Rolling Stone*, *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal* and many more.

The Greenville County Museum of Art is

located in the center of downtown Greenville's cultural campus, Heritage Green, on College Street.

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings, call the Museum at 864/271-7570 or visit (www.gcoma.org).

USC Upstate in Spartanburg, SC, Features Works by Gwen Bigham

USC Upstate in Spartanburg, SC, will present an exhibit of sculptures by Asheville, NC, artist Gwen Bigham, on view in the Curtis R. Harley Gallery, from Oct. 2 - 31, 2014. A reception and gallery talk will be given on Oct. 2, at 4:30pm.

Bigham is a sculptor, installation artist and painter. She attended Appalachian State University, in Boone, NC, and graduated with honors from Winthrop University, in Rock Hill, SC, in 2002 earning a BFA with honors in Sculpture and Painting. During this time she was honored by the International Sculpture Center. After completing her BFA, Bigham was twice an affiliate artist at the McColl Center for Visual Art in Charlotte, NC.

“The three dimensional works she is exhibiting are evocative and thought-provoking,” Melissa G. Post, curator Mint Museum of Craft + Design wrote of her work. “Gwen Bigham's artistic repertoire is as eclectic as it is vast. Her interest lies in exploring the role of women in society. Dualities, between external appearances and internal realities, serve as the thematic thread that unifies her work. She juxtaposes utilitarian materials in unlikely ways to create uncommonly beautiful sculpture.”

Bigham's work has been exhibited in numerous venues including the International Sculpture Center in Hamilton, NJ, the North Carolina Museum of Art in Raleigh, NC, and the Southeastern Center for Con-



Work by Gwen Bigham

temporary Art, Winston-Salem, NC. She is the recipient of an Arts & Science Council Regional Artist Grant, based in Charlotte. In 2003, Bigham was invited to teach at Winthrop University, where she was a lecturer until relocating in 2009 to Asheville, NC, where she currently lives and works.

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings, call 864503-5848, e-mail to (jnodine@uscupstate.edu) or (mflowers@uscupstate.edu).

The deadline each month to submit articles, photos and ads is the 24th of the month prior to the next issue. This will be Oct. 24th for the November 2014 issue and Nov. 24 for the December 2014 issue. After that, it's too late unless your exhibit runs into the next month. But don't wait for the last minute - send your info now. And where do you send that info? E-mail to (info@carolinaarts.com).