

O Brother, where Art thou? Gallery 80808/Vista Studios

Artista Vista 2012

April 19 - May 8, 2012

Artista Vista Exhibition theme:
O Brother Where ART Thou (Bluegrass)

Opening Reception: April 26th, 5-9pm

featuring Vista
Studios'
Resident
Artists:

Ethel Brody • Stephen Chesley • Heidi Darr-Hope
Jeff Donovan • Pat Gilmartin • Robert Kennedy
Susan Lenz • Sharon C. Licata • Laurie McIntosh
Michel McNinch • Kirkland Smith
Laura Spong • David Yaghjian

VISTA studios
gallery 80808

upcoming exhibitions

April 5 - 10, 2012

Rob Shaw

April 12 - 17, 2012

Women Creating Women

Bonnie Goldberg and Kirkland Smith

Opening Reception April 12th, 5 - 9pm

Sunday Reception: April 15th, 3pm

Featuring Cassie Premo Steele as
she reads selected poem
from her new book,
The Pomegranate Papers

Open weekdays.

Call for hours: 803.252.6134
808 Lady St., Columbia SC 29201
www.VistaStudios80808.com

available for rental

modest rate | professional exhibition space
Call 803.771.7008

701 Center for Contemporary Arts in Columbia, South Carolina, Features Works by David Cianni

701 Center for Contemporary Arts in Columbia, SC, is presenting the exhibit, *DAVID CIANNI: Alternate Universe – The M-BORA Project*, featuring the world premier of Cianni's sculptures and alternate-universe installation, on view through June 3, 2012.



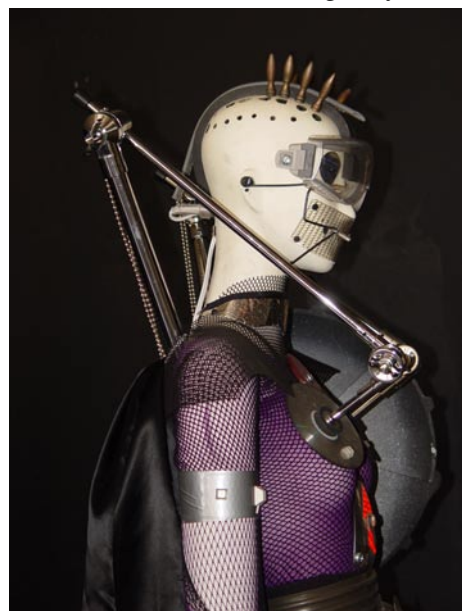
Works by David Cianni

For more than two decades, Aiken, SC, artist Cianni has been creating life-size, robotic, cyborg-like sculptures from post-consumer, recycled materials. Cianni, who is from Guatemala, refers to his project as M-BORA, which stands for "metal/bionic/organic/recycled/art". The sculptures are like comic book heroes come to life. Since his residency at 701 CCA, which started in Jan. 2012, Cianni has produced additional sculptures, two of which will scale the outside walls of 701 Whaley, where the center is located. Several dozen more new and older cyborg creatures are included in the exhibition.

Environmental concerns are key to Cianni's art. "Being in the metal fabrication industry," he says, "has made me see the extreme need for recycling. I promote reusing the components I come in contact with during my daily work. Many of these scrap components, which can no longer be used for a job, end up as a part of my art."

The exhibition is the first time Cianni
Page 16 - Carolina Arts, April 2012

will show his work at an art center or gallery. For the exhibition, he has created a gallery-wide, otherworldly environment inhabited by his figures. The environment will mostly consist of an elaborate cave system with light and sound features and a slightly suspended floor from mesh wire. While Cianni has been working on his new sculptures in the 701 CCA loft, he is building both the caves and floor in parts at his workshop in Aiken, where he owns Mayas Metal Fabrication, a metal construction company. The cave and floor modules will be transported to Columbia and installed in the 701 CCA gallery.



Detail of work by David Cianni

"David was real find," 701 CCA board chair Wim Roefs says. "Well, actually, we didn't find him. He found us. He presented himself out of nowhere, two big books in hand with images of his work. When we showed interest, he gave us an elabo-

continued above on next column to the right

rate viewing and demonstration of two decades of his work in a small warehouse in Aiken. There wasn't any electricity there, so David brought in a generator to provide light and show his cyborgs' light fixtures. It was a real 'wow!' experience for us. Then David told us about his ideas for creating not simply a formal exhibition of individual pieces but an elaborate environment inhabited by his creatures. More 'wow'."

Cianni was born in 1961 in Mazatenango and grew up in Villa Nueva, both in Guatemala. He began receiving awards, including on the national level, in elementary school for his drawing, painting and crafts. He received a BS in industrial and mechanical arts at the Instituto Tecnico Vocacional Dr. Imrich Fischmann in Guatemala City. At age 17, Cianni immigrated to Los Angeles, CA, where he worked as a welder, a technical draftsman and in management at a metal shop. In 1990, he formed his own company, specializing in often very large light fixtures and furniture for the hotel industry. Cianni moved to Aiken in 2006.

701 CCA is a non-profit visual arts center that promotes understanding, appreciation and enjoyment of contemporary



Works by David Cianni

art, the creative process and the role of art and artists in the community. The center also encourages interaction between visual and other art forms.

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings, call Wim Roefs at 803/238-2351 or visit (www.701cca.org).

21st Annual Artista Vista Takes Place in Columbia, SC - April 26-28, 2012

The Vista Gallery Group in the Congaree Vista area of Columbia, SC, will present its 21st annual *Artista Vista*, the Midlands' largest gallery crawl, from Thursday, Apr. 26 through Saturday, Apr. 28, 2012.

The celebration begins with Art Night in the Vista on Apr. 26. Vista artists and galleries will open their doors for this free, signature Vista event from 5 - 9pm.

Art Night in the Vista will feature regionally and nationally recognized artists, as well as artists from the Midlands. Artists and gallery owners will be on-hand to chat with visitors, giving attendees insight into their work. Many galleries will

also offer complimentary wine and hors d'oeuvres as a part of Artista Vista.

A new feature this year during Art Night in the Vista, streets throughout the Vista will be closed Thursday evening to give event attendees the opportunity to experience artistic performances, dance and music in the streets.

Also this year, the University of South Carolina's McKissick Museum will present *Install It: Installation art at Artista Vista*, featuring seven installations throughout the Vista by artists Khal-doune Bencheikh & Mary How, Eileen Blyth, Michaela Pilar Brown, Wendell

continued on Page 17