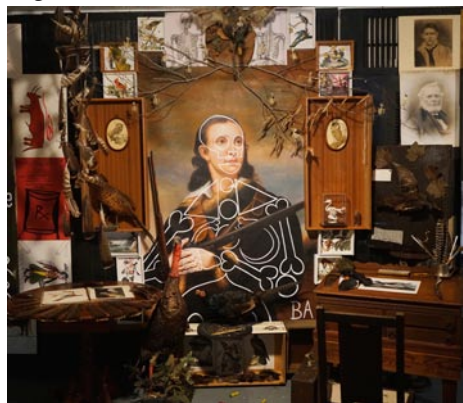


College of Charleston, SC, Features Work by Butch Anthony & Coulter Fussell

The Halsey Institute of Contemporary Art at the College of Charleston will present two exhibitions at the start of 2020, in Charleston, SC. *Inside/Out* is an exhibition of all large assemblage pieces by Butch Anthony and *The Raw Materials of Escape* is an exhibition of quilts by Coulter Fussell. The exhibitions are on view from Jan. 17 through Feb. 29, 2020. A reception will be held on Jan. 17, from 6:30-8pm. Halsey Institute members and College of Charleston students, faculty, and staff receive free admission to the opening reception. All non-members will be charged \$5 admission for the event. Coulter Fussell will offer an Artist Talk on Jan. 18, at 2pm, who will speak with visitors about her exhibition, art-making process, and life story. This event is free admission and open to the public.

Inside/Out will consist of new images, assemblages, and installations created specifically for our galleries. As a multi-faceted self-taught artist, Butch Anthony creates works that investigate and appropriate images from the American vernacular. Though Anthony's work emanates from the folk art or vernacular idiom, his works are unmistakably original in concept and execution. The term "folk art" is generally applied to traditional media such as wood carving, quilt-making, functional pottery, weaving-items that are passed down from generation to generation.



Work by Butch Anthony

Anthony's work often has a charming immediacy because of the familiarity of the selected materials, yet this surface appeal is often undermined by the conceptual premise. Some images evince a biting sarcasm or ironic wit, while others poke fun at our consumerist society. There are several layers of meaning embedded in Anthony's work. For a few of the pieces in this exhibition, the artist hired a Chinese painter to create 5 x 7-foot enlargements of appropriated images he sent. Anthony then reworks the surface of these commissioned paintings, melding appropriation and global commerce with insouciant graffiti-like embellishments. Now, many of these paintings become more elaborate with the addition of bones, artifacts, and shadow boxes that amplify the visual and conceptual presence of the piece.

This exhibition brings together several of Anthony's creative explorations over the past few years. Singular portraits, assemblage objects, and installations combine to create a working model of the inside of Anthony's mind.

As a sculptor, Anthony's work often employs the detritus of our disposable society. He has become adept at creating imaginative combinations that subtly comment on the human condition. These assemblages then gain strength by being seen in the context of his other works, creating a kind of chain reaction that reinforces his primary message.

Anthony is a multi-faceted self-taught artist from Seale, AL. At fourteen he was building birdhouses and stuffing his own taxidermy. His first building, a little log cabin on his grandfather's farm, would eventually become his shop. He has spent decades building the Museum of Wonder, a walk-through cabinet of curiosities. Started in the 1970s as his taxidermy shop and artifact room, the Museum of Wonder is now filled with art, artifacts, and antiques including the world's largest gallstone.

Anthony also hosts the Possum Trot Auction, a weekly junk and art auction on his 80-acre parcel of land in Seale, AL. He has also built the Museum of Mystery, the first drive-through art and antiques gallery. In

addition to making and selling art, building bizarre roadside attractions, and collecting found objects to incorporate into his own artwork, Anthony contributes to Auburn University's Rural Studio design + build program.



Work by Coulter Fussell

Coulter Fussell's early-developed artsview perceives craft and other arts as indistinguishable from one another. Painting, sculpture, and textile work are one solitary entity in her mind. From youth, the combination developed into an unintentional mash-up, resulting in quilts and textile works that defy expectations of the medium. Fussell relies on the no-holds barred nature of contemporary painting rules to free her compositions from the constraints of pattern. In turn, she simultaneously relies on the strict discipline of traditional craftwork to act as a self-editing tool.

