

Sunset River Marketplace in Calabash, NC, Features Works by Ginny Lassiter

Sunset River Marketplace art gallery in Calabash, NC, will feature acrylic works by gallery owner Ginny Lassiter in an exhibition titled *An Artist's Journey: Abstracts By Ginny Lassiter*. The show opens Jan. 6 and runs through Jan. 31, 2015. A reception will be on Jan. 10, 2-5pm. A special exhibition, *An Artist's Legacy*, will be showing Jan. 20-24, with a reception on Jan. 24, from 2-5pm. The gallery will be celebrating the lives and work of four of its artists who passed away in the recent past: Betty Bee, Brenda "Bree" Goff, Ed Fitzgerald and Ramona Batsford Bendin. Some works will be available for purchase. Family members will be at the reception. The public is invited and there is no admission charge.

A native of Wilson, NC, Ginny Lassiter has always been a creative soul. She's a potter, she paints, she sketches, and she designs fabrics. She graduated from East Carolina University with a major in art and an emphasis in Interior Design.

"My work has always been related to art," Lassiter says. "But I didn't start painting seriously until about two years ago after I sat in one of the gallery's workshops with Sterling Edwards. He really pushed me to develop my own voice, my own art."

Lassiter also credits her design instructor at East Carolina, the late Warren Chamberlain. "He helped me hone my drawing and composition skills and taught me how to critique my own work. With his help, I learned the importance of spontaneity and the value in limiting my palette. It keeps the work from becoming too busy." For pure inspiration, she cites the work of internationally known Myrtle Beach, SC, native Brian Rutenberg.

Working with a warm palette of earth



Work by Ginny Lassiter

tones, Lassiter has created a sophisticated collection for her exhibition. She adds, "For me now, it has to be spontaneous and has to be expressive. I think that's why the abstract process is so exciting for me. It frees me to be those things."

Lassiter is at the gallery most days and happy to answer questions about her art.

Since opening in 2002, Sunset River Marketplace has become an active supporter of performing, literary and visual arts in the area. The 10,000 square-foot gallery features work by over 200 North and South Carolina artists. Its on-site pottery studio has two kilns and three wheels for use by students. Ongoing oil, pastel and watercolor classes are also provided, in addition to workshops by nationally known artists. The gallery's Coffee With the Authors programs feature presentations by local and regional offers. A Paint & Party series provides a fun after-work experience for those with no previous art background. The gallery's framing department offers full-service, on-site custom frame design.

For further information check our NC Commercial Gallery listings, call the gallery at 910/575-5999 or visit (www.sunsetrivermarketplace.com).

Arts Council of Fayetteville/Cumberland County, NC, Features Works by Kadir Nelson

The Arts Council of Fayetteville/Cumberland County, in Fayetteville, NC, will present *Words and Pictures: Illustrated Works by Kadir Nelson*, on view for Black History Month, from Jan. 23 through Feb. 28, 2015.

This exhibition celebrates the poise, beauty and dignity of various African-American figures, including Coretta Scott King, Joe Louis and Dr. Martin Luther King. It also encourages the virtues of integrity, endurance and hope.

Docent-guided tours for schools and other groups will provide more in-depth discussion of the works and enhance the learning experience for visitors. To request a group tour, e-mail to (admin@heartscouncil.com) or call 910/323-1776.

Words and Pictures is a series of thought-provoking images that engage viewers of all ages and can have a profound impact on our community, particularly the youth. All of the works are illustrations from books geared toward elementary and middle school readers, although their content and universal themes appeal to all ages.

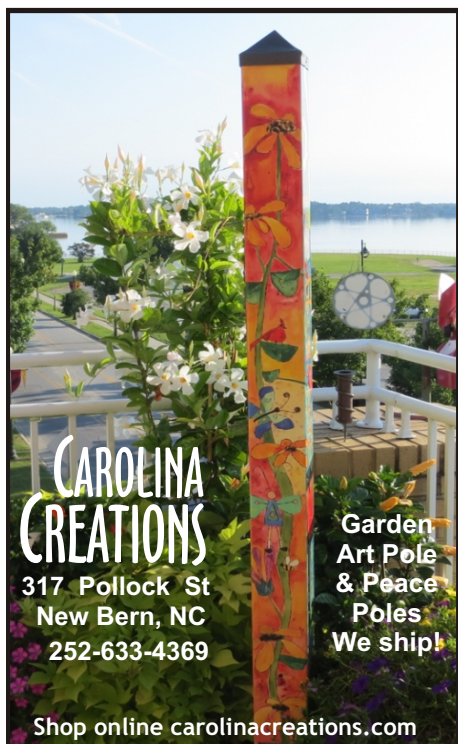
The works in this collection are selections from seven books, all illustrated by Kadir Nelson and four of which he wrote. Many of the works he illustrates - as well as the ones he writes - speak to overcoming the odds, maintaining dignity and wisdom and, as he said in an interview with *Scholastic*, show "the beauty of the human spirit and the light within us."

Nelson is an award-winning American artist whose works have been exhibited in major national and international publications, institutions, art galleries and museums. Nelson earned a Bachelor's degree from Pratt Institute in Brooklyn, New York and upon graduating began working with Steven Spielberg's production studio, Dreamworks SKG, as a visual development artist creating concept artwork for the feature films, *Amistad*, and *Spirit*:

Stallion of the Cimarron. Throughout the artist's award-winning career Nelson has created artwork for clients including *Sports Illustrated*, Coca-Cola, The United States Postal Service, Major League Baseball, and The US House of Representatives, among others. Nelson has also gained acclaim for the artwork he has contributed to best-selling picture books including his authorial debut, *WE ARE THE SHIP: The Story of Negro League Baseball*, published by Disney/Hyperion in the spring of 2008. Illustrations from *WE ARE THE SHIP* appeared in the Arts Council galleries in 2011.


The Arts Council of Fayetteville/Cumberland County was founded in 1973. As a link between artists, arts and cultural organizations and the community, the nonprofit agency administers programs

continued on Page 14



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