

Central Piedmont Community College

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is chosen for this celebratory exhibition to showcase our Visual Arts students' work completed in their studio classes.

The juror for this year's *Student Show* is Marge Loudon Moody. Moody is a Professor Emerita of Winthrop University in Rock Hill, SC, where she taught for over 30 years. Widely exhibited both nationally and internationally Moody's work exists in private and public collections worldwide. Currently, the Bill and Patty Gorelick Galleries at Levine Campus in Matthews host a selection of Moody's work from her new exhibition *Intangible Worlds*. The exhibition broadly investigates environments inspired by Moody's travels and imaginations. Through the use of bright colors, abstract forms and continuous reworking of the composition, Moody creates the "essential" feeling of certain environments.

Central Piedmont Community College is

University of South Carolina in Columbia, SC, Offers Several MFA Thesis Exhibitions

The University of South Carolina in Columbia, SC, is and will present several MFA Thesis exhibitions, on view in the McMaster Gallery, through Apr. 26, 2024.

Annually, the School of Visual Art and Design at USC presents thesis exhibitions that encompass work by candidates who have completed their final year of the Studio Art MFA program.

On view from Apr. 1 - 5, will be *Labor of Love*, featuring works by Jordan Dantzler. A reception will be held on Apr. 2, from 6-8pm.

Dantzler offered the following Artist's Statement, "As an artist deeply concerned with the narratives of Blackness and womanhood, my work is a testament to the power of storytelling and representation. My latest project, *Labor of Love*, emerges from a personal journey into the lives of the women (and girls) in my maternal lineage, including my mother, grandmothers, aunts, sister, cousin, and nieces. This exploration is not just an act of remembrance for those who have passed, but a conscious effort to honor the living, to give them their flowers now. Through this body of work, I aim to celebrate and center the women in my family—those who have shaped me into who I am today. This project is driven by a profound respect and love for these ladies, who frequently place the needs of others above their own. *Labor of Love* is a tribute to the strength, resilience, and enduring spirit of these remarkable women, serving as a mirror to their invaluable contributions and sacrifices."

Dantzler, a native of Rock Hill, SC, discovered her love for visual art early on, participating in programs like the ST-ARTS program at Winthrop University. She pursued her passion at Spelman College, earning a Bachelor of Arts in Visual Art with a minor in Curatorial Studies. Dantzler's journey includes prestigious art internships at institutions such as the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, ZuCot Gallery, and Sotheby's.

Currently a third-year Master of Fine Arts student at the University of South Carolina, she also shares her expertise as a graduate instructor and teaching assistant. Dantzler's artistic versatility spans mediums like ceramics, photography, and printmaking, often combining them in her work, which has been showcased at venues including the Mable House Arts Center, McMaster Gallery, and the University of South Carolina's President's House.

On view from Apr. 8 - 12, will be the exhibit *In Third Person*, featuring works by Samantha Reali. A reception will be held on Apr. 11, from 5:30-7:30pm with a artist talk at 6pm.

Reali offered the following Artist's Statement, "While asleep I am confronted by the disturbing, the ridiculous, and the whimsical creations of my subconscious. This is a spiritual phenomenon that I care to explore but hope to never fully understand. Through painting, I recreate memories of past dreams, generating vibrant and surreal narratives often driven by the suspenseful or the absurd. I craft fragmented and organically shaped surfaces, where satu-

highly accessible and convenient to people of all ages who seek a real-world, affordable, hands-on education that will transform their lives and strengthen the economic, social, and cultural environment of Mecklenburg County. Central Piedmont is also a smart investment. At a fraction of the cost, students learn by doing, receiving a combination of technical and soft skills training from quality faculty who prepare them to enter the workforce and make a difference in their family, business, community, and world.

