

North Charleston Arts Festival

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Work by Lorez (Nelo) Arquimides

Through June 20 - Contemporary Artists of Pinar Del Rio, Cuba – International Group Exhibition, located at the North Charleston City Hall, 3rd floor, 2500 City Hall Lane. Pinar Del Rio, Cuba, is an area steeped in rich culture and history that has been the birthplace and home of many of the country's most outstanding writers, musicians, and visual artists. In this group exhibition, nine professional contemporary artists from this western-most province of Cuba will present a collection of post Cuban Revolution art in a variety of mediums and styles that capture their unique culture and heritage as it relates to the land, life, and the essence of community. These artists are not tied to the historical 1940's early modern traditions of pre-revolution artistic expressions, or the 1960's revolution presentations of ideological social realism, or the politically sanctioned and government supervised expressions of art of the 1970's and 80's. Rather, these artists are products of the 1990's, creating work based on the ideas of freedom of expression and experimentation in both mediums and styles. Featured works include representational landscapes, figurative expressions, magic surrealism, and abstract expressionism styles of contemporary art in Cuba today that are a clear testament to the artists' creativity and imagination, advanced education, rich cultural bonding, sense of humor, and vitality. Participating artists: Javier Ampudia, Lores (Nelo) Arquimides, Juan Suarez Blanco, Livan Ricardo Hernandez, Reynier Llanes (curator), Yaciel Martinez, Juan Carlos Morales Lemus, Danys Milo Ozuna, and Juan Miguel Suarez. Hours: daily 8am - 8pm.

Through June 20 - Wash Over You – Works by Kristy Bishop, located at the North Charleston City Hall, 2nd floor, 2500 City Hall Lane. In this exhibition of abstract fiber works, Bishop presents intricate pieces composed of hand-dyed silk that is cut, gathered, and sewn. Thousands of tiny pieces of fabric are manipulated to create color transitions and gradients that translate human emotions. Bishop currently offers residencies to North Charleston schools and community groups as the City's Artist-in-Residence. Her work has been featured in the pages of *Charleston Magazine* and presented in a number of group exhibitions, both locally and nationally. Hours: daily, April 30-June 20, 8am - 8pm.



Work by Sarah Boyts Yoder

Through June 20 - Material Matters – Contemporary Group Exhibition, located at 10 Storehouse Row, 2120 Noisette Boulevard, on the old Navy Shipyard. This group exhibition, curated by lo-
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cal fiber artist, Kristy Bishop, highlights five contemporary artists whose work is significantly informed or inspired by the materials used to create it. Lauren Frances Moore of Silver Spring, MD, Conrad Guevara of San Francisco, CA, Katya Usvitsky of Brooklyn, NY, and local artists Sarah Boyts Yoder and Camela Guevara will collectively display 20 pieces in both 2 and 3-D. From the typical (watercolor, acrylic) to the atypical (nylon stockings, pig intestines, vintage coloring books, baskets, and rope), the various media featured explores and creates abstract forms, reflecting divergent artistic viewpoints. Hours: Mon.-Fri., 8am - 6pm.

May 3 - 11 - The PODS Project, located in the Greenspace next to DIG in the Park, 1055 East Montague Avenue. Throughout the month of April, three local contemporary artists transformed the insides of portable storage containers, donated by PODS Moving & Storage, into thought-provoking and participatory art installations. The completed installations will be on view throughout the festival, with the artists appearing with their work during the Arts Festival Art Walk on Wednesday, May 8. The *Cartographic Instrumentarium* by Hirona Matsuda and Trever Webster were influenced by the books and sculptures of Chris Ware, among others, Hirona, a found-object artist, and Trever, a mapmaker, will transform their PODS container into a control room full of instruments and diagrams. Surrounded by contraptions that seem familiar, but are not of this time and place, viewers will be transported to an imaginary place – into the heart of a machine that maps a non-existent terrain. *Convex/Concave* by Kristy Bishop – The walls and ceiling of Bishop's PODS container will be covered with numerous naturally dyed fabric pieces sewn together to create deep sinking holes and bulging protrusions, causing the viewer to feel as though she/he is entering some sort of life form or organic space. *The Machines* by Phillip Hyman - Inspired by the science fiction movies *I, Robot* and *A.I. Artificial Intelligence*, Hyman offers viewers a glimpse of a future where our "throw away" mentality banishes old robots and machines to container cities where they are locked up, never to be used again. Hours: May 3-11, 9am - 8pm.

