

# ENO Gallery in Hillsborough, NC

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selected figurative studies from his extraordinary traveling museum exhibit *Murder Ballad Paintings*.

Davis explains where the theme originated, "The phrase 'Conjured Ghosts' came to mind after I began the 'Murder Ballad' series. My paintings before, of empty streets or abandoned buildings, often evoked for the viewer a human presence or narrative: someone has just left the scene, or some critical event is imminent. I explained in an interview that, in the ballad paintings, those figures had finally arrived."

Recent acquisitions of Davis' work include the Gibbes Museum of Art, The Greenville County Museum of Art, The Morris Museum and the North Carolina Governor's Mansion.



Work by Julyan Davis

For more info check our NC Commercial Gallery listings, call the gallery at 919/883-1415 or visit ([www.enogallery.net](http://www.enogallery.net)).

## Mint Museum Uptown in Charlotte, NC, Offers Exhibit that Explores Fashion, Jewelry, Nail Art, & Tattoos

Tattoos, nail art, jewelry, and fashion – the newest Mint Museum-organized exhibition, *Body Embellishment*, explores the most innovative artistic expression in the 21st-century international arenas of body extension, augmentation, and modification. The exhibition will be on view through Sept. 6, 2015 at Mint Museum Uptown at Levine Center for the Arts, on South Tryon Street in Charlotte.

The human impulse to ornament the body is an ancient desire that crosses cultures. Seeking to modify the natural skin and shape of the body, people have created imaginative ways to expand and distort, and add color, pattern, and narrative. Focused on twenty-first century innovators, this exhibition provides a glimpse at inventive designers from around the world who explore the role of the body and its embellishment.

"What makes *Body Embellishment* such a fascinating exhibition is its exploration of radical ways artists are redesigning our bodies to reflect 21st century life," said Annie Carlano, the Mint's senior curator of Craft, Design, & Fashion. "Through interventions with skin, nail extensions, wearable sculpture, and redefined body shapes, designers from throughout the globe are expressing emotional and intellectual responses to the everyday, individual and group identity, and ever-shifting concepts of beauty. Ground-breaking research introduces audiences to work by emerging artists that has never been seen in this country, alongside works by international superstars such as Filip Leu, Carlos Rolon (aka Dzine), Lauren Kalman, and threeASFOUR."

Tattoo is one of the trendiest methods of skin decoration today, yet is millennia old. Originally associated with indigenous groups, this radical method of body intervention has become an exalted art form. Nail art - the adornment and extension of fingertips - has evolved dramatically from its ancient origins, and today, nail art is

a burgeoning means of aesthetic expression. Studio jewelry explores avant-garde wearable art which utilizes the body as an armature for creative expressions. The body embellished through fashion is examined in an installation by the international design collective threeASFOUR, who have created fashions for Bjork, Lady Gaga, and others. Incorporated into a virtual catwalk environment, their recent fashion creations distort parts of the human silhouette and extend humanitarian content.

The exhibition includes approximately 100 objects by artists and designers, also including Naomi Yasuda (whose work has appeared on the nails of Madonna, among others), Stephanie Tamez, Mi-Ah Rödigier, and Nora Fok. It is accompanied by a dynamic interactive digital exhibition catalogue authored by Mint curators, which will be available in the gallery and via ([mintmuseum.org](http://mintmuseum.org)).

The Mint Museum of Craft + Design Board of Directors is lead sponsor of *Body Embellishment* through their Adopt-A-Design program; major support has also been provided by Mint affiliate The Founders' Circle Ltd. and US Bancorp. The exhibition media partner is WFAE 90.7fm.

The exhibition will be accompanied by a full slate of educational programming, and several of its artists will visit during the exhibition's run. Special exhibition admission requires additional fees on top of general museum admission. The cost is \$24 for non-member adults; \$18 for college students/seniors; \$6 for children 5-17; and free for kids under 5. Discounted admission is available on Wednesday evenings and at select special programs. Unlimited admission is always FREE to Mint Museum members. Special programming details are available at ([mintmuseum.org/happenings](http://mintmuseum.org/happenings)).

For more info check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, call 704/337-2000 or visit ([www.mintmuseum.org](http://www.mintmuseum.org)).

## Jerald Melberg Gallery in Charlotte, NC, Features Works by Charles Basham

Jerald Melberg Gallery in Charlotte, NC, will present *Charles Basham*, featuring a solo exhibition of new paintings and pastels, on view from May 2 through June 20, 2015. At 11am on May 2, the exhibition will open to the public with a Coffee & Conversation event with the artist speaking and answering questions about the works in the exhibition.

