

University of North Carolina at Greensboro Offers 44th Art on Paper

The University of North Carolina at Greensboro, in Greensboro, NC, is presenting *Art on Paper 2017: The 44th Exhibition*, on view at the Weatherspoon Art Museum, through Sept. 3, 2017.

Since 1965, this dynamic survey has uniquely taken the pulse of contemporary art by showcasing artworks made on or with paper. This year's installation features compelling new work by twenty-five artists from across the country. From exquisitely rendered ink drawings and densely layered collages to embroidered pages and "plucked" paper constructions, each artist has taken full advantage of paper's astonishing possibilities as both surface and structure. In their hands the medium's flexibility and facility has been used to explore a breadth of themes - from family relationships to geography, science fiction to ancient history, the natural world to digital technology. Visitors are sure to encounter works that both resonate with personal experiences and inspire new ways of thinking.

This year's exhibition is unique in a number of ways. First, after a hiatus to accommodate celebrations of the Weatherspoon's 75th anniversary last year, *Art on Paper* returns in a new summer time slot. We anticipate that the show will have great appeal to community members on "staycation" and tourists visiting during the summer months. And, the show will remain on view for students to benefit from in the first weeks of the fall semester. Second, this will be the first *Art on Paper* curated by the Weatherspoon's curator of exhibitions, Dr. Emily Stamey, who arrived in Greensboro in Oct. 2015.

Art on Paper offers community members the exciting opportunity to purchase art, as all works in the show are for sale. Proceeds go directly to the artists and their galleries. The Dillard Fund/xpedx generously provides funding for the Weatherspoon to acquire selections from each *Art on Paper* exhibition for the museum's Dillard Collection of Art on Paper, which now numbers more than 500 works of art. That collection includes noteworthy and established artists such as Robert Smithson, Howardena Pindell, Joseph Stella, Louise Bourgeois, and



Pamela Cardwell, "NOLA19" (detail), 2015, Graphite and oil pastel on paper, 17 x 14 in., Courtesy of the artist.

Lee Krasner. Contemporary artists added to the collection through *Art on Paper* include Amy Cutler, Elliott Hundley, Diana al-Hadid, and Rosemarie Fiore.

This year's artists are Julie Alpert, Gerry Bannan, Marianne Barcellona, Maria Berrio, Pamela Cardwell, Martha Clippingier, Steven M. Cozart, Vandorn Hinnant, Matthew Kluber, Annie Lopez, Jennifer Meanley, Tracy Miller, Toyin Ojih Odutola, Renzo Ortega, Andrew Scott Ross, Mariam Aziza Stephan, Caleb Taylor, Barbara Campbell Thomas, Christopher Thomas, Lien Truong, Jina Valentine, Laura Vandenberg, Neha Vedpathak, Amanda Wagstaff, and Saya Woolfalk.

The *Art on Paper 2017* exhibition has been kindly supported in part by a grant from the F. M. Kirby Foundation. Its catalogue is made possible in part by the generosity of the Lincoln Foundation.

The Weatherspoon Art Museum at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro acquires, preserves, exhibits, and interprets modern and contemporary art for the benefit of its multiple audiences, including university, community, regional, and beyond. Through these activities, the museum recognizes its paramount role of public service, and enriches the lives of diverse individuals by fostering an informed appreciation and understanding of the visual arts and their relationship to the world in which we live.

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, call the Museum at 336/334-5770 or e-mail to (weatherspoon@uncg.edu).

GreenHill in Greensboro, NC, Offers Richard Fennell Retrospective

GreenHill in Greensboro, NC, will present *The Edge of Perception: Richard Fennell Retrospective*, on display from June 16 through Aug. 20, 2017. A reception will be held on June 16, beginning at 6pm. On Aug. 16, the artist will give a talk and demonstrate his technique of "working from the edge" from 6-7pm.

Richard Fennell is most widely known for the luminous landscapes, interiors and still lifes he has painted during the past four decades while based in the communities of Whitsett and Grassy Creek, NC.

