

Harvey B. Gantt Center

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- to year 2000. AfriCOBRA's membership changed from the founding participants who exhibited at the Studio Museum in 1970 to a different membership after co-founder Jeff Donaldson moved to Washington, DC, in 1972. A third wave of membership began in 1979-1980. *AfriCOBRA Now* will look at work by the current membership formed after Jeff Donaldson died in 2004. This exhibition will reveal the shifting aesthetic of the influential group over their 40-plus year existence.

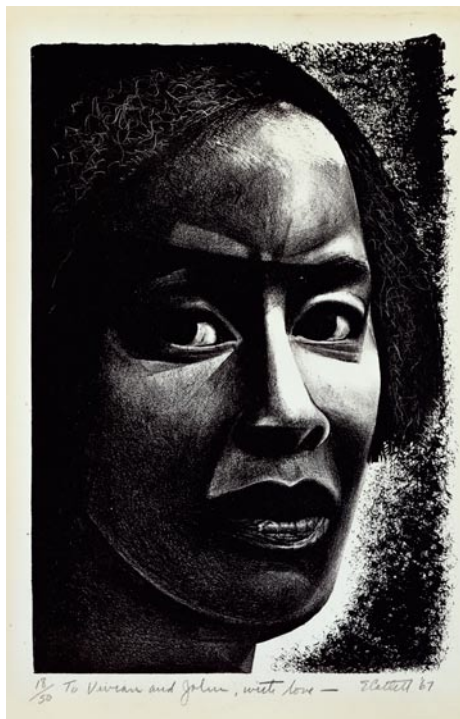
AfriCOBRA was founded in 1968 in Chicago. The five founding members of AfriCOBRA created an aesthetic philosophy to guide their collective work - a shared visual language for positive revolutionary ideas. The group defined its mission as "an approach to image making which would reflect and project the moods, attitudes, and sensibilities of African Americans independent of the technical and aesthetic strictures of Euro-centric modalities."

Over the years, its base of operation was moved to DC; the group lost members; and new members joined. AfriCOBRA is unique in the art world, as it is an artist collective that has remained intact for more than 40 years.

Charlotte Collects Elizabeth Catlett: *A Centennial Celebration* is a centennial commemoration of Elizabeth Catlett's life and work. The exhibition will include examples of her two-dimensional and three-dimensional works, as well as photographs of Catlett. The narrative will also highlight the show coming from, and reflecting, Charlotteans' appreciation and collection of her work.

The history of Elizabeth Catlett expands to more than 70 years of sculptures and print. Catlett celebrated the strength and courage of African American women and Mexican working-class women through her work. She's known for works like *Negro Woman*, *Sharecropper* and *Survivor*. She used her work for social change, illustrating historical figures, women and the relationship between mother and child, and justice for women in the US and Mexico. Some of her best known works depict women as strong and maternal with broad hips and voluptuous, in positions of power, exuding confidence.

Catlett also acknowledged her artistic influences on younger black women. She said that being a black woman sculptor "before was unthinkable....there were very few black women sculptors - maybe five or six - and they all had very tough circumstances to overcome. You can be black, a woman, a sculptor, a print-maker, a teacher, a mother, a grandmother, and keep a house. It takes a



"Head of a Woman" by Elizabeth Catlett (1915-2012). Lithograph (1967). The John & Vivian Hewitt Collection, Permanent Collection of the Harvey B. Gantt Center for African-American Arts + Culture. Generously donated by Bank of America Corporation

lot of doing, but you can do it. All you have to do is decide to do it."

In the exhibition, *Intergalactic Soul*, Charlotte artists, Marcus Kiser and Jason Woodberry bring science fiction and social awareness together to explore a cosmic sci-fi theme that's driven by social, political and cultural undertones.

Imagination meets consciousness to create an exhibition with a message for all to ponder, discuss and enjoy.

Founded in 1974, Charlotte's Harvey B. Gantt Center for African-American Arts + Culture (formerly the Afro-American Center) exists to present, preserve and celebrate the art, history and culture of African-Americans and people of the African Diaspora through dance, music, visual and literary arts, film, educational programs, theatre productions and community outreach. Named for Harvey Bernard Gantt, the prominent architect, community leader and former mayor of Charlotte, the Center is housed in an inspired and distinguished award-winning structure and is home to the nationally celebrated John and Vivian Hewitt Collection of African-American Art, which was generously donated by Bank of America.

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, or visit (www.ganttcenter.org).