Basham received his BFA and MFA from Kent State University in his native state of Ohio, where he still resides on the family farm. He has been making art for over forty years, and, as a result, has enjoyed much acclaim for his visually stimulating and emotionally charged landscapes.

In this new series of pastels and oil paintings, Basham captures dramatic and compelling moments of indirect morning and evening light, heightened through bold colors such as magenta, gold, lemon, emerald and turquoise. The natural vistas he



Work by Charles Basham

portrays escape contextual clues that would place it in a specific time and place, sharing with audiences an enhanced version of the universal experience of being outdoors.

For more info check our NC Commercial Gallery listings, call the gallery at 704/365-3000 or visit ([www.jeraldmelberg.com](http://www.jeraldmelberg.com)).



Conversations by Heather Allen Hietela



Mona Geisha by Scott Partridge



Loyal Dog by Lyndsey Day



## Carolina's Got Art



HawkWatch by Alix Hitchcock

Artists from across North & South Carolina were invited to submit artwork for consideration in the fourth exhibition of *Carolina's Got Art!* at Elder Gallery. Eliza Rathbone, Chief Curator Emerita of The Phillips collection in Washington, DC, selected 110 artworks that she considers some of the best art being created in the Carolinas. All work is for sale to support Carolina based artists and \$25,000 will be awarded to prize winners.

**Opening Reception**  
Friday, May 1, 2015 • 6:00 - 9:00 p.m.

*Juror's Discussion: Saturday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 11:00 a.m.*

**Exhibition runs through May 30, 2015**

Visit [www.elderart.com](http://www.elderart.com) for updates on events surrounding the competition.

elder gallery 1520 South Tryon Street Charlotte, NC 28203 [www.elderart.com](http://www.elderart.com) 704-370-6337

## Editorial Commentary

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They say that Winter is Coming on HBO, but I think Summer is right around the corner and it's going to be a hot one.

It seems like we've actually had a Spring this year - where the temps are up and down like a roller coaster, but soon that Southern heat will take its seat at our table making us all wish Winter really was coming.

The good thing is that most of the art exhibits that we'll be reporting on will be housed in nice cool air-conditioned spaces. So you won't have to suffer the heat while looking at art and you can take your time, there's no hurry.

Unlike many other parts of the overall art community, the visual arts don't have an off-season. And, as long as people keep putting on exhibits, and they inform us about them in a timely fashion - we'll keep bringing you news about them. That's what we do.

### What We Don't Do

We don't ask people to vote on who or what is the best. We leave that to themselves.

Recently while working on finishing this issue of *Carolina Arts* I stopped work and checked out our Facebook page to see if I was missing anything. During the last week of every month I just don't get to keep up with Facebook as much as usual, but I try to so I don't miss anything I should pass along to our followers.

Near the end of my part of the production process I found a unique post which was originated by *Charleston Magazine*. *CM* was asking people to help them select the last 10 artists (out of 40) of the most influential visual artists in Charleston's history, from 1670-2015.

The headline was: VOTE! Charleston's 40 Most Influential Visual Artists (1670-2015), which was incorrect as the unnamed folks who were putting this vote

together had already selected 30 visual artists who they felt were "most" influential. And then they offered a list of artists who could make up the last 10 - depending on the voting results. You could even write in someone who was not on the list *CM* offered.

First off, do people who follow *Charleston Magazine* even know anything about Charleston's visual art community to determine if an artist was influential or not? And, how are they defining influential - by how many times the artist has been featured in their publication?

It just all seems a little silly and ends up pitting artists against each other. Who wouldn't want to make the list and how do those artists feel who didn't make the list that *CM* offered to help people select the last 10? Why couldn't they just let those who wished to vote in this contest come up with their own names? Why did they have to lead them along?

But what really gets me about these Vote for the Best, Vote for Your Favorite, or Vote for the Most Influential, is that you will probably never know how many votes "the winner" or any of the other contestants got. Why, because they wouldn't want you to know how few votes might make someone a winner and how few votes some artists on the list got.

I know artists who won't enter juried art shows anymore - why - simply because they might not win or worse - all they would get was an honorable mention - the kiss of death to them. Once some artists reach a certain level of recognition and fame in their community - they just can't risk not being on top.

That's why you'll never see voting results - real numbers - in any of these contests - it would be too embarrassing to all involved.

It may seem fun, but for those involved it can be a real nightmare. I wouldn't want to put anyone through that. So we don't.