

Charleston Crafts Gallery in Charleston, SC, Features Works for the Holiday Season

Charleston Crafts Gallery in Charleston, SC, will present *Light and Life: A celebration of the Holiday Season*, on view from Dec. 1 - 31, 2024. An open house reception will be held on Dec. 6, from 5-8pm, in conjunction with the Charleston Gallery Association Art Walk evening celebrations.

December is holiday time! The holiday season is a celebration of family and friends. 'Tis also the season for gifts, and Charleston Crafts Gallery features one of a kind handmade local art for all your gift giving needs. Come in and enjoy the December inspired collection by the artisans at Charleston Crafts Gallery in downtown Charleston. Work by seven of our artist members featuring cozy wearables, purses, fine art, and jewelry in fine crafts media will be in the spotlight this month.

Marty Biernbaum is a multi-talented artist who works in encaustics for her paintings. She creates stunning ocean scenes using the encaustic medium to emphasize the tumbling waves and ocean froth.



Work by Marty Biernbaum

Marty Biernbaum makes large quilted scenes in her wall-hangings. For this month's gift giving collection, her purses are featured. These mini-quilts are hand-held works of art, some with changeable accessories to allow the buyer to change the mood.

Ruth Bellou is a ceramicist who creates unique sculptural constructions out of ceramic with stunning subtle glazes that delight the eye. She learned this process while studying in France, and now brings her unique pieces to the Lowcountry.

Cordelia Story works in fused glass, crafting artistic and functional items to delight the senses. She uses several different techniques to create a variety of types of glass effects in her work.

Gini Steele is a knitter who creates whimsical and original designed knit pieces



Work by Tammy Rudd

including special buttons, or added felted elements. Steele is an intuitive knitter who uses many stitches in her designs. She has designed a new cowl for this month.

Tammy Rudd makes Lampwork Beads. Using a hot torch process, she individually handcrafts her stunning focal beads. Each bead is in-of-a-kind, and absolutely gorgeous.

Nancy Warren is fiber artist and handweaver who creates one-of-a-kind wearables and scarves. She dyes some of her yarns prior to the weaving process, resulting in unique color blending effects. For this month, she has created some scarves perfect for gift giving.

While these members are in the spotlight, the work of all the Gallery's members are also on display and available for purchase, including jewelry, wood puzzles, encaustic paintings, mixed media collages, fiber art, apparel and accessories, as well as functional and decorative objects in wood, ceramic and glass.

Charleston's destination for Fine Craft since 1989, the gallery is located on East Bay Street, in the heart of the French Quarter, on "Gallery Row". Charleston Crafts Cooperative Gallery is a dynamic community of more than two dozen jury-selected artisans, all from South Carolina, making this the city's only exclusively local craft gallery.

For further information check our SC Commercial Gallery listings, call the gallery at 843/501-7522 or visit (www.charleston-craftsgallery.com).



KARYN HEALEY ART

KarynHealeyArt.com

City of Charleston Office of Cultural Affairs Presents Two Lowcountry Photography Exhibitions

The City of Charleston Office of Cultural Affairs in Charleston, SC, will present *Calling Me Home: A Visual Ode to the Low-Country* by Marcus Middleton and *Children of Indigo* by Caroline Gutman, on view at the City Gallery, located at Joe Riley Waterfront Park, from Dec. 13, 2024 through Feb. 9, 2025. City Gallery will hold an opening reception for both exhibitions on Dec. 13, from 5-7pm. An artist's talk with Marcus Middleton will be held Feb. 9 at 2pm. An artist's talk with Caroline Gutman will be held Jan. 25 at 2pm. All events are free and open to the public.

The City of Charleston Office of Cultural Affairs presents two photography exhibitions that examine personal and cultural histories of the Lowcountry. *Children of Indigo* is a documentary project that explores the plant's painful history in South Carolina and spotlights women in the Lowcountry today who have revived indigo cultivation and dyeing, building a flourishing community of textile artists and homesteaders. *Calling Me Home: A Visual Ode to the Low-Country* is a tribute to Wadmalaw Island and its environs.

