

Southern Arts Society in Kings Mountain, NC, Offers Two Exhibits Focused on Artists' Books & Printmaking

Two new exhibits open this week at Southern Arts Society in Kings Mountain, NC. *Artists' Books: A Handmade Journey II*, features works by a Book Artists Group known as the "Bookies" showing work in the Reavis Gallery. And, *Contemporary Printmaking*, in the Founders Gallery at SASi. The Exhibition of Contemporary Printmaking features work by student artists and their printmaking instructor Zalevskaya at Gaston College in Dallas, NC. Both exhibitions will be on view through Nov. 1, 2024.

Artists' Books is comprised of works by eleven regional artists: Mary Bartrop, Karen Bean, Anne Cowie, Dana Endsley, Laura Gardner, Janet Kaufman, Pam Perkins, Jean Silver, Lore Spivey, Donna Vaillancourt, Peggy Williams, who work in paper, mylar, clay, leather, wood and other media to create unique books in a variety of forms.

Members of the "Bookies" Group are a diverse group of women from varying backgrounds, all united by a love of making books by hand. Some of the books are from handmade papers, adding content through artful paste papers and mixed media collage, for a visual Kaleidoscope. Some papers are embellished with inks, dyes, and twigs, then sewn together by hand for a "quieter read".

One set of "books" by book artist Lore Spivey of Gastonia, NC, are laser cut circles, stacked onto a dowel rod into large spheres with stitching, lettering and photographs. The pages of these spheres can be separated by pegs to hold your place in the "book".

Charlotte, NC, book artist Karen Bean has made a series of flag books representing the number of women killed in the United States by their domestic partner. This somber statistic is laid out on a table, each book equaling one month, as a startling visual story that needs to be told.



Work by Peggy Williams

Other books contain delightful original stories, family history, personal growth, and whimsical sayings. Dana Endsley of Mt. Holly created a series of four books using cyanotype, old photos, and diaries – "artifacts", to tell the story of her grandmother growing up in Michigan over 100 years ago. Her "Artifact Book" is covered with hand embroidery and dyed with walnut ink to hold and preserve this precious time capsule of family history.

Most of the books are bound by hand, some in a Coptic stitch pattern



Work by Donna Vaillancourt

that looks quite complicated and others that seem simple to replicate. There are square books, round books, linear books that spread out and tiny books that seem impossible to make. You will find many different stories told within the books in this exhibit. And while you may expect each book to have content, some are left intentionally blank, for the viewer to fill in the pages with their own story. Books and book kits are available to purchase from this exhibit.

Also, on view at Southern Arts Society (SASi), is *Contemporary Printmaking* in the Founders Gallery at SASi. This exhibition features work by student artists and their printmaking instructor Zalevskaya at Gaston College in Dallas, NC. The prints vary in technique, concept, and skill level, showcasing techniques such as linocut, silkscreen, woodblock, lithography on polyplates, and monotypes. Some pieces are the first prints made by students, while others are by more experienced artists revisiting a technique.

The relationship between a student and teacher is one of exchange and nurturing, as it fosters growth, encourages experimentation, and allows for the sharing of knowledge and techniques. As you view these prints, consider how this collaborative relationship influences the artistic process and contributes to the richness and diversity of the work on display. Participating artists include: Katie Bauer, Cesilia Baza, Brandon Bido, Jenna Cordero, MaryGrace Douthit, Andrew Odem, Maddie Sims, Finley Stiles, Jacob Wiggins, and Liliya Zalevskaya. Work in the exhibit is available to purchase.

The Southern Arts Society (SASi) Gift Shop & Gallery is located on N. Piedmont Avenue in the historic Southern Railway Depot, at the intersection of Piedmont and Battleground in Kings Mountain. SASi offers a gift shop, ongoing exhibits, programs, and classes in a variety of media for artists of all levels. Admission is Free.

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, call the Society at 704/739-5585 or visit (www.SouthernArtsSociety.org).

Mint Museum Uptown in Charlotte, NC, Features Works by Jaki Shelton Green and Monique Luck

The Mint Museum Uptown at the Levine Center for the Arts in Charlotte, NC, is presenting *The Communion of White Dresses*, featuring collaborative works by Jaki Shelton Green and Monique Luck, through Oct. 27, 2024.

Jaki Shelton Green and Monique Luck have collaborated to bring an interactive, artistic poetic installation to life, using the words from Green's poem *The Communion of White Dresses*. This exhibition reimagines the tradition, symbolism, and representation of white dresses, exploring their

intersection with the generational culture of white dresses and the black female body politic.

