

Hickory Museum of Art in Hickory, NC, Offers Works by Randy Bacon

The Hickory Museum of Art in Hickory, NC, is presenting *CURATING LIFE: Our Museum, Our Story - A Randy Bacon Exhibition*, on view through June 30, 2024.

In honor of Hickory Museum of Art's 80th anniversary, the Museum is pleased to present its newest exhibition, which celebrates the impact art holds in everyday life. Art plays a role in all of our lives. This is captured in a special project by humanitarian and renowned photographer Randy Bacon.

Members of our community were invited to spend time with Randy Bacon, reflecting on their personal journeys with art and with the Museum. The result is a breath-taking exhibition of still photography portraits, written narratives, and conversation films. The individual films with each participant were woven together into a feature-length film.

Randy Bacon is an award-winning American photographer with an extensive history in portrait, commercial, and documentary photography, both motion and still. Bacon is also co-founder and artist behind the photography and cinematography of the nonprofit, people empowering story movement, "7 Billion Ones". The Museum premiered his exhibition of the same name, "7 Billion Ones", in 2022.

The Hickory Museum of Art is thankful for the generous support from our exhibition sponsors: TSH Charitable Foundation,

ABS Legacy Partners, LLC, Hailey and Scott Lail, The Reyes Family, and annual sponsor Shurtape Technologies.

This project is presented in conjunction with Hickory Museum of Art's 80th Anniversary.

The Hickory Museum of Art has a rich and vibrant history that spans almost eight decades. Established in 1944, the museum has grown to become a prominent cultural institution in the region, showcasing a diverse range of art forms. Over the years, the museum has consistently offered an impressive selection of exhibitions that feature both local and internationally known American artists, allowing visitors to explore various artistic expressions.

With its commitment to supporting emerging talents, the museum has also played a vital role in nurturing and promoting the artistic community in Hickory. Through its educational programs, workshops, and collaborations with other arts organizations, Hickory Museum of Art continues to foster a dynamic and inclusive space for creativity and cultural enrichment.

The museum is located on the SALT Block, on 3rd Avenue NE, Hickory. Admission is free.

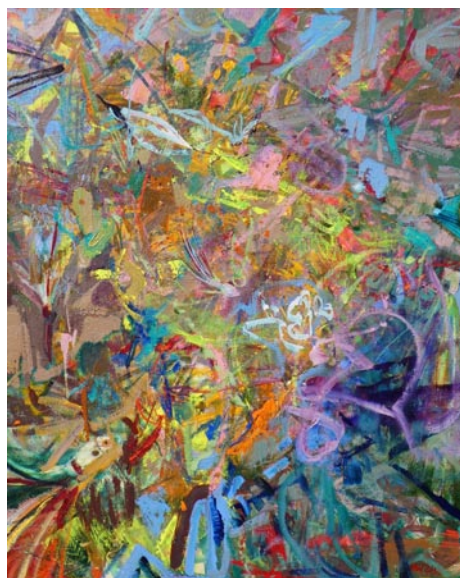
For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, call the Museum at 828/327-8576, ext 201 or visit (www.hickoryart.org).

City Art Gallery in Columbia, SC, Features Works by Mike Williams

City Art Gallery in Columbia, SC, is presenting *Orientation*, featuring works by Mike Williams, on view through Aug. 31, 2024.

Williams offered the following statement, "It begins with a gesture, no plan other than to paint. Guided by instinct and intuition, I explore subjects and materials in an atmosphere of stimulating music that enhances my ability to function creatively and sets my mind at ease. As I work into a rhythm of layering marks and colors, the process unfolds. Each added line, wash, smear, smudge, and scrape has a profound effect on the whole. As a composition begins to emerge, the arduous and often intriguing part of the creative process begins - the analysis."

"What's working? How shall I proceed? I sit and study and give the work a chance to tell me what to do," adds Williams. "If it doesn't speak, I bombard it with more paint, draw on it, scrape it, scratch it or whatever it takes to move the work in a satisfying direction even if that means grinding it down and restarting. I'm an action painter at heart. Action painters act, then think. What I want to make is an exciting painting, unique to me, with lyricism and dynamics drawn from nature and life. I use no formulas to achieve this goal; each piece is characterized by this process and that ensures its authenticity. I do not consider a work complete unless it challenges or advances my understanding of painting."



