

Hickory Museum of Art in Hickory, NC, Offers Installation by Jonathan Brilliant

The Hickory Museum of Art in Hickory, NC, is presenting *Hickory Sticks*, featuring a new installation by Jonathan Brilliant, on view through Sept. 9, 2017. A reception will be held on May 6, from 1:30-3:30pm. Meet the artist, see the completed installation and test out your coffee stirrer weaving skills.

Brilliant will be conducting a week-long residency to create a site-specific installation in the Museum's Coe Gallery using to-go coffee accessories as his art materials. The public is invited to watch the artist work live through May 4 during normal Museum hours.

The artist will laboriously weave 50,000+ wooden coffee stirrers to create a site-responsive, colossal sculpture influenced by the gallery's 25 foot ceiling and unique architectural features – spiral staircases and Palladian windows. Visitors will be able to walk under and around the undulating walls of this structure. The woven stirrers are held in place without the use of adhesives; tension and compression are what gives the structure strength and stability. Complementary smaller installations comprised of coffee cup sleeves, disposable lids and coffee stain wall drawings will also be included in the exhibition.

Visitors will have the rare opportunity to see an artist create an art piece from start to finish; a process which is typically done behind-the-scenes. Brilliant will work live in the gallery, greeting and interacting with visitors. After his residency is complete, a time lapse video of the project's making will be projected on a gallery wall through the remainder of the exhibition. Interactive stations will allow visitors to practice the stir stick weaving technique and add to a community sculpture built started by the artist.

Born in Charleston, SC, and now based in Raleigh, NC, artist Jonathan Brilliant



Jonathan Brilliant working on one of his installations

holds a BA in Studio Art from the College of Charleston and an MFA in Spatial Arts from San Jose State University. Brilliant is a recipient of an individual artist grant from the Pollock-Krasner Foundation and is a South Carolina Arts Commission Visual Arts Fellow. He has received numerous fellowships and artist residencies including McColl Center for Visual Art in Charlotte, NC; The Ox-Bow School of Art in Saugatuck, MI; The Vermont Studio Center in Johnson, VT; Redux Contemporary Art Center in Charleston, SC; and The East/West Project in Berlin, Germany. In 2012, Brilliant also served as an Artist in Residence at the Cairns Festival in Far North Queensland, Australia, and at the Center for Creativity and the Arts at CSU Fresno, California.

This project was supported by the United Arts Council of Catawba County through the North Carolina Arts Council, with funding from the State of North Carolina and the National Endowment for the Arts. Additional support provided by Corning Optical Communications and Shurtape.

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, call the Museum at 828/327-8576 or visit (www.HickoryArt.org).

Gallery 27 in Lincolnton, NC, Celebrates Fifth Anniversary With Works by Liz McKay and Stacey Pilkington-Smith

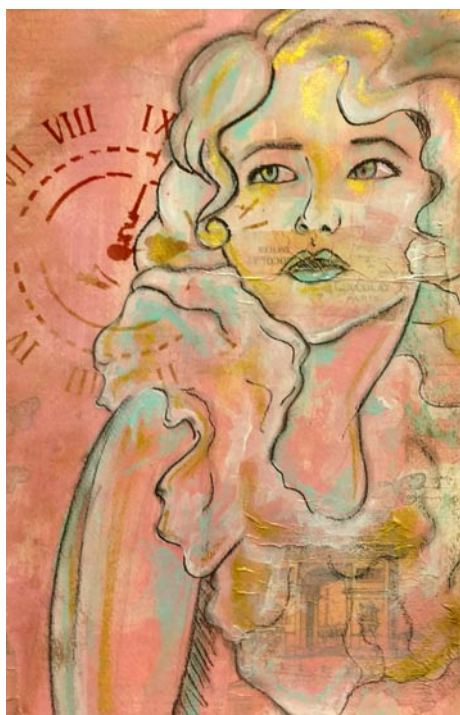
Gallery 27 in Lincolnton, NC, will celebrate its fifth anniversary with an exhibit of works by Liz McKay and Stacey Pilkington-Smith, on view from May 20 through June 7, 2017. A reception will be held on May 20, from 7-9pm.

The multi-faceted realm of mixed media is showcased in an explosion of color and texture by artists Liz McKay and Stacey Pilkington-Smith in celebration of Gallery 27's fifth anniversary. Pilkington-Smith, owner of Gallery 27, and McKay, the gallery manager, have combined their current works in a show that visually represents the inception, nurturing and ultimate fruition of following an artistic dream.

McKay's current series of paintings explore an earth based sense of ancestry. Images of seeds, stones and other natural elements seem to carve their way through layers of white paper and paint, pushing their way to the surface to reveal rich colors wrapped around ghostly images of cloaked ancient figures.

Pilkington-Smith's intuitive style of portraiture reveals the essence of beauty within each face by capturing the imperfection. Painting purely for the aesthetic, Pilkington-Smith looks beyond the surface of each portrait to expose glimpses into the soul behind the model. Her works feature floral elements, fish and birds within a kaleidoscope of rich color.