Through June 1 - Art & Fine Craft Co-Op Gallery & Sale, located at The Meeting Place, 1077 East Montague Avenue. This temporary cooperative gallery is dedicated to presenting many local artists of varied backgrounds working in a diverse array of media and representing a full range of styles. A variety of pieces including paintings, prints, sculpture, fine crafts, jewelry, fiber art and more will be available for sale. The public is invited to a free reception hosted by the artists on Wednesday, May 8, from 5-8pm during the North Charleston Arts Festival Art Walk. Hours: Fri. & Sat., 11am - 7pm.

Through June 20 - Our Next Generation – Jr. Fiber Art Exhibition, located at the Unity Church of Charleston, 2535 Leeds Avenue. This special exhibition offers youth fiber artists, including students from R.B. Stall High School and Charleston Montessori School, an opportunity to display their unique quilt creations based on the same inspiration as the *7th Annual African American Fiber Art Exhibition, Once Upon a Quilt: Welcome to My Quilted Story Book*. Hours: daily, 8am-6pm.

May 3 - 11 - Youth Photography Exhibition, located at the North Charleston & American LaFrance Fire Museum and Educational Center Lobby, 4975 Centre Pointe Drive. FREE (does not include Museum admission). Seventh grade students from Jerry Zucker Middle School of Science will display photographic posters inspired by a fieldtrip to the Dorchester #5 Fire Station and created through the Yo Art! Project. Yo Art, Inc. is both an in-school and after-school mentoring program with an academic focus that works to build self-esteem, job skills, and a sense of community through computer

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art workshops, exhibitions, and public art projects. Hours: Mon.-Sat., 10am-5pm and Sun., 1-5pm.

Sculpture Installations include:

May 3 - 11 - Big Beetle by Edward Byrd, located at the North Charleston & American LaFrance Fire Museum and Educational Center Grounds, 4975 Centre Pointe Drive. This giant steel creation is modeled after a species of rhinoceros beetle from the jungles of Indonesia. While its horns and armored exoskeleton appear threatening, it is actually a harmless herbivore, using its horns to dig for food and engage in non-lethal combat for mates. By enlarging the creature's scale, the viewer can more easily appreciate the fantastic forms that evolution develops in enabling species to successfully compete. In turn, it is a reminder that life for all species involves competition, and that man's great challenge is to use this competitive drive to flourish, without destroying the species. Hours: daylight hours.

May 3 - 11 - Gummy Bear by Kaysia Grow, located in the Green space at intersection of East Montague Ave. and Spruill Ave. While its title alludes to the classic sweet and chewy candy, this bear is quite the opposite - prickly and fierce. Thousands of gumballs, the small, spiked fruit produced by sweetgum trees, cover the sculpture's surface to create the illusion of fur. Other natural materials, like palm fronds, are used to replicate the bear's teeth and claws. Hours: daylight hours.

May 3 - 11 - Level by Allison Koch, located at the Traffic Circle at Wescott Blvd. and Oak Forest Blvd. Inspired by order and rhythm and the general belief that people should "look up" more often, this geometric piece hopes to impose the perspective seen when looking upwards at a tall building. Polished steel rods are used to create line and direction with inserts of fabric imitating colorful windows. Both sides of the structure are approachable to create a curious and playful space with plenty of odd views and angles. Hours: daylight hours.

May 3 - 11 - Plane Garden by Malcolm Knight, located at the Median at Lackawanna Boulevard. Airplanes are a common site in the North Charleston skies, as the city is home to the Charleston International Airport and Joint Base Charleston. With the recent expansion of Boeing's operations in the area, they are

also a common topic when discussing the City's growth and prosperity. It is this connection between airplanes and growth that inspired this installation. Using styro-foam and steel, the artist creates the illusion of airplanes emerging from the earth, much like flowers blooming in a garden. Hours: daylight hours.

May 3 - 11 - Polyphemus by Kevin Mclean, located at Palmetto Gardens Park, East Montague Avenue. Referencing Homer's *Odyssey* and the Classical culture associated with it, this installation seeks to link Charleston to the birthplace of western civilization. A large one-eyed giant approximately ten feet tall and seemingly made of stone will loom over observers with his gigantic stature and intimidating glare. Hours: daylight hours.

