

# The Durham Arts Council

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unpredictable as ultimately, the past fades, the perception of self is altered, and control is relinquished. The impermanence of time is immutable.

Debra Wuliger uses patterns to bind everything together into a unified whole, and she uses this as a metaphor for the way we live in the world. We live and move through space, carving it into interesting shape patterns every time we shift, relate to an object, or come into the presence of another person. These interconnected shapes unify us with our surroundings and the people we are with.

One of the places where Wuliger observes this interplay of shapes is in coffee houses. There, people of all ages, shapes and sizes gather to commune with one another, a book, or a screen. The in-between shapes bring us all into the same picture plane, creating a whole.

An *Exploration* by Judy Keene showcases her large scale abstract expressionist paintings that resonate color. Her work is on exhibit in the Durham Convention Center pre-function corridor through Oct. 12th, 2014.

For further information check our



Work by Debra Wuliger

NC Institutional Gallery listings, call the Council at 919/560-2787 or visit ([www.durhamarts.org](http://www.durhamarts.org)).

## Gallery C, in Raleigh, NC, Features Exhibition Focused on the Circus

Gallery C, in Raleigh, NC, will present *Under the Big Top: The Art of the Circus*, on view from Aug. 1 through Sept. 17, 2014. A reception will be held on Aug. 1, from 6-9pm.

“The Big Top”, “The Greatest Show on Earth”, these phrases take you back to a time of childhood innocence and wonder. Who hasn’t been seduced by the spectacle, fun, and danger of the exotic world of the circus?

Gallery owner Charlene Newsom brings together 16 artists, ranging from early 20th century to today, who illustrate aerialists, acrobats, jugglers, clowns and sideshow freaks.

The exhibit includes five stone lithographs by 20th French artist Marc Chagall (1887-1985), each a vibrant and lively depiction of circus performers.

Artist Selma Lee (1879-1968) contributes a charming and folksy 1940’s watercolor “County Fair.” Josh George’s acerbic wit gives us the darker side with “Sometimes Bad Things Happen at the Circus” and Robert Broderson portrays the freakish life of the sideshow in “Circus Lady with Donkey Ears”, “Snake Charmer’s Son” and “Jesters”. Louis St. Lewis exhibits “The World’s Smallest Painting on the Head of a Pin.” These 40 artworks offer the viewer a range of interpretations of one of modern art’s favorite themes, The Circus.



Work by Selma Lee

The exhibit is sponsored by Madhouse Underground Productions, a local event planning company. Madhouse will produce the opening reception, which promises to be a festival of fun. Body paint artist Matt Schmidt will festoon the event with his models, painted as exotic circus animals (warning, these animals are not domesticated and contact could be dangerous!) The notorious and ribald Louis St. Lewis will be in attendance as the Master of Ceremonies, accompanied by his entourage of Odd Beauties. This party is not recommended for senior citizens, heart patients or expectant mothers.

For further information check our NC Commercial Gallery listings, call the gallery at 919/828-3165 or visit ([www.galleryc.net](http://www.galleryc.net)).

## Hillsborough Arts Council Features Works by Tom Willis

Hillsborough Arts Council in Hillsborough, NC, will present *Paintings by Tom Willis*, on view from Aug. 29 through Sept. 20, 2014. A reception will be held on Aug. 29, from 6-9pm.

Willis began his exploration of art at an early age. Through his artistic evolution and discovery process he has developed a unique personal vision. His contemporary approach is direct and physical as well as spiritual. Mystery, energy, emotional tension and color are all a part of what make his images work. In these paintings he makes an expressive statement while he resolves the dynamic relationships of the elements within the painting.

Willis is for the most part self trained and has always focused on painting. He has studied art at East Carolina University and the University of NC at Greensboro working with notable artists Francis Speight, and Peter Agostini as well as others. His paintings have been collected in both public and private collections throughout America.



Work by Tom Willis

Willis has won numerous awards and has exhibited at ECU, The Witherspoon Art Gallery, Winston-Salem Contemporary Arts, The Carolina Artists Guild, The Visual Arts Exchange, Fine Arts Carolina and Wake Forest University.

For further info check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, call the Council at 919/643-2500 or visit (<http://www.hillsboroughartscouncil.org/index.html>).



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opening  
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friday  
august 29  
6 - 9 pm

## North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences in Raleigh, NC, Features Works by Amy Sawyer

The North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences in Raleigh, NC, will present *Audubon Revisited*, an exhibit and art sale by Amy Sawyer, on view in the Nature Art Gallery, from Aug. 1 through Sept. 1, 2014. A reception will be held on Aug. 1, from 6-8pm.

Sawyer is a Raleigh native now living in Wake Forest, NC. A lover of art since childhood, she earned BFA degrees in Painting and Drawing and Art Education from East Carolina University, with minors in Commercial Art and Ceramics. Since graduating in the late 1980s, Sawyer has enjoyed creating artwork in a variety of media including watercolor, ink, clay, glass, and copper – and is now exploring forged steel sculpture.

Sawyer draws her subject matter from nature, including insects, birds, flowers, and landscapes. Her new series of work titled *Audubon Revisited* reflects her growing interest in birds. Beginning as a casual observer, she has steadily become an avid birder.

In 2009, 2011, and 2013, Sawyer was one of twelve local artists whose artwork was selected for the City of Raleigh Art-On-The-Move public art program. This program features artwork reproduced as large-format vinyl wraps applied to CAT buses, circulating throughout the city for a period of six months.

Sawyer has also participated in the locally-based, nationally-competitive Mystery Build sculpture competition, winning the grand prize in 2011, and placing 11th in 2013 with the Audubon-inspired piece on display in the Museum’s show.

“My bird paintings began as quick studies of birds done from life, mostly sketched while kayaking at the NC coast



Work by Amy Sawyer

over summer vacations,” says Sawyer.

“After the bus project, having progressed into increasingly detailed renderings of birds, I began exploring John James Audubon’s work. Admiring his masterful compositions and highly animated birds, I created this series of paintings by borrowing from his compositions and replacing the settings with household objects that reflect some aspect of the original work.”

In addition to creating art, Sawyer has worked for the past twenty years as a full-time exhibit designer and builder specializing in history dioramas. She is currently the curator of design for the North Carolina Division of State Historic Sites and over the past nine years she has designed and produced numerous history displays for the division’s museums and visitor centers.

The Nature Art Gallery is located on the top floor of the Museum Store, Nature Exploration Center (main building).

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings or call the gallery at 919/707-9854.

Check us out at ([www.carolinaarts.com](http://www.carolinaarts.com)) or e-mail to ([info@carolinaarts.com](mailto:info@carolinaarts.com))