Gallery 27 is the premiere art gallery in Lincoln County, bringing the finest in both local and regional art to the area for the past five years. The mission of Gallery 27 is to instruct, inform and inspire their artists and collectors by providing a source of



Work by Stacey Pilkington-Smith

high quality of visual art, create an exciting venue where artists can exhibit and sell their art, facilitate opportunities for artists through marketing, promotion, commissions, and sales, provide high-quality classes and workshops for adults and children in a barrier-free setting that is designed to inspire while providing fun and educational art experiences for all ages and abilities.

For further information check our NC Commercial Gallery listings, call the gallery at 704/240-9060 or visit (www.ncgallery27.com).

Mint Museum Uptown in Charlotte, NC, Offers A Survey Exhibit of Contemporary Art

The Mint Museum Uptown in Charlotte, NC, is presenting *State of the Art: Discovering American Art Now*, on view through Sept. 2, 2017.

Consisting of approximately 75 remarkable works, *State of the Art* seeks to de-mystify contemporary American art.

In 2013, representatives from the Crystal Bridges Museum of Art embarked on a coast-to-coast curatorial road trip. Their objective: to discover new and intriguing works of art existing outside of typical metropolitan venues. Former Director Don Bacigalupe and Curator Chad Aligood traveled 100,000 miles and conducted nearly 1,000 studio visits with artists who had been recommended by their colleagues in each state. Their findings formed the basis for *State of the Art: Discovering American Art Now*, an unprecedented nationwide survey of contemporary American art.

Consisting of approximately 75 remarkable works of art ranging from paintings and drawings to sculpture, photography, video, and installations by 42 artists from every region of the country, *State of the Art*

seeks to de-mystify contemporary American art. Works of art and artists were chosen based on their innovative use of materials, their relevance to modern life, and their deep connections to their communities and present-day issues. In order to further enhance that engagement, The Mint Museum is working directly with a selection of participating artists to offer a wide range of exhibition-related programming.

State of the Art: Discovering American Art Now was organized by Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, Bentonville, AR. Exhibition programs are supported, in part, by the Willard and Pat Walker Charitable Foundation.

This exhibition is presented in Charlotte with the generous support of PNC Financial Services, with additional support from the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation and Young Affiliates of the Mint.

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, call the Museum at 704/337-2000 or visit (www.mintmuseum.org).

Jerald Melberg Gallery in Charlotte, NC, Offers Pastel Invitational Exhibit

Jerald Melberg Gallery in Charlotte, NC, will present *The Dust on Butterflies' Wings: A Pastel Invitational*, featuring works by artists from across the United States, on view from May 13 through July 8, 2017.

This invitational exhibition features works of artists from across the United States who are known for their mastery in pastel. The title of the exhibition comes from a well-known quote by Wolf Kahn that resonates with pastels artists and admirers alike: "Pastel is the dust on butterflies' wings. This velvety medium is capable of remarkable diversity if directed by a proficient artist, one who can capture its opposing realms of delicacy and power."

As a group, these artists capture the softness of landscapes and grit of the city as well as crisp detail of figuration and the emotion and immediacy of abstraction.

An objective of this pastel invitational is to investigate this duality through the work of fifteen artists using pastel in the 20th and 21st century. Included are perhaps the two greatest living pastel artists in America, Wayne Thiebaud and Wolf Kahn.

In addition to artists represented by the gallery, such as Charles Basham and Esteban Vicente, we are pleased to introduce the work of artists new to the gallery, including Joyce Stillman-myers, Jack



Work by Susan Grossman

Whitten, Margaret Bowland and Jimmy Wright. We also welcome the opportunity to once again showcase Janet Fish, Robert Peterson and Yvonne Jacquette.

Invited artists include: Charles Basham, Margaret Bowland, William Partridge Burpee, Raul Diaz, Janet Fish, Susan Grossman, Yvonne Jacquette, Wolf Kahn, Janet Monafio, Robert Peterson, Joyce Stillman-Myers, Wayne Thiebaud, Esteban Vicente, Jack Whitten, and Jimmy Wright.

Jerald Melberg Gallery is located on South Sharon Amity Road near the intersection with Providence Road.

For further information check our NC Commercial Gallery listings, call the gallery at 704/365-3000 or visit (www.jeraldmelberg.com).

Arts Council of York County in Rock Hill, SC, Features Works by Jim Frazer and Sandy Singletary

The Arts Council of York County in Rock Hill, SC, will present *Traces*, featuring works by Jim Frazer and Sandy Singletary, on view in the Dalton Gallery at the Center for the Arts, from May 5 through June 11, 2017. A reception will be held on May 11, from 5:30-7:30pm.

"Time flies over us, but leaves its shadow behind." - Nathaniel Hawthorne.

"When we go into the woods, it's poignant to see the dead trees where there was once a beautiful forest," says Jim Frazer. "Yet, there is a certain fascination and beauty to the patterns engraved into the wood by the beetle larvae as they eat beneath the bark." Their paths form linear, calligraphic signatures that reminded Frazer of the tigras, or personal ciphers of the Ottoman sultans. Surprisingly inspired by the beetle tracks that began showing up in his photographs taken during his time spent in the woods, Frazer's work evolved



Work by Sandy Singletary

to incorporate the patterns in his art. His images present the patterns individually, as artifacts: beautiful signatures which, in nature, ultimately spell destruction.

Frazer studied art history as an undergraduate at Amherst College, after which he went on to complete a Master of Visual art degree in photography at Georgia State University. With colleagues from Georgia

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