

North Carolina Central University in Durham, NC, Features Works by Bryan Collier

The North Carolina Central University in Durham, NC, is presenting *You Can't Outgrow a Picture Book*, featuring works of Bryan Collier, author and children's book illustrator, on view at the North Carolina Central University Art Museum, through Apr. 17, 2020.

This exhibition curated by Christine M. Perry, Art Production Specialist at North Carolina Central University Art Museum consists of over thirty-nine original works by Collier. The exhibit, titled *You Can't Outgrow a Picture Book* is a visual smorgasbord featuring a plethora of color, shapes and patterns as Collier displays his signature use of watercolor and collage. Through the use of fabrics, textures and tones, Collier tells stories of many salient moments in black history, as well as everyday life.

Collier grew up in Pocomoke, MD, in a home where he and his siblings were always encouraged to read and create art. His mother, who was a teacher, loved reading to them and made sure books were available in copious amounts. Even as a child Collier knew he was an artist. His favorite book was *Harold and the Purple Crayon* by Crockett Johnson. He loved that book because he and Harold shared a love for drawing.

As a teenager Collier began to paint the world around him, developing a unique style of painting that incorporated both watercolors and collage. In producing new works, he sought inspiration from the works of others, exploring the possibilities of colors, patterns – repurposing something already made to make something new by disassembling it and putting it back together again or changing its structure or form. It encourages him to see art from different perspective, increasing new ideas and creativity.

In 1985 at the age of 15, Collier won first place in a Congressional Competition resulting in him having his art displayed in the Capitol Building in Washington, DC. Later that year he received a scholarship to Pratt Institute in New York City through their national talent competition. With honors, he graduated from Pratt Institute in 1989 with a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree.

During his studies in New York, Collier volunteered at the Harlem Horizon Studio (HHS) and Harlem Hospital Center. He later became the HHS Program Director, a position he served in for 12 years. Collier then decided to focus his time and attention on illustrating children's books full time.

Collier's motivation for producing children's books stems from the realization that he has a profound appreciation for children and the elderly. The pivotal moment in his art career was in 1995 when he visited a bookstore and was very disappointed to see that none of the books



Work by Bryan Collier

represented him as an African American in any way. It sparked an interest in him to produce books that represented his race, culture, and beliefs. He promised himself that he would write books that include images that will vividly and honestly tell the stories of African American people. His book titled *Uptown* was his first official work as an author and children's book illustrator. *Uptown* is a book that talks about living in Harlem during the Harlem Renaissance. It touches on different topics that are relevant to children as well as adults.

Throughout his career, Collier has written over 30 books and has won numerous awards including the 2001 Coretta Scott King Award for Illustration in his debut work, *Uptown*, the 2001 Ezra Jack Keats Award for New Illustrator, the Hans Christian Andersen Awards, the *Parenting Magazine's* Reading Magic Award and the Marion Vannett Ridgeway Award for a first-time author and illustrator. Collier is also a four-time recipient of a Caldecott Honor award for: *Martin's Big Words*, *Rosa*, *Dave the Potter*, and *Trombone Shorty*.

Today Collier continues to spend his time on book illustrations. He also invests a significant amount of his time in K12 outreach, going into classrooms and interacting with teachers, librarians and students.

Books and prints will be available for purchase.

The museum's permanent collection focuses on works of African American art, in keeping with NC Central's identity as a Historically Black College/University (HBCU). There are also some works of African art. In general, the museum's collection reflects the diversity of style, technique, media, and subject matter necessary for teaching African American art history and traditional art history courses within the Department of Art. The museum's annual schedule of activities includes temporary exhibits of works from other museums, various retrospectives, and faculty and student art shows.

The NCCU Art Museum is located on East Lawson Street. The museum is accessible to physically challenged visitors.

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings or call the Museum at 919/530-6211.

stones, labradorite, onyx, azurite, fossils, stones of every color and shape fill the table, and as the sunlight comes in the window, I mix and match, constantly experimenting, spurred on by more ideas. I notice the interplay of colors, shapes, textures, sizes and weights. The more I move things around the more excited I become as the stones interact in unexpected ways. My imagination is spurred by what I see, what I feel and what I know about the folklore surrounding stones. As my ideas coalesce and stones come together the 'Glimmer' becomes the 'Spark'.

Painter Eduardo Lapetina describes his creative process this way. "I want my spaces to be painted without intention, without conscious technique, without anything that might interfere with the connections I seek to create. I do not want to keep a tradition. I am not looking for beauty but the viewer might find it in my art. And it is not about any particular theme or motif, it is about effectively conveying the immaterial through materiality. My aim is to project energy, visual vibrations, light, voices, excitement, and enthusiasm, captured in a physical form that you can take home with you."

