

Francis Marion University in Florence, SC, Offers Works by Ella & Knapp Hudson

Francis Marion University in Florence, SC, is presenting *Small Islands, Big Landscapes*, featuring photography by Ella and Knapp Hudson, on view in the Hyman Fine Arts Center Gallery, through Nov. 5, 2015.

Near the top of the globe, Iceland is, literally, an island in the making and is a vast volcanic laboratory where mighty forces shape the earth. Ella and Knapp Hudson have traveled to the island 3 times; September 2013, May 2014 and August 2015 with other photographers, specifically to see and try to capture some of the island's extreme beauty. They focused on the massive waterfalls, icebergs, rock formations and fjords that draw more and more photographers to Iceland each year. "We want to share what keeps drawing us back...Iceland's stunning variety of natural beauty and landscapes," says Ella Hudson.

"While in college (like many others in my generation) I discovered photography, went to Europe, shot pictures that my family and friends thought were wonderful and decided to become a National Geographic photographer and spend my life traveling the world and making pictures in exotic locales."

"Instead, my exotic locale was Florence, SC, (my hometown) where I worked as a college photographer at Francis Marion College until marriage and a move. Leaving the quiet life of academia, I became a Medical Photographer in another extremely exotic locale, Mobile, AL, home of Mardi Gras (not New Orleans as you might think)," adds Ella Hudson.

"Still not realizing my dream of being a National Geographic photographer, I moved to Portland, ME, and continued as a medical photographer, collecting unusual stories along the way not suitable for polite dinner conversation."

"After the usual twists and turns of working and raising a family, I am now retired, still living in Portland, and enjoying photography for personal growth and pleasure, traveling with my husband, Knapp Hudson, and sometimes our black poodle, Izzy."

Knapp Hudson explains, "My early exposure to photography was in high



Work by Ella and Knapp Hudson

school, working in the darkroom for an 'underground' satire newspaper. I would shoot the copy, develop the negatives, paste up the copy, then burn and develop the printing plates. I learned a lot about working in a darkroom but never touched any other camera."

"Fast forward a few years to 1966, and I found myself in the Navy on Adak Island, AK. I picked up photography again and bought my first camera, a 35mm rangefinder, at the Base Exchange and reacquainted myself with the darkroom. This led to the purchase of a 35mm SLR, a twin lens reflex, etc. These cameras carried me through a very long year on Adak and the next few years in northern Europe."

"Fast forward again to work years. I am now married to Ella Hudson, a real photographer, someone who gets paid to take pictures," adds Knapp Hudson. "Being married to a photographer, I started to learn about composition, and what it takes to make an interesting picture."

"Fast forward to 2006, we are about to leave on a trip to China with some friends; what camera to take, how much film, how would we ever carry that much film, why don't we try digital? We did; we had a lot to learn, but over the next few years, we became comfortable with digital and have grown to appreciate it. Our cameras have now been all through Southeast Asia, Iceland, Nova Scotia and Scotland and have not let us down."

For further info check our SC Institutional Gallery listings, call the FMU Art Dept. at 843/661-1385 or visit (<http://departments.fmarion.edu/finearts/gallery.htm>).

Artspace 506 in North Myrtle Beach, SC, Features Works by Elizabeth Keller

Artspace 506 in North Myrtle Beach, SC, is presenting *Contemporary Ceramic Sculpture by Elizabeth Keller*, a solo exhibition on view through Nov. 14, 2015.

Elizabeth Keller is an extraordinary ceramic artist who continually pushes the boundaries of her craft. With decades of experience in the ceramic studio she has developed precise and unique working methods producing vessels and sculptures that amaze and inspire. The works exhibited here explore the range of the artist's practice and include narrative related sculptures and teapots/sculptural composite forms that explore and expand on the Chinese tradition of the tea ceremony and Penjing, a more ancient variant of Bonsai.

Keller has a background in Christian theology and Judaism, and has done extensive research into Eastern spiritual beliefs arising in China and Japan. Ideas generated from these studies have found their way into her works imbuing each creation with deep meaning.

Any viewer will be enchanted by Keller's variety of teapots. These objects are functional but far from traditional. They celebrate the possibilities of making a common object the sum of playful forms combined to create unusual, unexpected and delightful works of art.

In Keller's recent work the artist exhibits a keen interest in Chinese ceramics, particularly Yixing teapots and traditional forms used in the tea ceremony such as tea bowls, water containers, trays and flower vases. She has returned to the concept of the tea ceremony again and again in works that combine natural forms, meaningful narrative, exquisite composition and technical virtuosity.

In 2004 Keller studied with Ah Leon, the



Work by Elizabeth Keller

well known Taiwanese artist, at the Penland School of Crafts in North Carolina. Ah Leon, whose interest in the Chinese Yixing teapots is shared by Keller, is also a Bonsai Master. This experience confirmed Keller's newly found interest in the art of Bonsai, which she continues to practice caring for nearly eighty (80) of the specimens at her home. She has created unique pots for each of them.

Keller expanded her sculptural forms to include cups and other objects of the tea ceremony in complicated multipart combinations of ceramic forms. Many of these, incredibly, have the look and texture of real wood. These works are beautifully

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