

Francis Marion University in Florence, SC, Features Works by David Boatwright & Stormie Burns

Francis Marion University in Florence, SC, will present two new exhibits including: *David Boatwright and Stormie Burns: Again and Again*, both on view in the Adele Kassab Art Gallery, at the Hyman Fine Arts Center, from Oct. 5 through Nov. 11, 2021.

Boatwright offered the following statement, "I consider myself to be a Southern artist in that, not only do I work in a narrative or story telling format, I also have a tendency to paint subjects that are specifically Southern. Although people may know my work through public murals, I take a very different approach to personal paintings originating in the studio. Murals are by necessity completely designed beforehand to acquire approval from both the sponsor and the City of Charleston, SC. For non-commissioned work, I prefer the journey of finding the composition during the process of painting. Beginning with one character or situation I like the challenge of making a painting whole from both the compositional standpoint, but more importantly creating a narrative sense that is true to its own rules."



Work by David Boatwright

Producing public murals for clients with a rigorous city approval process while maintaining artistic integrity has at times been elusive and difficult. Over time his clients began to give him a wider latitude and he has been able to merge personal expression with the specific needs of a project in a balanced way and to grow as a painter through the experience.

Boatwright now resides in downtown Charleston, SC, with his wife, the artist Molly B. Right.

Stormie Burns offered the following statement, "Repetition is inherent to the processes of mold making and slip casting. To create a mold is to seek out replication and multiples. To become proficient one must practice reiteration, responding to each previous outcome. With innumerable variables throughout my processes it is essential that I approach making with a deliberate mindset as every step needs to be fully considered. I gravitate towards exactness and refinement. These traits are embraced as I create plaster molds and slip-cast porcelain vessels that draw from my personal vocabulary of form."

"When casting a mold I am presented with uniformity, the outcome predetermined," added Burns. "Moving within the parameters of a visual language I am able to replicate casts while leaving space for play and variation from piece to piece through the use of color and surface texture. *Again and Again* features a collection of vessels that explore how variables within consistency can change the perception of a form when presented in a group, stacked upon one another, or individually."

Burns is a ceramic and cast glass artist. Originally from central Florida, she relocated to western North Carolina in 2015. She has completed residencies at Haystack School of Craft and Penland School of Craft. In the winter of 2019, Burns completed the two-year Core Fellowship program at Penland. She currently lives in Bakersville, in the mountains of western North Carolina.

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings, contact Jessica Willis, Gallery Curator, by calling 843-661-1539 or visit (<https://www.fmarion.edu/finearts/artgalleryseriescurrent/>).



Works by Stormie Burns

After graduating from SF Art Institute as a painting major Boatwright spent several years making short experimental films which he showed at many of the cinemateques in Europe. He returned to his home state of South Carolina in 1977 received a National Endowment for the Arts individual artist grant to make documentary films in Charleston, SC. He later became a graduate fellow at AFI film school in Los Angeles. He co-founded a film production company and directed over 100 commercials and made several documentaries.

While a filmmaker Boatwright maintained an interest in studio painting and was fortunate to return to Charleston in 1984 as it began to expand culturally and demographically, and found he could support himself and a growing family by working as a designer, painter, filmmaker and musician.

Working under the mantle of Lucky Boy Art Boatwright's painting evolved into a specialty as he began creating large murals and hand-painted signs on many exteriors around Charleston. In addition to the signs, he was also being commissioned to make murals and paintings for the interiors of restaurants and was able to sell studio pieces to collectors and commercial establishments.

Burroughs-Chapin Art Museum in Myrtle Beach, SC, Features Works by Chellis Baird

The Franklin G. Burroughs-Simeon B. Chapin Art Museum in Myrtle Beach, SC, is presenting *Tethered*, featuring works by Chellis Baird, on view through Dec. 9, 2021.

The beauty and fluidity of movement is at the heart of *Tethered*, a new exhibit by Spartanburg, SC, native Chellis Baird. This New York-based artist invokes the spirit of her background in textiles and fashion as she creates sculptural paintings by deconstructing, and then reconstructing, traditional tools of canvas and paint. In addition, the exhibit incorporates themes of South Carolina history and industry as it explores and tests artistic parameters.

Born in the midst of a booming textile industry, Baird recalls playing with fabric as a child on the floor of a local textile mill. An interest in using fabric to make quilts and doll clothes in her younger years evolved into a professional interest, as she earned a BFA in textiles at the



Chellis Baird, "Impression", 2018, pigmented wax, fabric, wood, thread, 90"x55"x7".

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Rhode Island School of Design. In her early career, she worked with designers for Gucci and Chanel, having access to the finest fabric in the world. Baird's interest in fabric as art led her to the Art Students League of New York, where she began experimenting with tools and craft of painting.

"I was painting in a traditional format, on either Masonite or on canvas," said Baird, "and I started to think: 'I have this rich background from sculpting the human body in fabric and watching the manufacturing. Why am I buying a canvas and painting on it when I have passion for the language of fabric? So I decided to literally punch through the canvas and start creating my own woven language. I began to reexamine what makes up a painting: some fabric, some paint and some wood. I started to consider how could I own these elements to create my personal artistic statement."