For her exhibition at the Halsey Institute, Fussell will be creating all-new work. *The Raw Materials of Escape* is curated by Katie Hirsch, curator and director of strategic partnerships at the Halsey Institute of Contemporary Art, and a faculty member at the College of Charleston, lecturing in the Arts Management program.

Hirsch states, "Fussell's work challenges traditional quilting practice in that she creates pieces that are composed like paintings. The interplay between light and dark in her work makes reference to foreground and background while retaining the wholeness traditionally associated with a quilt."

Fussell was born and raised in Columbus, GA, an old textile town situated on the Chattahoochee River, on the eastern border of Alabama. The culture of Columbus and the surrounding river valley-including the neighboring military base of Fort Benning, housing Infantry and Airborne-play a significant role in her work. Fussell's father was an arts museum curator throughout her childhood while her mother is a life-long quilter and educator. Running through museum galleries on any given day after school and then going home to watch her mother sew for hours was standard. The combination resulted an early-developed artsview where craft and other arts are indistinguishable from one another.

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She now lives in Water Valley, a small town in the northern Hill Country of Mississippi. There, she runs her store and studio, Yalorun Textiles. Having been in the service industry for most of her life, Coulter is also a waitress in the neighboring town of Oxford, Mississippi. Fussell lives in Water Valley with her two young sons, Amos Henry and Booker, and their cat Janet.

Butch Anthony will offer an Artist Talk on Feb. 29, at 2pm. The event is free admission and open to the public. Anthony will speak with visitors about his exhibition, art-making process, and life story.

The Halsey Institute of Contemporary Art at the College of Charleston School of the Arts provides a multidisciplinary laboratory for the production, presentation, interpretation, and dissemination of ideas

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LINDA FANTUZZO: *Penumbra*



City Gallery at Waterfront Park

34 Prioleau Street, Charleston, SC

January 18 - March 1, 2020

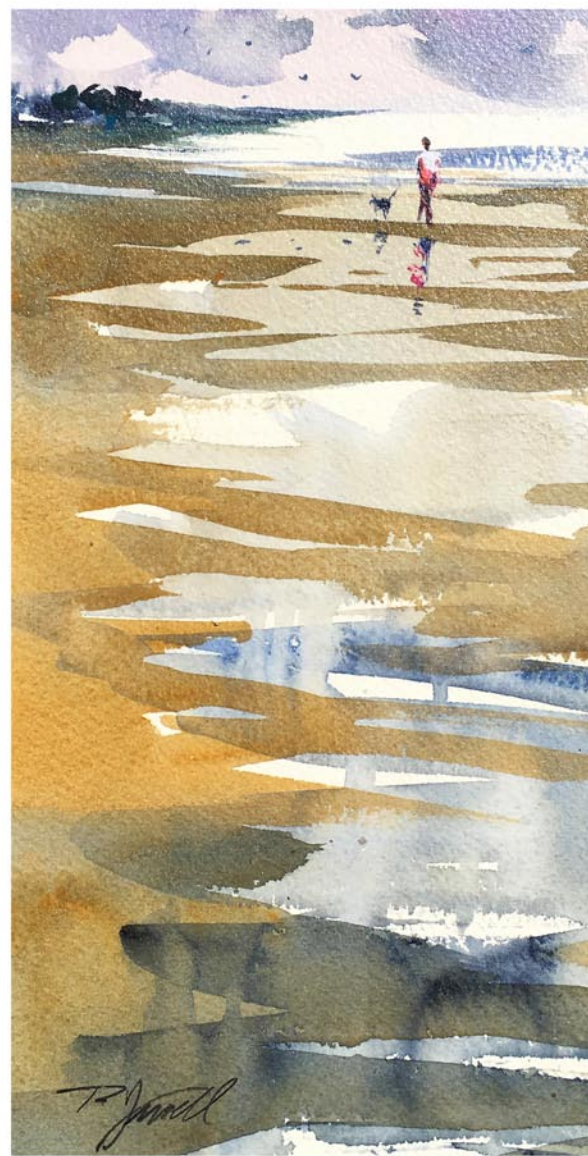
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