

Columbia College in Columbia, SC, Features Works by Gretchen Beck and Kelley Lannigan

Columbia College in Columbia, SC, is presenting *Iberi*, an exhibition of collage works by Gretchen Beck exploring social justice and literacy and *Resurgo*, a suite of new prints by Kelley Lannigan, on view in the Goodall Gallery, through Mar. 19, 2017.

Inspired by her work as a Peace Corps Volunteer with the Djerma and Fulani peoples of West Africa, artist Gretchen Beck's collage works combine visual representation with a core understanding of the importance of social justice and literacy. *Iberi* celebrates Nigerian culture and rituals by highlighting women's work, social customs, gender values, and quality of life, and has evolved to incorporate student-centered learning and expanding cultural literacy through visual and performance art.

"I saw firsthand Gretchen's convictions to revive adult literacy and animation (theater) training in seven rural villages. It's here she developed her themes using millet rice bags and melted gum arabic on a cement floor of a hut dimly lit by kerosene lantern," said Dr. Calley Hornbuckle, associate professor of English, who served with Beck in the Peace Corps from 1994 to 1995. "[In Beck's work] relationships among color, shape, and texture come together to form fluid and grid-like compositions. Color dominates the images and dictates the media employed to produce them."

Resurgo features a suite of collagraphs and monoprints by Kelley Lannigan that represent a rebirth of the artist's personal creative experience after a thirty-five year absence from the studio. The *Resurgo* prints are the tangible result of Lanni-



Work by Gretchen Beck

gan's restored creative output and feature imagery inspired by her admiration of the work of Abstract Expressionist artists of the 20th century.

"Resurgo is a Latin word that embodies the ideas of rebirth, return, resurrection and regeneration. It perfectly represents my experience returning to the studio working under the same instructor where it all began for me over three decades ago," said Lannigan, a former student under South Carolina master printmaker and Columbia College professor Stephen Nevitt. "The collagraphs and monoprints are the result of a period of creative energy that is unparalleled in my life."

This exhibition is presented in partnership with the Columbia College Division of Languages and Literatures.

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings, call the gallery at 803/786-3651 or visit (www.columbiasc.edu/goodallgallery).

Columbia Museum of Art Features Works by Tyrone Geter

The Columbia Museum of Art in Columbia, SC, is proud to present the major spring exhibition *Enduring Spirit: The Art of Tyrone Geter*, on view from Mar. 3 through June 11, 2017.

The exhibition showcases an all-new series of works from esteemed Columbia artist Tyrone Geter. The approximately two dozen large-scale charcoal and pastel drawings are the latest manifestations of Geter's lifelong goal of ardently describing the black experience in America through his uniquely personal and profound art.

"Tyrone Geter is a visual poet," says CMA Chief Curator Will South. "His art speaks to the black experience, an experience germane to everyone. Visitors can enjoy and be inspired by his technical skills but also learn from his insightful commentary on issues of identity."

Enduring Spirit highlights not only the artist's immense talent as a draftsman but also the passion and compassion with which he approaches his subjects. Finely wrought and highly expressionistic, his work provokes dialogue about social justice, race and racism, gender, personal power, and the human condition in a manner that is confrontational without being antagonistic.

Though frequently abounding in abstraction and fantasy, Geter's art is firmly anchored in figuration. "Throughout my career," he says, "the human form has been the mechanism that makes it possible for me to speak my truth about my life, my beliefs, and the varied and colorful histories of my people." With each and every piece, Geter seeks to capture and reveal the dignity of the individual.

Enduring Spirit consists of singular pieces as well as series of works. For example, the series of pastels *Four Women* (A Tribute to Nina Simone) illustrates the discourse and activism of the iconic jazz musician through the narrative of one of her most significant songs. The exhibition also includes the awe-inspiring piece *I Done Old, I Done Tire, But I Ain't No*



"Just Brother Stylifying or A Hoodie Ain't Nothing Like You Heard #5" by Tyrone Geter, 2016, charcoal and torn paper, 44 x 40 in., from the series: *The Art of the Misdirect*

Ways Done, a recent CMA acquisition. Some drawings are rendered in stark black and white, others in full, brilliant color; many are compositionally enhanced with collaged torn paper.

The artist's work is heavily influenced by his mother, who grew up in the early 20th century amid racial discrimination, poverty, and illiteracy. Through her love, compassion, and desire to do the right thing, she passed her legacy on to her children. Geter cites that legacy as the fundamental guiding principle of his art and life, saying, "My work is compassion, hope, justice, and perseverance, things I learned from my mother."

Geter grew up in Anniston, AL, which he describes as "a place where finishing high school was in some circles considered the epitome of higher education." He received his MFA in painting from Ohio University in 1978. After living and working in Boston, Ohio, and Nigeria, he made Columbia his home. He has been an associate professor of drawing and painting at Benedict College and director of the school's Ponder Gallery since 1997. His art has been exhibited and included in public and private collections throughout the world.

"Geter's art is bold and monumental
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yet subtle and symbolic," says South. "There is no substitution for the direct experience of his work."

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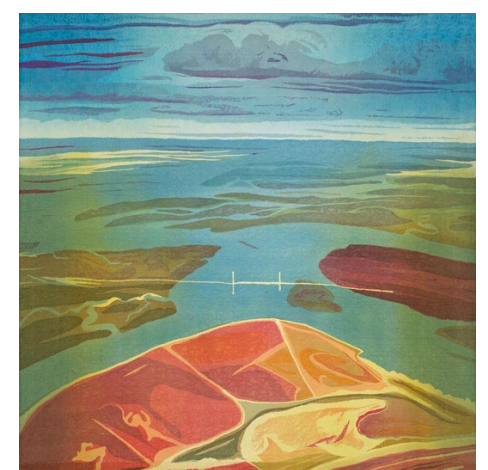
For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings or visit (www.columbiamuseum.org).

Sumter County Gallery of Art in Sumter, SC, Offers Works by Mary Edna Fraser and Virginia Scotchie

The Sumter County Gallery of Art in Sumter, SC, is presenting a major exhibition of two nationally known South Carolina artists, *Mary Edna Fraser – Low-country* and *Virginia Scotchie – Ways of Creation*, on view through Apr. 21, 2017. Fraser explores coastal environments and the forces of nature as seen from a bird's eye view. Scotchie explores the relationship between form and function and how memory gives meaning to objects.

Mary Edna Fraser is a Charleston, SC-based artist who works primarily in batik and oils. Batik is a "dye-resist" process in which removable wax is applied to fabric, creating areas that will repel dye, while any unwaxed areas will absorb dye. This technique of dying textiles predates recorded history. Fraser combines modern dyes, beeswax, and paraffin on silk to express a sense of place inherent in each scene.

Fraser graduated from East Carolina University in 1974 with a double major in Textiles and Interior Design. She creates large works with distinctly aerial perspectives, which she describes as a series of narrative landscapes "where realms of earth, sea, and sky converge" bringing a dramatic scale and complexity to her work. She researches the areas on foot, via



Work by Mary Edna Fraser

boat and from an airplane. Working from her own aerial photographs and memories of flight, Fraser examines maps and charts, and paints on location to develop potential color palettes for her batiks. Satellite and space imagery have further expanded her range of content.

Fraser has created works inspired not only by the coastal areas of Georgia and South Carolina but also the canyons of northern New Mexico and the Appalachian Mountains that ramble from Alabama up to Newfoundland. Fraser's

continued on Page 29