May 3 - 11 - Walking Cage Bird-feeder by Victoria Honick, located at Northwoods Park Community Center, 8348 Greenridge Road. This playful steel design depicting a birdcage sitting upon two feminine, human-like legs plays on both the relationship between people and nature and the concept of freedom. The artist hopes to create a literal interaction between nature and the piece by filling the open cage with birdseed. The sight of wild birds flying in and out of the cage to feed is meant to illustrate the idea of openness and also encourages viewers to reflect on the nature within and around them. Hours: daylight hours.

May 3 - 11 - Student Sculptures, located at the North Charleston City Hall Lobby, 2500 City Hall Lane. Cultural Arts Department student interns, Caroline Guerotto and Allison Koch, will create and display contemporary sculpture pieces on pedestals. Drawn to the beauty of the simple replication of a single form, Guerotto's piece incorporates over 50 horse-shoe shaped pieces of wood geometrically placed to create an organic, spherical structure. Through the manipulation of thin steel rods and glass, Koch's whimsical piece imitates intertwined kites moving in the wind. Guerotto and Koch are both pursuing a degree in Studio Art at the College of Charleston. Hours: daily 8am-8pm.

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings, call the North Charleston Cultural Arts Department office at 843/740-5854 or visit (www.NorthCharlestonArtsFest.com).

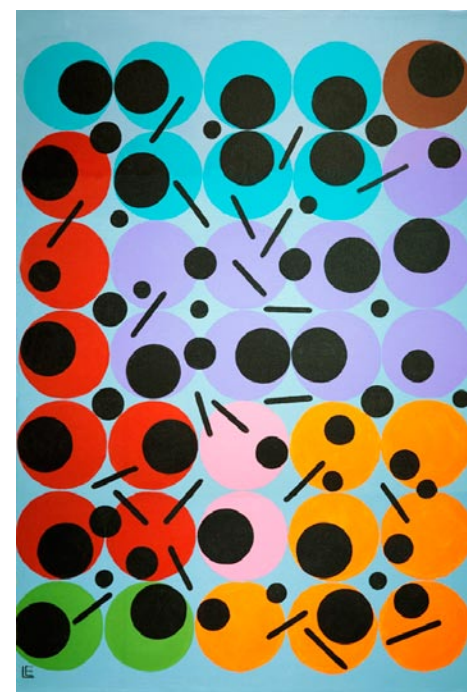
City of North Charleston, SC, Features Works by Linda Elksnin

The City of North Charleston, SC, will feature an exhibit of works by Linda Elksnin, the 2013 North Charleston Arts Festival design artist, on view in the North Charleston City Art Gallery, located within the Charleston Area Convention Center, from May 3 - 11, 2013. The public is invited to meet the artist at the gallery on Sat., May 4, from 10am-4pm, and Sun., May 5, from 2-5pm, during the Main Event of the North Charleston Arts Festival. T-shirts and posters featuring the winning design will be available for sale.

Elksnin's acrylic painting, 'A' Train, was selected as the 2013 North Charleston Arts Festival art design. As the winner of the statewide design competition, Elksnin's piece is used on all promotional materials for the 2013 North Charleston Arts Festival. In addition, the piece has become part of the City of North Charleston's Public Art Collection.

According to Elksnin, 'A' Train is her attempt to capture the color and movement of jazz. "The painting is titled in honor of Duke Ellington, whose orchestra made the Billy Strayhorn standard, *Take the 'A' Train*, its signature tune," she explains. When asked why she felt the piece was appropriate to submit for the competition, the artist replied, "I believe 'A' Train captures the excitement of the North Charleston Arts Festival. It depicts the interconnectedness of the people involved in the event – the visual and performing artists, the audience, and the festival organizers."

Born in Pennsylvania, Elksnin's passion for art began in elementary school when she took classes at the Philadelphia



North Charleston Arts Festival 2013 Design Image – 'A' Train by Linda Elksnin

College of Art. After receiving her BFA in Illustration from Syracuse University, her career path took a different turn when she taught art to children with disabilities. After earning master's and doctoral degrees in special education from the University of Virginia, Elksnin came to The Citadel to coordinate the special education graduate program. She retired in 2006 as Professor Emerita and returned to painting full time at her home in Mt. Pleasant, SC. The inspiration for many of her works comes from eclectic sources

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