

Wilmington Art Association in Wilmington, NC, Offers Annual Show & Sale During Azalea Festival

One of the highlights of the Azalea Festival in Wilmington, NC, is the Annual Juried Art Show and Sale, the 35th event, sponsored by the Wilmington Art Association. From Friday through Sunday, Apr. 7 - 9, 2017, works of art created by well over a hundred local artists will be displayed and available for purchase at the Hannah Block Community Arts Center, the former historic USO, located on the corner of 2nd and Orange Streets in downtown Wilmington.

In addition to paintings in oil, acrylic, watercolor and pastel, photography and mixed media, there will also be interesting 3D pieces in glass and sculpture. For months, the artists look forward to this show. Visitors also look forward to seeing the latest from their favorite artists.

The show is open on Friday and Saturday from 10am to 5pm and on Sunday from 10am to 4pm. Admission is free, and the event is handicapped accessible.



Work by Janet B. Sessoms

known for the abstract art classes he and his wife have given. DiGiulio will choose the winners of the many awards before the show opens to the public on Friday, and visitors will be able to see his selections.

The Wilmington Art Association is a non-profit organization that makes contributions to the community and provides opportunities for area visual artists and craftsmen to get to know each other. A percentage of the sales of this show, its biggest yearly event, goes to support community outreach.

So during the Azalea Festival this year, stroll on over to the Hannah Block Center while the 35th Annual Spring Art Show and Sale is going on, and have a look. You'll be glad you did.

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings or visit (www.wilmingtonart.org).



Work by Elena Wright

The juror and judge for this year, the 35th Annual Show, is Joe DiGiulio, executive artist for Jerry's Artarama in Raleigh, NC. He is well liked in our area and is

The Gallery at Caprice Bistro in Wilmington, NC, Features Works by Darren Mulvenna and Others

The Gallery at Caprice Bistro in Wilmington, NC, will present *Bee Hope and Sea Change*, featuring works by Darren Mulvenna, Andrea Hammond, Lauren Lassiter and Aundi Wilson, on view from Mar. 16 through May 31, 2017. A reception will be held on Mar. 16, from 7-10pm.

Mulvenna, a well-known Wilmington artist and is the curator of the Caprice Bistro Gallery (where he also tends bar).

"We live in environmentally challenging times," Mulvenna said. "Luna moths would fly around my house when I was a kid, but they don't show up any more. I wanted to find a way to educate the public and try to raise money to help."

Mulvenna will be donating twenty-percent of the proceeds to non-profit organizations, including Pollinator Partnership (www.pollinator.org) and the Plastic Ocean Project (www.plasticoceanproject.org).

"Pollinators, like butterflies and bees, play an essential role in the production of our food. And the Plastic Ocean Project works hard to clean up our seascapes and spread awareness about the massive amount of plastic waste that is literally choking the life out of our oceans."

Mulvenna and his business partner, Andrea Hammond, founded a company in 2013 called Mimicri, which creates butterfly-themed jewelry. Some of those items will also be featured in this show. Their jewelry is sold in many boutiques in the area.

"The patterns of moths and butterflies are just amazing," Mulvenna explained. "But also, as pollinators, they are crucial for human survival. It's difficult not to be influenced by nature and the advancement of one of the biggest extinction periods the Earth has ever seen."

Bee Hope and Sea Change will also feature a smaller number of works by



Work by Darren Mulvenna

Lauren Lassiter and Aundi Wilson. Lassiter will have a macrame wall piece that depicts the migration pattern and decline in Monarch butterflies. Wilson will showcase her ceramic flower wall-hangings.

Mulvenna's work embraces the patterns of Nature. Layers of paint and imagery emerge and recede, darken, glow from within and intensify, push and fade. His process searches out harmony between the subjects and their environments. The paintings seem to exist comfortably into their frames to then push with pulse back out into something new. His surreal landscapes are slightly abstracted, moving and dancing with dream-like images. One recognizes the living scenes, whether swimming in an ebbing aquatic light, or spying a classical dancer juxtaposed in a bracketish chiaroscuro. The saturation of life in the vibrant palette and the easy imagery, with figures flying playfully across, is life affirming and derived from his searching for something universal, with glimpses of beauty that elevate.

Bistro Caprice is located at 10 Market Street in Wilmington, NC. Hours of viewing are daily from 5pm until midnight.

For further information check our NC Commercial Gallery listing or call 910/815-0810.

The deadline each month to submit articles, photos and ads is the 24th of the month prior to the next issue. This will be Mar. 24th for the April 2017 issue and Apr. 24 for the May 2017 issue.

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