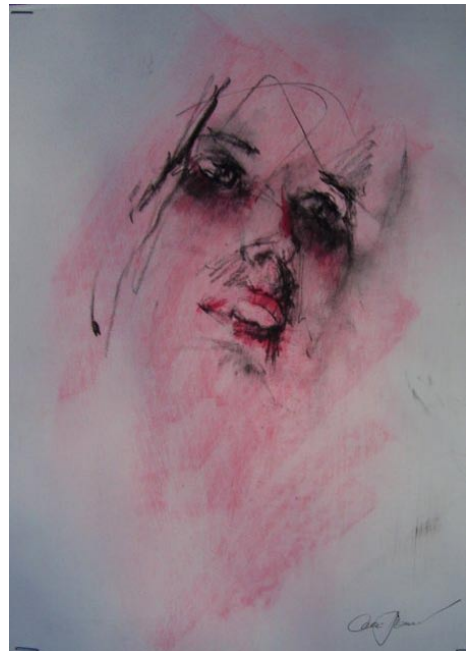


# Francis Marion University in Florence, SC, Features Works by Alex Powers and Jim Gleason

The Art Gallery Series at Francis Marion University in Florence, SC, will present several new exhibits including: *New Drawings by Alex Powers* and *Bra2ss Menagerie: Sculptural Works by Jim Gleason*, on view from Feb. 19 through Mar. 28, 2013.



Work by Alex Powers

Alex Powers has been a painter and self-employed art teacher since 1970. He exhibits in galleries in six states, and among his many national juried exhibition awards is the Gold Medal at the 1997 *American Watercolor Society Annual Exhibition*. He travels and teaches 8 or 10 workshops per year. Powers has juried dozens of national exhibitions. He is the author of *Painting People in Watercolor, A Design Approach*, which is a Watson-Guptill publication.

Powers' painting style has recently evolved from a personal content-dominated imagery.

"For a couple of decades prior to 2011, I was doing social and political paintings. I made a change of style that is due to me needing a break from the social and political paintings. You can probably relate to this change if you get tired of watching the evening news every once in a while and need a break from it - especially the politics," says Powers.

"The changes that I made are: 1. drawing instead of painting (in doing most of these, I never opened my palette); 2. sketchbook design (the most casual of designs; almost a non-design); and 3. purposely, no specific expression/ content was pre-chosen (there is

an expression to any markings)."

Jim Gleason offered these words about his works in this exhibit: "My pieces are fabricated from the parts of many different musical instruments...the majority of which have served for many years in the South Carolina school systems until they were no longer cost effective to service. The techniques used to create them are similar to those I have used for over 30 years repairing and customizing instruments for military bands, public schools, museums and private collections."

"The urge to create combines with a reverence for musical instruments, and the desire to preserve whatever life remains in the parts and pieces of an instrument," adds Gleason. "As a professional musician and a master technician in the repair of brass and woodwind instruments, I have spent much of my life devoted to extending their lives. Now, when the parts and pieces or whole instruments are no longer in a state that makes sense to repair them, I find myself giving them new life in a form that celebrates their previous existence, saving them from being discarded completely."



Works by Jim Gleason

Gleason has lived and studied in many states and been on active military duty in four countries prior to retiring from the Marine Corp in 1994 to live in South Carolina. While stationed with the 3rd Marine Division Band in Okinawa, Japan, he found himself stranded in his instrument repair shop during a typhoon without anything to read. Gleason began to see what he could piece together out of scrap and excess parts, and this avocation has evolved over the years thanks to the encouragement of fellow musicians and public response to his work.

Gleason remains active as a musician, in the repair of brass and woodwind instruments, and consulting in this field.

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings, call the gallery at 843/661-1385 or visit (<http://departments.fmarion.edu/finearts/gallery.htm>).

# Coker College in Hartsville, SC, Offers Works by Abigail McLaurin

Coker College in Hartsville, SC, will present *Abigail McLaurin: Recent Work*, featuring mixed media, drawings and paintings, on view in the Cecelia Coker Bell Gallery, from Feb. 4 through Mar. 1, 2013. A reception will be held on Feb. 4, from 7-8pm.

Describing McLaurin's work as mixed media is a start, but only just. Her drawings of people and interiors are aggressively rendered with thick, colorful layers of pastel, charcoal, paint stick, and acrylic paint. While some artists strive for photographic accuracy, McLaurin's approach is often described as "aggressive" or "muscular" and one that breathes life into energetic forms fashioned from raw pigment and powerful but refined marks. Although McLaurin sometimes draws from life, choosing friends as models, she often works from a diverse mix of photographs that portray emotional extremes, on the one hand, or emotionally flat family snapshots, on the other. In both cases she strives for emotional complexity and psychological depth.

Interested in the psychology of her subject, McLaurin strives for understanding through the act of drawing: "My content is formed during the process of drawing, where the subconscious can resonate



Work by Abigail McLaurin

significance beyond what is present or can be initially observed. I'm fascinated by the otherness of the figure, the being behind what is presented as I try to decipher my attraction to people and things that are ignored, rejected, jarring and odd."

A 2009 graduate of Coker College, and a native of Charlotte, NC, McLaurin lives and maintains a studio in Beaumont, TX.

Coker College upholds and defends the intellectual and artistic freedom of its faculty and students as they study and create art through which they explore the full spectrum of human experience.

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings, call the gallery at 843/383-8156 or visit (<http://cokerartgallery.wix.com/ccgb>).



## Arts International

A celebration of Art and Culture

# Call for Artists

FLORENCE, S.C. – Applications from local artists are being sought for the eighth annual Art Show to be held during Arts International on **Saturday, April 20**, on the Francis Marion University campus.

The festival will be held from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is free and open to the public. This one-day art exhibition sales event is designed to promote the quality of diverse artisans residing in the region. In addition to booths displaying items for sale, several sites will have artisans demonstrating their skills. The art show will be juried, with artisan awards of \$600, \$300 and \$150 awarded to first, second and third places, respectively.

Area artists are invited to participate. There is an application/jury fee of \$75 (\$65 for Florence County residents). **The application deadline is March 1, 2013.**

**For more information** contact Kathy Johnson at the FMU Office of Public and Community Affairs at 843-661-1225, or [www.fmarion.edu/news/artsinternational](http://www.fmarion.edu/news/artsinternational).

## Francis Marion University

# Equinox

A Celebration of Art, Music, Culture and Community

## 2013 Equinox Art & Music Fest

Saturday • March 23, 2013 • 10am - 5pm

Historic Horry County Court House • 1201 Third Avenue • Conway, SC

### Calling All Artists & Fine Craft Vendors

CREATE! Conway will host their annual gathering of area musicians and artists on Saturday, March 23, 2013 from 10am - 5pm. The Equinox is a chance for shoppers to browse goods from 30+ hand selected artists and craft vendors, just in time for graduation, Mother's Day and spring weddings.

Click on the link below and register to be a part of this showcase for all that's handmade!

[Get more Information](#)

[Register Now!](#)

[I can't make it.](#)

If you have any questions about the event or how to register please contact Barbara Streeter, CREATE! Conway, Inc., 843.248.3558

Thank you! We hope to see you at the 2013 Equinox Art & Music Fest!