

Historic Penn Center on St. Helena Island

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Preserving the Gullah Culture and Traditions.”

The festival will also include more than twenty other African American artists and traditional Gullah artisans who will demonstrate African crafts, such as net making, boat building, indigo dyeing, and basket making, that link the Gullah people to their West African ancestry.

The York W. Bailey Museum at Penn Center will feature an art exhibition of original paintings by renowned artist Luther Vann of Savannah, GA. A student of the masters of the Harlem Renaissance, Vann's artistic expressiveness encompasses virtually every visual medium—painting, photography, sculpture, and digital creations. Vann will give a talk about his exhibit on Nov. 11. Admission to this event is \$5 for adults and \$3 for youth.

Born in 1937 in Savannah, Vann was raised in the dual cultures of his native city, and New York City, which was his parents adopted home. Growing up in the 1940's and 1950's in New York, taught by Charles Alston, and exposed to many of the mid-century Harlem Renaissance artists, Vann is one of the few living artists to have a direct connection to that much heralded era of creation.

As a result of the dichotomy of growing up in the dual cultures of the South, where African-Americans then had to sit at the back of the bus, and the popular and hip culture of Harlem, many scenarios were presented for a young man to consider.

Vann's show, *Songs of My People*, is the cultural cross-tie between the artists and musicians with whom he was raised in New York, and the history of the Gullah people who used song to communicate among themselves and across the plantations on which they lived. Originally brought to this country by the African-Americans, those “call and response” musical patterns segued into gospel, blues, and jazz. And jazz was where “it was at” in New York City; Vann's daddy played honkey-tonk on the piano; he sent Vann to the Star Allen Dance Studio on 43rd and Broadway to learn tap dancing and singing. Music, as well as art, was a part of Vann's soul; he says, “At sixteen, I just had to find the jazz/be-bop.”



Work by Luther Vann

Parade, the largest of the paintings in the exhibit, at first glance seems to be a painting of a man playing a trumpet; perhaps a tribute to Vann's father who bought him a trumpet when he was a young boy. However, upon closer inspection, about ten other images conspire to compose the whole. Spiritual and visionary, this is typical of Vann's work: image layered upon image; aliens, spiritual beings, halos, athletes, musicians, animals, all brought together and punched with intense color. If you look long enough into his paintings, you cease merely to see and begin to feel, and sense, the lives that surround all of us: past, present and future. One does not doubt that all these beings represent, reminiscent of a dream sequence, the myriad of icons with which Vann was presented as a youth.

The works in this exhibit are acrylic paintings on canvas ranging in size from 16" x 20" to 38" x 69". Two of the pieces, *Franklin Square I*, and *Magi*, have been painted with chopsticks; an experiment Vann tried for awhile when he wanted to expand his progressive horizons based on his wooden sculptural pieces. Fifteen works

of art will be displayed, all mesmerizing and thought provoking.

In New York City, Vann studied at the Art Students League, the New School for Social Research, and the Robert Blackburn Printmaking Studio.



Work by Luther Vann

A first place prize winner of the 1996 Georgia Arts Festival, his work has been presented in solo and group exhibitions throughout the United States, including the Boston Museum of Fine Arts, the Brooklyn Museum of Fine Arts, the Cinque Gallery in New York City, and Urban Arts in Alpharetta, GA. Locally, Vann's work has been presented at the Telfair Museum of Art, the Beach Institute, and the Indigo Sky Community Gallery in Savannah, GA. After an exhibition in Savannah, his paintings were included in the Hurn Museum's traveling exhibition in Florence, Italy.

Public collections including Vann's work are the Montclair Art Museum in Montclair, New Jersey; Medgar Evers College in Brooklyn, New York; and the King-Tisdell Cottage and The Telfair Museum, both in Savannah, Georgia. He was also commissioned to create stained glass art by the Abyssinia Baptist Church in Savannah.

Vann's works are displayed in several private collections including those of historian Carroll Greene of Savannah; documentary filmmaker and jazz historian Salah Abdul-Wahid of Los Angeles, CA; poet Ann T. Green of New York; choreographer Bill T. Jones of New York; critic Gerhard Kraus of Frankfurt, Germany; and Dr. Peter Hughes of London, England.

Vann is the recipient of numerous grants from the New York State Council for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the Georgia Council for the Arts.

Recent exhibits and awards are as follows: April to August 2008, The Telfair Museum Jepson Center for the Arts in Savannah, hosted a show of Vann's work, where he was the first Savannah-born African-American artist to have a one-man exhibit. This show also included the debut of the book *Elemental, The Power of Illuminated Love*; showcasing Vann's art with poetry by Aberjhani.

October 2008 to January 2009, Vann was a featured artist at the South Carolina State University's show, *Journey from Africa to Gullah*, at their I. P. Stanback Museum and Planetarium.

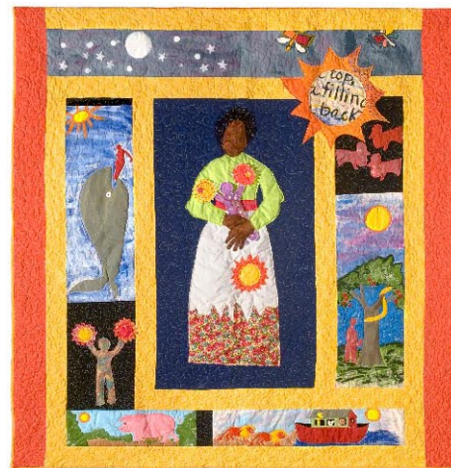
July 2009, Vann's work was exhibited at the *Telfair Museum's Friends of African-American Art Show: Savannah Area Artists Fine Art Exhibition* at the Beach Institute of Savannah.