Baird, whose work is heavily influenced by the color field movement and abstract impressionism, incorporates a blue theme throughout *Tethered* to represent both the locale's proximity to the ocean and the industry of indigo, a key agricultural product in South Carolina history.

"Many of Baird's monochromatic woven paintings included in *Tethered* are blue, which hearkens back to indigo dye," said Liz Miller, Myrtle Beach Art Museum curator. "The ages-old natural, blue pigment was first introduced in North America by way of plantation owner Eliza Lucas in colonial South Carolina, where it became the colony's most important cash crop after rice. In fact, Georgetown, SC, was one of the crop's largest producers in the country."

Baird has created one piece specifically for the *Tethered* exhibit in collaboration with North Myrtle Beach celebrity Vanna White. White, who has enjoyed crochet for decades, owns yarn brand Vanna's Choice, which donated the yarn for Baird's piece. *The Spin* is Baird's first circular work and invokes the action central to textile manufacturing.

"I wanted to pay homage to the wheel and the gesture of spinning because so much of my work is inspired by movement and motion and gesture," said Baird.

In addition, Baird's lifelong interest in dance, also involving fluidity and rhythm, is expressed in *Tethered* through a series



Chellis Baird, "Midnight Twist", 2020, pigmented wax, fabric, mulberry paper and wax on birch panel, 18"x23.5"x4".

of six white works, all of which reference dance positions and phrases in their titles.

"Dance has been an important aspect in my artistic process because the habit of moving one's body through space through choreography is like a puzzle to me," said Baird. "I often find myself recollecting thoughts and reorganizing concepts through my body as I'm moving through dance."

Miller noted that *Tethered* blends creativity, exploration of media, and historical significance in a way that will resonate with Grand Strand audiences.

"Just as Baird intertwines her hand-dyed and painted fabrics into their mesmerizingly beautiful compositions," said Miller, "so too does she inherently weave our region's history and culture into the very fabric of her work."

The Franklin G. Burroughs-Simeon B. Chapin Art Museum is a wholly non-profit institution located on South Ocean Boulevard in Myrtle Beach. Components of Museum programs are funded in part by support from the City of Myrtle Beach and the South Carolina Arts Commission, which receives support from the National Endowment for the Arts.

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings, call the Museum at 843/238-2510 or visit (www.MyrtleBeachArtMuseum.org).

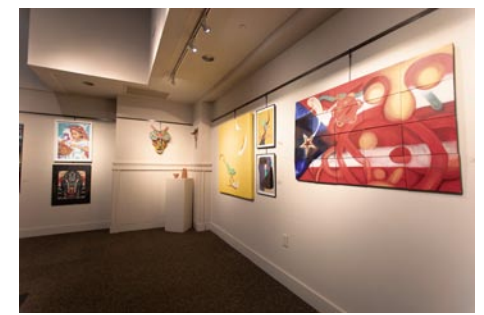
Arts Council of Fayetteville | Cumberland County in Fayetteville, NC, Celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month with Exhibition

The Arts Council of Fayetteville | Cumberland County in Fayetteville, NC, is connecting their communities through the inspirational modern and contemporary artistry of Hispanic and Latino cultures with its inaugural *LatinXhibit*, a Hispanic Heritage Month Exhibit, on view at The Arts Center's gallery, through Oct. 16, 2021.

LatinXhibit celebrates the rich and diverse influence Hispanic and Latino artists have on the history and impact of mainstream American art.

The Arts Center's gallery flourishes with the vision, flair, and passion of art pieces created by prominent and emerging Hispanic and Latino artists from across the country. This collection of extraordinary modern and contemporary artwork and sculptures express the beauty of diversity through the artistry and perspective of Hispanic and Latino visionaries.

Throughout history, creative ventures by Hispanic and Latino artists were pushed to the background of mainstream American art and seldomly given the opportunity to be center stage. Nevertheless, the rise and significance of artistic Hispanic and Latino trailblazers have made their mark as leading innovators in the art scene, thus, solidifying their rightful place in the progression of American art and defining their relevance and impact throughout all art disciplines. Today, the contributions of Hispanic and Latino artists are undeniable as they continue to change the face of artistic explorations globally with new curatorial narratives that are driven by their cultural experiences. Making the inaugural *LatinXhibit* a



View of the "LatinXhibit"

permanent exhibition presented annually, the Arts Council will continue to support Hispanic Heritage Month by introducing our community to a talented network of local and national Hispanic and Latino artists who will leave a lasting impression on the downtown Fayetteville art experience.

The Arts Council of Fayetteville | Cumberland County is a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization based in Fayetteville, NC that supports individual creativity, cultural preservation, economic development, and lifelong learning through the ARTS. Founded in 1973, the Arts Council has served as a link between artists, arts and cultural organizations, and the greater community by administering programs in partnership with a variety of local agencies to stimulate economic growth, reinforce child education through the arts, and enhance the cultural identity of the arts and entertainment district.

In the year 2020-21, the Arts Council distributed \$1.1 million in grant funds and allocations to Cumberland County arts

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