Green is the ninth Poet Laureate of North Carolina. Appointed in 2018, is the first African American and third woman to be appointed as the North Carolina Poet Laureate and reappointed in 2021 for a second term by Governor Roy Cooper. She is a 2019 Academy of American Poet Laureate Fellow, 2014 NC Literary Hall of Fame Inductee, 2009 NC Piedmont Laureate

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appointment, 2003 recipient of the North Carolina Award for Literature.

Green teaches Documentary Poetry at Duke University Center for Documentary Studies and the 2021 Frank B. Hanes Writer in Residence at UNC Chapel Hill. She received the George School Outstanding Alumni Award in 2021. She serves as the poetry editor for *WALTER Magazine* and an appointment as the Poet Laureate in Residence at the North Carolina Museum of Art. Additionally, she has been recognized on the *Forbes Magazine* 50 Over 50 Lifestyle List for 2022.

Monique Luck is an award-winning international artist and muralist. She has exhibited her work frequently at galleries and museums across the US including: The African American Museum of Dallas, The South Carolina State Museum, and the

Heinz History Center Museum in Pittsburgh. She was chosen to receive one of the emerging artist scholarships for the Three Rivers Arts Festival in Pittsburgh, PA. She was also honored to be chosen as one of the 25 honorees of the Woman and Girls Foundation's celebration of Women in the Material World at the Carnegie Music Hall in Pittsburgh.

Luck's work as a public muralist with the Sprout Fund is featured in the PBS Documentary, "It's the Neighborhoods." She was also awarded a grant from the Multicultural Arts Initiative in Pittsburgh to create a permanent mural Installation in honor of August Wilson.

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, call the Mint at 704/337-2000 or visit (www.mintmuseum.org).

Mint Museum Uptown in Charlotte, NC, Offers Exhibit Focused on Romare Bearden & Carolina Shout

The Mint Museum Uptown at the Levine Center for the Arts in Charlotte, NC is presenting *Echoes: Artists Respond to Carolina Shout*, through Oct. 27, 2024.

Echoes extends the Mint's commitment to exploring Romare Bearden's art, legacy, and impact while simultaneously continuing its engagement with and in support of local artists.

Taking Bearden's collage as its point of departure, the museum asked four local artists - Carla Aaron-Lopez, Susan Brenner, Malik J. Norman, and Beverly Smith - to create a new work of art responding to some aspect of Carolina Shout. Each of those artists was invited to recommend a colleague to participate; thus, the original four were joined by Tom Delaney, Dammit Wesley, Juan Logan, and Liliya Zalevskaya.

While the artists were free to respond in whatever way they felt was appropriate, Bearden's themes of baptism, music, the South, memory, and community, along with his masterful use of collage and other artistic techniques, all provided rich points of departure for these artists to consider as they created their own work.

Romare Bearden's iconic collage *Of the Blues: Carolina Shout* was the first work by the Charlotte native to enter the museum's collection, acquired in 1975, the year after it was created. Since then, it has been



Beverly Smith (1957-), "Giles: Take Me to the River", 2023, mixed media quilt, vintage bow tie, crazy quilt, spray paint, graphite portrait, transfers, Courtesy of the artist, T0341.1

included in every major exhibition on the artist and has become known as one of his signature works.

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, call 704/337-2000 or visit (www.mintmuseum.org).

Mint Museum Uptown in Charlotte, NC, Features Works by Kenny Nguyen

The Mint Museum Uptown at the Levine Center for the Arts in Charlotte, NC is presenting *Kenny Nguyen: Adaptations*, on view through Mar. 2, 2025.

Adaptation is defined as "the process in which a living thing changes slightly over time to be able to continue to exist in a particular environment."

Kenny Nguyen feels this process materialized within himself, his lineage, and his methodology of making.

Born and raised on a coconut grove in the Bến Tre province of Vietnam, the artist lived a quiet rural life and later moved to the States at the age of 19. This dispersion from his homeland mapped a new internal geography—a subtle double-consciousness that the artist works with—traversing the spiritual and physical, the contemporary and historical.

Thinking of himself as a hybrid, Nguyen

merges his cultural traditions and the canon of abstract painting and fiber art in an innovative way. Also, in reverence of ancestors who endured histories of colonization and imperialism by the Chinese and French for hundreds to thousands of years, Nguyen's work processes diasporic data and illuminates the shifting nature of place and identity as an ode to these transmutative legacies and an exploration of his own creative metamorphosis.

Nguyen's training in fashion design and painting pair beautifully to realize his distinct practice—one that both deviates from and expands on tradition, one insistent on adapting to change to find beauty and break barriers.

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, call 704/337-2000 or visit (www.mintmuseum.org).

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