September 2009, The King-Tisdell Cottage Foundation honored Vann: “The Foundation recognizes persons who have been consistently noteworthy in their work to make substantial improvements in one of several areas: Historic Preservation, Fine Arts, Public Service, and Education.”

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings, call the Center at 843/838-2432 or visit (www.penncenter.com).

Arts Council of Beaufort, Port Royal, and the Sea Islands in Beaufort, SC, Offers Works by Dorothy Montgomery

The Arts Council of Beaufort, Port Royal, and the Sea Islands in Beaufort, SC, will present the exhibit, *The Story Quilts of Dorothy Montgomery*, on view at the ARTworks gallery from Nov. 4 through Dec. 31, 2011. A reception will be held on Nov. 4, from 6-8pm.



Work by Dorothy Montgomery

In this gallery show, Montgomery shares her collection of story quilts, her handiwork that tells many important histories so well: *The Fox and the Crow*; *How Ragtime Left the Delta*; *Allelujah and how she got her name*; *The Quilt begun with Found Objects*; Gullah baptisms and “sperritual pillows”; and many more of the colorful figures in Montgomery's life and knowledge. She is adept at pulling the threads of textile arts and symbolism through hearts and time.

The South Carolinian and contemporary quilter has been inspired by legendary 19th Century American quilter Harriet Powers. This *Story Quilts* show accompanies



Work by Dorothy Montgomery

a production of the play *Quilting the Sun* based on Powers' life, also at ARTworks in November.

Montgomery's work is also inspired by the quilts of her mother and grandmother, and her career as a music educator: “It is my desire that my works will spark or renew an interest in the history and creative artistry of African Americans and help others realize their own potential and possibilities.”

ARTworks is a community arts center that applies the many creative tools of the arts to strengthen artists, and enrich audiences, collectors, and visitors through high quality arts experiences and arts education programs 365 days a year.

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings, call the center at 843/379-2787 or visit (www.artworksinbeaufort.org).

The Artisans Holiday Boutique Takes Place in Southport, NC - Nov. 11-12, 2011

People come from all over North Carolina each year to shop The Artisans Holiday Boutique at the scenic downtown Southport Community Building on the Cape Fear River. This year, the 12th Annual Holiday Boutique is coming up on Friday and Saturday, Nov. 11-12, 2011 in Southport, NC.

The Boutique offers holiday shoppers a head start, with hand crafted, quality items from a varied and unique selection in scenic downtown Southport. Over sixty accomplished artists are displaying their individual works of fine art and fine craft. The variety is extensive from jewelry to wood crafting, holiday decorations to original paintings and prints, to fabric art and stained glass. New artists join the show each year, so repeat shoppers can expect some new and exciting items, such as illustrated children's books (meet the author/illustrator) and framed calligraphy.

Artists will be on hand to answer questions, and help you make your gift or personal selections. Many Artists also offer options for special orders. Take the Fort Fisher Ferry or drive to Southport for a fun day of shopping, great restaurants and historic sites. Doors will open at 9am and close at 5pm on Friday and Saturday. Admission is free. Cash, check, Visa, MasterCard, and Discover are accepted. Southport Community Center is located at 223 Bay Street in Southport.

Items on display for purchase: Christmas stockings and decorations; Holiday ornaments made of porcelain, wood carved, pottery, and hand painted glass ornaments; baby clothes and books; original children's books; original paintings and collages in all media; prints, lithographs and giclées of original art; digital graphic art and photography; note cards and invitations; framed calligraphy, floral wreaths and arrangements; candles; dog collars/ leashes/ treats; handmade soaps; golf, tennis, sports items;

wood trays and tables with tile inlays; linen tablecloths, runners, napkins, kitchen towels, and tableware; large volume of jewelry- earrings, necklaces, bracelets etc. using variety of materials; pottery; quilted blankets and hangings; crocheted/ knitted bags, hats and scarves; purses, other fabric art; stained glass works, bead art, seashell art, painted glassware, etc.

Who are the Artisans? The Artisans all live in the St James Plantation community and are active in their chosen artistic or fine-art craft areas. The Artisans are a club of over 96 members, many of which participate in the Holiday Boutique. The Artisans was created in 1999 to provide an outlet for a group of artists to sell their work and to raise funds via a raffle for The St. James Fire Department. This small group of artists grew the organization in both size and scope to include art appreciation events, studio tours, plein air events, additional sales events, the awarding of art scholarships and grants.

In 2009 The Artisans of St. James was created - the 501C3 charitable organization dedicated to the development of the artists of St. James, the promotion of art awareness in Brunswick County, NC, and the raising of funds to help support artists via educational grants, local nonprofit arts organizations' support of the arts and graduating Brunswick County high school seniors planning to further their education in art at the college level. This group opened The Artisans Gallery in May of 2010 at The Harborside Marketplace located in St James.

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, contact Judy Burnam by calling 910/253-3630, cell 703/930-9140, e-mail at (judyburnam@verizon.net) or visit (www.nancyclookie.com).

The deadline each month to submit articles, photos and ads is the 24th of the month prior to the next issue. This will be Nov. 24th for the December 2011 issue and Dec. 24 for the January 2012 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) or mail to:

Carolina Arts, P.O. Drawer 427, Bonneau, SC 29431

You can contact us by calling 843/825-3408 or by e-mail at - info@carolinaarts.com