

Arts Council of Moore County in Southern Pines, NC, Features Exhibit Focused on Military Life

Using art as a catalyst for conversation, reflection, discovery, and education, the Arts Council of Moore County and Belle Meade will present a special military art exhibit called, *Homefront & Downrange: Witness the Art in Military Life*, on view at Campbell House Galleries in Southern Pines, NC, from June 5 through July 10, 2015. A reception will be held on June 5, from 6-8pm.

This exhibit will take a deep and personal look at many aspects of military life: An Army wife's story through narrative textiles by Kristin La Flamme, a soldier's story through photographs by Hunter Rudd, the stories of America's military children through art selected from the Military Child Education Coalition's Art from the Heart, and the story of returning home from combat through art selected from the Combat Paper Collection.



Work by Kristin La Flamme

The Army Wife by artist Kristin La Flamme is an ongoing series of narrative textiles telling the story of expectations and realities in the world of the military spouse. Common domestic forms such as aprons, quilts and sheets with kitschy or cheery images manage to convey the serious business of life and love. This series confronts La Flamme's personal experiences, exposing her words, insecurities, fears and foibles for all to see. Hopefully there is also a greater experience in which others can recognize themselves.

Alongside La Flamme's art, Hunter Rudd's photographs in *Homefront & Downrange* will represent the masculine perspective of the life and times spent during his deployments in 2007-10. Taken from Hunter's personal war record, the images tell a story of intimate moments with Green Beret warriors existing in a world very disconnected from their lives back home and worlds away from their families.

Visual arts and writing allow us a glimpse into the unique perspective of military children, which was the inspiration of the Military Child Education Coalition's Art from the Heart collection. Selected especially for this show, MCEC will provide drawings, poems and artistic interpretations of what it means to be a military child, with the hope that what you see in the artwork paints a poignant picture of some very resilient children making their own sacrifices and serving our country.

Combat Paper was the brainchild of soldier-turned artist Drew Cameron. Since 2007, they have conducted workshops around the country teaching veterans how to make paper by hand from their old



Work by Hunter Rudd

uniforms. The labor-intensive process—the uniforms are literally beaten to a pulp and turned into a variety of paper art forms—is meant to give veterans a vehicle to tell their personal stories of military service.

In addition to the art exhibit, *Homefront & Downrange* will feature several other special activities during the run of the exhibit. These include:

- Combat Paper Residency – The Foundation of FirstHealth and Sandhills Community College are presenting a 3-day papermaking residency led by Combat Paper founder and artist, Drew Cameron. Details are still being determined, but the residency will be held June 16-18, 2015.

- Military Appreciation Day – To celebrate the military's contributions to Moore County, the Arts Council is presenting a special day on Sat., June 20, 2015 from 10am to 2pm on the Campbell House property (482 E. Connecticut Ave., Southern Pines). The *Homefront & Downrange* exhibit being open to the public, along with other special activities, including a concert by the Army Ground Forces Band; demonstrations by K2 Solutions' Service Dog Program and the 550th Military Working Dog Detachment; an open Combat Paper workshop led by Drew Cameron and sponsored by K2 Solutions; art activities for children by Delaney Kjellsen of Artistic Vision; and several military charities and service organizations on-hand to inform our military families and general public about services available to the military community.

For making the *Homefront & Downrange* exhibit possible, the Arts Council gratefully thanks our major sponsor, St. Joseph's of the Pines, and all our other fine sponsors: C Cups Cupcakery; Elliott's on Linden; Eye Candy Gallery (Frank Pierce, Nancy Rawlinson, & Woody Pierce); Fields Plumbing & Heating; Tom Fleming & Mary La Flamme; Martha Gentry's Home Selling Team; The Heritage Flag Company; K2 Solutions; Kiwanis Club of the Sandhills; Anne La Flamme & Jay Dewitt; R. Riveter; Retro Blowout Bar; Sandhills Community College; Mr. & Mrs. Sam Shelby; Southern Pines Brewing Co.; Spartan Blades; Town of Southern Pines; Triangle Wine Company; TSM Corporation; Weymouth Center; The Zeller Family; and other anonymous gifts.

For *Homefront & Downrange*, the Arts Council and Belle Meade hopes the artwork generates a positive conversation between active military families, veterans and civilians regarding our collective responsibilities and shared understanding of combat. We also seek to recognize the significant influence the military has within Moore County and to honor their sacrifices and service for the freedom we all enjoy.

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, contact Chris Dunn at 910/692-2787 or visit (www.MooreArt.org).

SECCA in Winston-Salem, NC, Features Works by Devin Leonardi

The Southeastern Center for Contemporary Art (SECCA) in Winston-Salem, NC, will present *Devin Leonardi: Figure at Dusk*, the first solo museum exhibition of the late Devin Leonardi, featuring 34 works of art, on view from June 25 through Oct. 4, 2015. A reception will be held on June 25, beginning at 6pm.

The exhibition includes watercolors and small oil paintings, spanning his first cycle

of work in 2005 to his last works made in 2014. Leonardi's imagery richly depicts the twilight of the American landscape, the mythology of westward expansion, and the dialectic between modern and contemporary image, as seen in his paintings' adaptations of photographic source material.

Harkening back to an earlier period of American history and following its folk-

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ways, Leonardi constructed Americana paintings of pioneers, journeymen, and classical figures as well as stunning landscapes of plains, mountains and newly forming cities using vintage photographs from the 1850s to 1880s. Injected with a moody visual language that balances allegory and realism and that challenges photography's truth claims, Leonardi's paintings look back to the photographic remnants of history to reconsider contemporary culture.

"Much in the spirit of the Romantic tradition, Leonardi's paintings powerfully ask us to look at the state of contemporary America and how we got here, seducing us above all with their beauty," says Cora Fisher, Curator of Contemporary Art, who organized the exhibition. "Figure at Dusk is a celebration of his life's work and unique vision of the melding of the past and present."



Devin Leonardi, "Two Friends on the Shore of Long Island", 2009, acrylic on paper. Image Courtesy the Rachofsky Collection.

The Southeastern Center for Contemporary Art in Winston-Salem, NC, seeks to enhance perspectives, inspire community and ignite new ideas at the intersection of art and its visitors. SECCA is an affiliate of the North Carolina Museum of Art, a



Devin Leonardi, "The Source is the Goal", 2012, oil on canvas. Image Courtesy the Rachofsky Collection.

division of the NC Department of Cultural Resources. SECCA receives operational funding from The Arts Council of Winston-Salem and Forsyth County. Additional funding is provided by the James G. Hanes Memorial Fund.

NCDCR annually serves more than 19 million people through its 27 historic sites, seven history museums, two art museums, the nation's first state-supported Symphony Orchestra, the State Library, the NC Arts Council and the State Archives. NCDCR champions our state's creative industry that accounts for more than 300,000 jobs and generates nearly \$18.5 billion in revenues.

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, call the Center at 919/807-7300 or visit (www.ncdcr.gov).

Check us out at (www.carolinaarts.com) or e-mail to (info@carolinaarts.com)

The deadline each month to submit articles, photos and ads is the 24th of the month prior to the next issue. This will be June 24th for the July 2015 issue and July 24 for the August 2015 issue. After that, it's too late unless your exhibit runs into the next month. But don't wait for the last minute - send your info now.

And where do you send that info?

E-mail to (info@carolinaarts.com).