The vivid palette and Impressionist paint handling that are most often associated with Fennell's style are the result of a lifelong aesthetic drive. Fennell explains, "My work, as personal as it is, is basically the study of light upon form and space. In pursuit of this study, I try to merge a visual truth of what is seen with basic abstract elements inherent in both painting and nature."

As the first comprehensive look at his work, GreenHill's exhibition presents the different means Fennell has used to merge these elements. Fennell's achievement is recounted across over one hundred works in bronze, watercolor, drawing, pastel, painting and printmaking on view in *The Edge of Perception*. A short interview with Fennell can be viewed at (https://youtu.be/mlxvCz_f3hU).

Fennell is recognized as one of the state's leading colorists, and his highly personal vision conveys "not only the landscape but also the elements that make it what it is". A room at GreenHill will present Fennell's large recent paintings of marshes and mountains whose bright hues and expressive brushstrokes evoke the



"House at Damascus" by Richard Fennell

influence of Impressionism.

Many early works gathered for the exhibition have not been exhibited before and include interiors scenes, portraits of the artist's daughter, and watercolors of the figure. Fennell is a leading member of the group of artists who studied with Peter Agostini and Andy Martin at UNC Greensboro who have come to be known as the "Greensboro School".

Included in *The Edge of Perception* are a group of early bronze sculptures which reveal his training with sculptor Peter Agostini who imparted the method of "working from the edge." Early landscapes painted in Whitsett where Fennell owns a century-old former normal school and served for a stint as mayor capture the unassuming beauty of the rural community.

While still a graduate student, Fennell's work was purchased by the North Carolina Museum of Art and soon entered the rosters of corporate and public collections across the Southeast including the

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Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center, Washington, DC; the Kenan Collection, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill; the Greenville Museum of Art and UNC Rex Hospital, Raleigh to name a few.

Edie Carpenter, Director, Curatorial & Artistic Programs at GreenHill explains, "The study of light in his interior scenes and still lifes conveys a very particular atmosphere that would speak to many readers. His iconic paintings of houses in different corners of the state such as Tazewell, Grassy Creek, Hyde County, Scottsville and Nag's Head are lush, light-filled paintings that allow the viewer to see anew the architecture of rural homesteads and small towns that are rapidly disappearing in the Southern landscape."

GreenHill is located on North Davie Street, in the Greensboro Cultural Center. GreenHill is the center for NC art and



"Grassy Creek" by Richard Fennell

promotes the visual arts of North Carolina by engaging a broad community of artists, adults and children through dynamic exhibitions and educational programs while providing a platform for exploration and investment in art.

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings or visit (www.GreenHillNC.org/Richard-Fennell).

AFAS Center for the Arts in Winston-Salem, NC, Has Opened

The sleek new AFAS Center for the Arts, located at the corner of Liberty and Seventh streets, will officially open to the public on Saturday, May 6, 2017. The local nonprofit organization Art for Art's Sake (AFAS) commissioned the 14,500 square foot, three-story building, which was constructed over a period of 15 months.

This latest addition to the city's burgeoning Arts District consolidates several AFAS activities and locations that were previously scattered throughout downtown. The building houses AFAS' headquarters, as well as Red Dog Gallery, Unleashed Arts Center and Studio 2, and a jewelry studio. There are also 10 artist studios available for lease at affordable rates.

The Center's location - adjacent to ARTivity on the Green art park - extends the Arts District's footprint into a previously underdeveloped area of the city.

Harry Knabb, AFAS chairman and chief executive, said the new headquarters underscores AFAS' continued commitment to the Arts District and the city's arts community



The new AFAS Center for the Arts building.

overall, while also ensuring the viability of AFAS for generations to come.

ARTivity on the Green and the AFAS Center for the Arts have both been made possible via generous grants - primarily one from the Thomas J. Regan Jr. Foundation - and both projects have enlisted the professional skills of several local businesses; STITCH Design Shop and Frank L. Blum Construction Co. served as the architect and general contractor for both projects, respectively.

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, call Harry Knabb, AFAS Chair, at 336/416-0089 or Sylvia Green, AFAS Vice Chair, at 336/782-5958.