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, contact Amelia Zytka by e-mail at (amelia.zytka@cpcc.edu). Follow us on Instagram and Facebook at Central Piedmont Arts and our blog at (<http://blogs.cpcc.edu/cpccartgalleries/>) or follow us on Instagram @cpccarts.

rated colors accentuate the dance between tight and loose brush strokes, forming both my figures and the world they inhabit. This work engages in a dialogue with the Surrealists and Dadaists of the 1910s-1930s, artists who utilized a sense of absurdity to explore and communicate various aspects of the human condition."

Samantha Reali is an interdisciplinary artist who analyzes her unique perception of personal relationships through dream-like narratives. Her practice and personal life are fueled by introspective curiosity, making creating art an act of intimate self-discovery. An exploration of dreams and memory stands in the forefront as the artist translates complex narratives into surreal, saturated, and ambiguous images.

Reali was born and raised in Staten Island, NY, where she grew up consistently interested in the magic of creating. She attended SUNY Cortland in Cortland, New York, earning a BFA in studio art with honors. She is pursuing her MFA in Studio Art at the University of South Carolina.

On view from Apr. 15 - 19, is the exhibition *Chasing the Unknown*, featuring works by Anna Byars. A reception will be held on Apr. 18, from 5:30-7pm.

Byars offered the following Artist's Statement, "Through my work, I am visualizing what transcendence feels like. To transcend is to go beyond what is tangible and known and to be enveloped within a fleeting feeling that becomes imprinted on the mind. For me, light and brightly saturated colors have always been the gateway to this feeling. Light can appear hard or soft but is never tangible. My work is created through spontaneous, meditative line work to create bright, colorful, and reflective imagery. I am bringing the colors of the natural world into one space to feel the vibrations of color and light.

Anna Byars is an artist based in Columbia, SC. She grew up in Lexington, SC, and received a BA in Studio Art and Art History at the College of Charleston. Her work has been shown in exhibitions at the Southern Graphics Conference, Sawtooth Visual Arts Gallery, and the Halsey Institute of Contemporary Art. Byars' primarily focuses in printmaking and is currently exploring the idea of transcendence within her work.

On view from Apr. 22 - 26, will be the exhibit, *This Must Be Ektachrome*, featuring works by Addison Graham.

Graham offered the following Artist's Statement, "I have had a profound connection to nature since childhood, growing up exploring the Ouachita and Ozark mountains in Arkansas. However, my interactions with nature coexist with human-made structures such as power lines, architectural features, and pathways. Nature has been affected by human interaction, including buildings, walkways, and invasive species. A location is not simply an aesthetically pleasing location with waterfalls and trees but a place for contemplation, reflection, and memorable phenomenon."

"Emotions and the environment intertwine to create transformative, intangible experiences. How can a landscape evoke

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nostalgia? How can emotions be so powerful that they defy description? As an artist, I use a range of mediums to explore these questions, choreographing colors, shapes, and light. I use various materials and colors to create diverse environments and reflect the complexities of life. My techniques include photography, printmaking, and sculpture," added Graham.

"My work explores landscapes, optics, memories, paradoxical thoughts, and psychological experiences influenced by nature. It is interdisciplinary, and I often blend different mediums to communicate the context of my artwork. To begin my creative process, I venture outdoors and capture Ektachrome photographs with a Bell and Howell Stereo Realist camera from the 1950s-60s. These serve as standalone pieces and inspiration for my work in different mediums.

Addison Graham, a fine artist from Fort Smith, AR, obtained her BFA from Ar-

Arts Center of Kershaw County in Camden, SC, Offers Works by Lori Isom

The Arts Center of Kershaw County in Camden, SC, is presenting *Women & Children*, featuring an exhibit of works by Lori Isom, on view in the Bassett Gallery, through Apr. 27, 2024.

Lori Isom has always been attracted to the subject of women and children. She finds inspiration in the softness of women and the female form. She is interested in the subtle strength of women and the aura that they produce. Similarly, she has been drawn to children, to their innocence, and to that early form of our personhood where the world has yet to leave its mark.