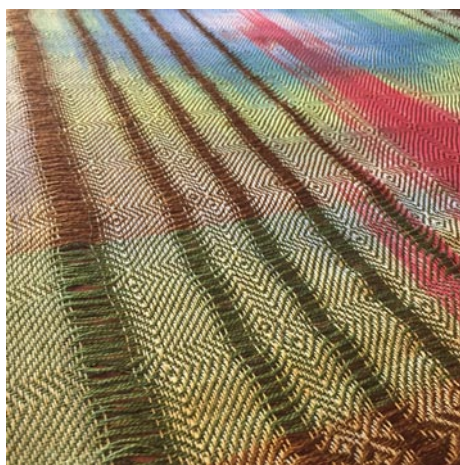
Ciel Gallery in Charlotte, NC, Features Works by Sydney Sogol & Tina Alberni

Ciel Gallery in Charlotte, NC, partners with The Carolina Raptor Center to present *ENTWINED*, a fine art exhibit featuring local fiber artist Sydney Sogol and mixed media paintings and drawings by Tina Alberni, on view from Aug. 7 - 29, 2015. A reception will be held on Aug. 7, from 6-9pm.

To entwine is to wind together or to interweave. This fine art exhibit entwines two totally different and new bodies of work, one concerning endangered birds and the immense impact humans have on the environment and each other, and the other with matters of the mind, body and soul directly informed by intersections with memories, human conditions, current events and parallel realities.

The Carolina Raptor Center is a non-profit organization and will be present opening night, with neat birds of prey artifacts that all ages can enjoy and learn from. Carolina Raptor Center is dedicated to environmental stewardship and the conservation of birds of prey through education, research, and the rehabilitation of injured and orphaned raptors. For more information please visit their website at (www.carolinaraptorcenter.org).

Sydney Sogol is a native of North Carolina. She explores relationships between



Work by Sydney Sogol

color and patterns through various manipulations and non-traditional weaving techniques. For this show, Sogol has specifically focused on the theme of endangered birds. Each piece is hand painted, dyed, and woven in a variety of shapes and sizes, with patterns which embody each majestic creature, the reasons they have become endangered and the loss felt by their absence.

"I want this body of work to provide an avenue for a discussion on how humans and birds interact with, and affect one another,"

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said Sogol.

Tina Alberni is of Cuban descent. She moved to Charlotte from Miami in 2007. Her work explores dreams and opinions through non-traditional methods of painting, combining both graphic and expressive markings. Her hope is that viewers connect at some level with each artwork, find their own stories and bring in their own shade of life into their viewing experience.

"I celebrate rhythms of life and the joys of improvisation by allowing myself to assemble my substrates, meticulously, layer by layer," said Alberni. "Each layer of texture, saturated colors and form, ultimately, come together, I believe, to transcend physical realities and transmute my journey into the best ride I can make it, as somewhere in this process, the chaos of life always finds calm."

Also planned for this art opening are a few interactive experiences ideal for the whole family. We will have a loom on display so folks can learn about the intricacies of weaving, and we will have an intuitive painting experience for all to be a part of as well.

Ciel Gallery is a Fine Art Collective

Lark & Key Gallery in Charlotte, NC, Offers Exhibit Focused on Flowers

Lark & Key Gallery and Boutique in Charlotte, NC, will present *The Language of Flowers*, on view from Aug. 7 through Sept. 26, 2015. A reception will be held on Aug. 7, from 6-9pm.

Flower symbolism has long been a significant part of cultures throughout the world and is often used in art to help express emotion or convey specific messages. In *The Language of Flowers* exhibition, four of the gallery's core artists have created new works with a focus on flowers - pulling from traditional meanings, reinventing them to fit within their own stories, exploring the relationship with other elements or simply honoring them for their beauty.

Each month, the gallery also highlights the work of one of the ceramic artists it repre-



Work by Tina Alberni

representing a few dozen local artists working in a wide variety of media. The gallery is located on E. Park Avenue in Charlotte's SouthEnd district. In addition to three gallery spaces, Ciel hosts a full schedule of art classes throughout the year and for all ages, open studio times, art retreats, and special events.

For more info check our NC Commercial Gallery listings, call the gallery at 704/496-9417 or visit (www.cielcharlotte.com).

sents. Although separate from the exhibit, the work sometimes reflects its theme.

For August, the featured potter is Jennifer Mecca, who creates porcelain forms with floral surface designs and rich color. Julie Wiggins will be the featured potter in September. Wiggins focuses on a surface inlay technique, hand-drawing images inspired by nature on to her porcelain wares.

Lark & Key, located in Charlotte's historic South End neighborhood, offers thoughtfully curated artwork, pottery and jewelry from local, regional and national artists.

For further information check our NC Commercial Gallery listings, call the gallery at 704/334-4616 or visit (www.larkandkey.com).