Calling Me Home: A Visual Ode to the Low-Country is photographer Marcus Middleton's tribute to Wadmalaw Island, or what he likes to call a "living museum." "The American South is both turbulent and beautiful, and my hope is to share that dynamic and sometimes contradictory experience with the audience;



Photo by Marcus Middleton

to capture Wadmalaw as it is, unspoiled by progress," says Middleton. "Crossing over Esau Jenkins Bridge is like going back in time. And I believe that nostalgia is medicinal. Whenever I return home, I feel recharged and refreshed. It's the little things, right? I live in a big city, but low-country living is a part of my culture. This body of work is an attempt to express the gratitude I feel for where I grew up. I will forever be enamored with this place I call home." Middleton's visual tribute to his home includes more than 100 images.

In *Children of Indigo*, Caroline Gutman explores the commodity and its dye fueled slavery in the American colonies. Her body of work shows the remaining historical sites in contrast with contemporary textile artists and farmers confronting indigo's difficult past and reclaiming it.

Indigo in America is haunted by a painful past. Like cotton, indigo carries inseparable links to centuries of American chattel slavery. Today, women in the Lowcountry have revived indigo cultivation and dyeing, building diverse communities of textile artists and farmers. "Indigo is the voice of our ancestors," textile artist Arianne King Comer has said. The *Children of Indigo* project has been supported by the Pulitzer Center.

A Brooklyn-based photographer, but born in the South, Marcus Middleton has a passion for photo-journalism, portraiture, editorial, and performance. His ultimate goal is to tell stories through images that convey a deep sense of intimacy along with the aliveness of the present moment. The audience should feel as if the whole thing exists just for them, and his hope is that they feel intrigued and invited into the subject(s) of the work."

Caroline Gutman is an American photographer based in Washington, DC, and Philadelphia. Her work focuses on political movements, environmental and economic inequality, and the creative economy, connecting the past to the present. Gutman's photography appears in *The New York Times*, *National Geographic*, *Smithsonian Magazine*, *The Washington Post*, *The Atlantic*, *The Guardian*, *ProPublica*, *Mother Jones*, and on NPR, and she has worked with brands including PepsiCo, Liquid I.V., Adobe, Peloton, Apple, and British Airways. Previously, Gutman was a Fulbright Fellow in China where she documented indigenous women artisans and their indigo textile traditions.

City Gallery's presentation of *Calling Me Home* and *Children of Indigo* is part of the MOJA Arts Festival's NEA Big Read of Zora Neale Hurston's *Their Eyes Were Watching God* and this year's NEA Big Read theme of "Where We Live." The NEA Big Read is a program of the National Endowment for the Arts in partnership with

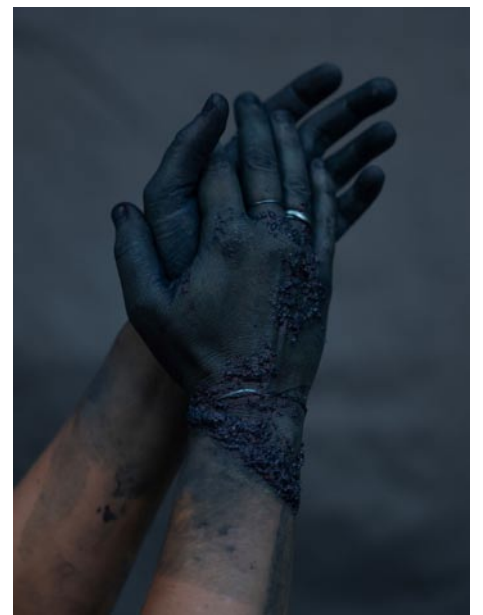


Photo by Caroline Gutman

Arts Midwest.

The City Gallery, located at Joe Riley Waterfront Park, is owned by the City of Charleston and operated by the City of Charleston Office of Cultural Affairs, presenting an annual program of exhibitions and events featuring the finest contemporary art from local, regional, national and international artists, with a focus on the Lowcountry.

City Gallery remains open during the adjacent construction on Prioleau Street. The entrance to the gallery can be accessed via stairs from Waterfront Park, or by walking down the drive on the side of the building. Elevator access can be found inside the construction fences, under the staircase on the south side of the Gallery.

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings, for holiday closures, visit (www.charleston-sc.gov/citygallery) or call 843/958-6484.

Every once in a while I feel like just filling one of these spaces with a kind of nothingness. You know as if nobody reads what's in these spaces anyway. So if one time I said something like the first person to read this and sends me an e-mail to (info@carolinaarts.com) during the month of December they'll get a free 1/4 ad in our January 2025 issue or the month that is most useful for them. But who reads these space fillers anyway? Not many I bet.