In *Women & Children*, Isom develops these themes as she explores the central essence of her titular subjects. What is produced in that exploration is not a descriptive presentation of women and children, but instead a more emotionally evocative representation of what it means to belong to these two groups.

The pieces included in this exhibition were originally photographs of Isom's aunt, now portrayed on the canvas with her signature style and flair. This exhibition is a tour de force by a renowned tal-

ent of the Midlands, and we hope you will join us to celebrate it.

With years of her life dedicated to working as a professional dancer, singer, and actress in New York and Los Angeles, Lori Isom brings the movement, emotion, and all the creative elements of theater and dance to her portraits with unusual compositions, structures, and colors. As an artist, her deepest desire is to present her subjects in the most sincere and expressive way, making sure the emotion and personality behind the painting is both felt and seen.

Isom has been celebrated in the pages of *American Art Collector*, interviewed for television and newspaper articles, as well as a featured artist in many group exhibitions. She has been commissioned to paint hundreds of individual and family portraits and is now celebrating the opening of her first portrait studio at G537 gallery in Camden, SC.

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings, call 803/422-4289 or e-mail to (yukhno@mailbox.sc.edu).

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings, call the Center at 803/425-7676 or visit (www.fineartscenter.org).

Newberry Arts Center in Newberry, SC, Features Plein Air Event with SC Watermedia Society - Apr. 27, 2024

The Newberry Arts Center and South Carolina Watermedia Society will host "Plein Air Paint Out Newberry" on Saturday, Apr. 27, 2024. The featured artwork subjects will feature the charming artistic community of Newberry, SC. South Carolina Watermedia Society members and other local painters from various media will paint outdoors with finished work on display and available for sale through May 27 at the Newberry Arts Center.

The Plein Air event will take place on Apr. 27 beginning at 10am. Finished 2D and any painted media will be submitted at 4pm at the Newberry Arts Center. The award ceremony will begin at 5:30pm and include monetary prizes: \$150 for 1st Place; \$100 for 2nd Place; \$75 for 3rd

Place; and \$25 Honorable Mention.

Admission is free to public for viewing. Event fee for artists is: \$25 for SCWS members; \$35 for non members; \$20 for students. Deadline for registration is Apr. 22, 2024

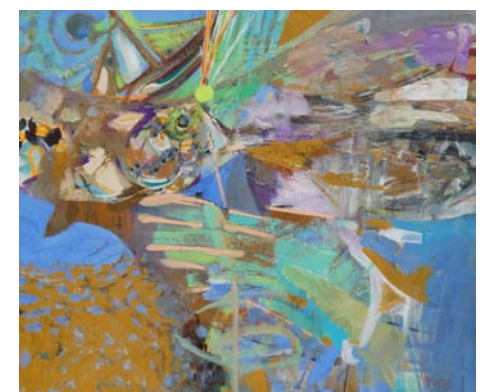
The South Carolina Watermedia Society is the largest statewide visual arts group and has been promoting the artistic and professional interests of its members since 1977. Newberry Arts Center is located at 1200 Main Street in downtown Newberry.

For further information, contact the Newberry Arts Center at 803/321-1022 or register at (<https://scwatermedia.com/plein-air-newberry>).

City Art in Columbia, SC, Celebrates Artista Vista With Works by Mike Williams and More

City Art in Columbia, SC, will present Mike Williams in the main Gallery entitled *Orientation*, featuring paintings by Mike Williams, as part of its celebrating of the annual Artista Vista event taking place on Apr. 19, from 6-9pm. Our other galleries will be open too featuring select works by regional artists including the likes of Kathy Morganelli, Max Miller Dowdle, Lee A. Monts, Bruce Nellsmith, Heather Noe, Mark Conrardy, Randy Hanna and Alicia Leeke. *Orientation* will be on view through the Summer of 2024.

Mike Williams, (American b. 1963 in Sumter, SC, earned a BFA /Painting at the University of South Carolina in Columbia. Williams offered, "I was born to be an



Work by Mike Williams

avid outdoorsman with a love for fish-

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