For photographer and digital artist Eric Saunders the show's title is a description of the beginnings of a creative process. "Digital art" is his term for digital changes to an image which go beyond adjusting focus, contrast, density, and color balance, to actually change the elements of the image, and to enhance the interest or the effectiveness of the compositional structure.

Says Saunders, "When I photograph images, I am usually inspired by unusual abstract patterns of light, color, and tone,



Work by Arianna Bara

which are found in nature and in human artifacts. I then try to incorporate these patterns into compositional structures, so that the resulting image is accessible and compelling to the viewer."

The Hillsborough Gallery of Arts is owned and operated by 21 local artists and represents these established artists exhibiting contemporary fine art and fine craft. The Gallery's offerings include oil and acrylic paintings, pastels, sculpture, ceramics, photography, textiles, jewelry, glass, metals, encaustic, enamel, and wood.

For further information check our NC Commercial Gallery listings, call the Gallery at 919/732-5001 or visit (www.HillsboroughGallery.com).

Some Exhibits That Are Still On View

Our policy at *Carolina Arts* is to present a press release about an exhibit only once and then go on, but many major exhibits are on view for months. This is our effort to remind you of some of them.

We're focusing this month on exhibits at commercial galleries.



Work by Graig Nelson

Ella W. Richardson Fine Art in Charleston, SC, is presenting *Craig Nelson: Watershed Moments*, on view through Mar. 3, 2020. Mirroring the character of the French Quarter itself, Craig Nelson's paintings have a timeless quality. Stroll by stately European facades and sweeping land- and waterscapes where the past and present mingle. His masterful brushwork brings the textures of stucco, stone, sunlight and rain to impressionistic life on his canvases. Since 1970, Nelson has been depicting figures landscapes and various environments in rich, vibrant oils. His passion for the subjects relates directly to his brushwork, weaving mood and emotion into each work of art. For further information call the gallery at 843/733-3660 or e-mail to (info@ellarichardson.com).



Work by Susan Grossman

Jerald Melberg Gallery in Charlotte, NC, is presenting *Susan Grossman: Urban Stories* showcasing new drawings on paper in charcoal and pastel, on view through Mar. 7, 2020. This exhibition is Grossman's fifth with the gallery. Grossman has built a strong reputation for rendering urban scenes

of New York City primarily in black and white and shades of gray. Colored pastel is typically used minimally or to enhance her shimmering cityscapes, but plays a much larger role in many of these new works. Suddenly viewers are warmed by sherbet sunset hues or drawn to Technicolor taxicabs and umbrellas. These flashes of color, which the artist couples with strong compositional and perspectival effects, make the work glow with a cinematic quality. For further information call the gallery at 704/365-3000 or visit (www.jeraldmelberg.com).



Work by Laurie McIntosh

Stormwater Studios in Columbia, SC, is presenting *Beautiful Swimmers*, featuring works by Laurie McIntosh, on view through Mar. 8, 2020. The exhibition features a collection of more than a dozen, mostly large-format, oil paintings in addition to a brilliant display of papier mâché life from the sea. Formerly of Vista Studios/Gallery 80808 from 2010 until 2016, McIntosh founded Northlight Studio in Camden, SC, in 2016 where she currently works and paints. McIntosh is a SC native who earned a BA in Fine Art from the University of SC in 1982 and went on to train at the Center for Creative Imaging, Penland School of Crafts, and more. For further information call the Studios at 803/661-9357 or visit (www.stormwaterstudios.org).

City Art in Columbia, SC, is presenting *Landscapes Across the South*, featuring works by Jen Spaker, on view through Mar. 21, 2020. "For 2020, I decided to try something new - creating large landscape paintings," said Spaker. "Many of these paintings were adapted from smaller plein air or 'on location' sketches and paintings. Others are of scenes I photographed while taking evening walks or on long

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Hillsborough Gallery of Art in NC Features New Exhibition

Hillsborough Gallery of Art in Hillsborough, NC, will present *Glimmer To Spark*, featuring works by Arianna Bara, Eduardo Lapetina, and Eric Saunders, on view from Mar. 23 through Apr. 19, 2020. A reception will be held on Mar. 27, from 6-9pm.

The exhibition includes sterling silver and gemstone jewelry by Arianna Bara, colorful abstract expressionist paintings by Eduardo Lapetina, and photography & digital art by Eric Saunders.

Jeweler Arianna Bara has a number of work tables in her studio, each for a different part of the jewelry making process. There is a table full of stones, a design table, a soldering table, and a work bench for sawing, shaping and finishing pieces. However, it's the first table where she selects the stones for each piece that most excites her.

"When I am about to start a new piece sometimes my ideas are largely complete,



Work by Eduardo Lapetina, Photo by Bruce Mitchell

perhaps I know what shape I'd like to make but just need to select the right stones," says Bara. "Other times I enter my studio with no plan whatsoever - and that is the most exhilarating time. Opals, agates, moon-

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