Work by Mike Williams

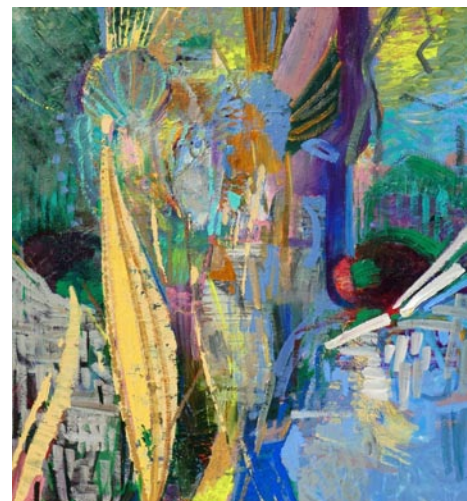
determination to pursue art as a career and that's what I've done for the past 34 years. Memory, metaphor, myth, and the illustration of my experiences in nature, serve as points of departure for my abstract representational work in painting and sculpture."



Work by Mike Williams

"While I love every Bonnard and Vuillard painting I see, the Post War Era and the prevailing philosophies of the Avant-garde movement are what I relate to most. Pierre Bonnard said, "Imagination is merely the exploitation of memory." With respect to purpose, Lucian Freud felt, "It is the only point of getting up every morning: to paint, to make something even better than before, not to give up, to compete, to be ambitious." Without art I'd be lost, therefore I continue to fish for understanding through my daily study and practice of painting."

For further information check our SC Commercial Gallery listings, call 803/252-3613 or visit (www.cityartonline.com).



Work by Mike Williams

Mike Williams, (American b. 1963 in Sumter, SC). He earned a BFA/Painting from the University of South Carolina.

Williams adds, "I was born to be an avid outdoorsman with a love for fishing and a

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Columbia Museum of Art in Columbia, SC, Offers Free Admission This Summer

The Columbia Museum of Art in Columbia, SC, has been selected to participate in Art Bridges Foundation's Access for All program, a transformative, three-year funding initiative aimed at increasing access to museums across America and fostering engagement with local audiences. Through this generous support, the CMA is launching Free Summer at the CMA, a new endeavor that offers all residents of South Carolina free general admission to the museum from Memorial Day to Labor Day.

"We are thrilled and thankful to Art Bridges for their generosity and commitment to expanding arts access across the country and specifically here in South Carolina," says Joelle Ryan-Cook, CMA deputy director. "This opportunity to focus on creative placemaking is so exciting and creates an environment where all SC residents are encouraged to return over and over for new experiences."

Funding provided by Access for All also supports expanded hours and activities, allowing the CMA to open to the public on Mondays during the summer beginning June 3 and to offer new free programs including live music, a silent book club, and tours, along with daily activities including drawing boards and scavenger hunts. Many programs have already launched, with more in development.

Free Summer at the CMA gives South Carolinians free general admission and fun ways to engage seven days a week, providing a vibrant, safe, climate-controlled space for multigenerational arts experiences.

Access for All represents a sweeping effort to get people back to museums after COVID-19 brought declines in revenue, staffing, and attendance. With many museums seeing just 71 percent of their pre-pandemic attendance, Access for All



Visitors enjoying the CMA Collection. Photo courtesy Victor Johnson / Columbia Museum of Art.

aims to restore pre-pandemic levels - and open opportunities for all people to enjoy American art by reducing barriers to access and strengthening community relationships.

Art Bridges Foundation is the vision of philanthropist and arts patron Alice Walton. The mission of Art Bridges is to expand access to American art in all regions across the United States. Since 2017, Art Bridges has been creating and supporting programs that bring outstanding works of American art out of storage and into communities. Art Bridges partners with a growing network of over 220 museums of all sizes and locations on nearly 700 projects across the nation, impacting over 4.1 million people, to provide financial and strategic support for exhibition development, loans from the Art Bridges Collection, and programs designed to educate, inspire, and deepen engagement with local audiences. The Art Bridges Collection represents an expanding vision of American art from the 19th century to present day and encompasses multiple media and voices. For more information, visit (artbridgesfoundation.org).

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings, call the Museum at 803/799-2810 or visit (www.columbia-museum.org).

You can contact us by calling 843/693-1306 or by e-mail at - info@carolinaarts.com but do it before the 24th of the month, at 5pm, prior to our next issue. What are you waiting for?