

City of North Charleston, SC, Features Works by Nicole Robinson & Sarah Harris at the New Park Circle Gallery

As is the case with many arts organizations at this time, the City of North Charleston's Cultural Arts Department is adjusting operations and programming in order to overcome the challenges presented as a result of COVID-19. The indefinite closure of the Charleston Area Convention Center, Performing Arts Center, and Coliseum campus where the North Charleston City Gallery is located has prompted the department to make some unexpected decisions to get back to presenting artwork to the public. For that reason, beginning in August, Cultural Arts will present the monthly art exhibitions originally scheduled for the North Charleston City Gallery at the new Park Circle Gallery.

Formerly known as the Olde Village Community Building, the Park Circle Gallery (PCG) is located at 4820 Jenkins Avenue in the bustling Park Circle neighborhood of North Charleston, SC. Gallery hours are Tue.-Fri., from 10am-6pm, and Sat., from noon-4pm. Admission is free. In addition to the monthly exhibitions, the "gift shop" at the North Charleston City Gallery, which features a variety of items by local artists, will also be moved to PCG. Cultural Arts will also continue to host art workshops and recurring meetings for art groups and guilds in the space once gatherings are safe to resume.

Park Circle Gallery's inaugural exhibitions include photographs by Nicole Robinson of Charleston, SC, and paintings by Sarah Harris of Hanahan, SC. The concurrent solo exhibitions will be on view Aug. 1-29, 2020.



Work by Nicole Robinson

In her exhibit, *Abstraction: Tidal Obsession*, photographer Nicole Robinson presents a series of long exposure tidal landscapes. Robinson is drawn to simple subjects with interesting light, texture, and motion. She uses long exposures in combination with hand panning across her subjects to create a natural abstract image. By inviting this distortion into her work, Robinson seeks an emotional response from the viewer. "There has to be more that you derive from an image than just documentation of being in a certain place or time. If the image provokes thought or questions or stirs desire; there is where I find success of my art," says Robinson.

Robinson is a self-taught photographer who has lived in the Carolinas for more than 25 years. Her work is in many private collections throughout the United States. She has been represented at the Lowcountry Artist Gallery and is a found-



Work by Sarah Harris

ing member of the Catch Light Gallery in North Carolina. She has participated in group and solo exhibitions throughout the Southeast. A construction worker by trade, she considers herself a photographer at heart and draws inspiration from the beauty of the natural world.

Sarah Harris' exhibit, *Abandoned Paradise*, features a series of oil paintings that explore the subject of abandoned and run-down buildings in downtown Charleston, SC. "The abandoned buildings in our city have an unusual and mysterious beauty," she says. "Behind the decrepit walls there is an untold story." Harris begins each piece by photographing her subject and sometimes researching its history. Using her photographs as a reference, she begins each composition with loose, expressive washes of diluted paint and builds up layers to develop more details. She then adds thick impasto painting with a palette knife to mimic the texture and decay of these neglected buildings.

"I want the exterior to pop out of the canvas as though it is three-dimensional," says Harris. "During this process I explore and experiment with oil paint and push it beyond limit." By incorporating a variety of techniques and textures in her paintings, Harris draws attention to some of the possibilities of oil paint as a medium.

Harris earned a BA in Studio Art from the College of Charleston in 2013, with additional studies in Graphic Imagery at Trident Technical College in 2014. As a child, Harris ventured into theater and creative writing. It was not until her early 20's that she fell into the visual arts and developed a passion for painting. Since then, she has exhibited her work in a number of solo and group shows at venues and events throughout the Lowcountry, including the Halsey Institute of Contemporary Art and the North Charleston Arts Fest.

In compliance with safety recommendations from the CDC and SCDHEC, gallery capacity is currently limited to 10 people at a time. Staff and all visitors must wear a mask while they are in the gallery and practice social distancing. Hand sanitizer will be provided upon entry.

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings, call 843/637-3565, e-mail to (culturalarts@north-charleston.org) or visit (www.northcharleston.org).

Horton Hayes Fine Art in Charleston, SC, is Celebrating 50 Years of Rhett Thurman

Horton Hayes Fine Art in Charleston, SC, is presenting a YouTube video, *Celebrating Rhett Thurman: Painting in Charleston for 50 Years!*, featuring 13 paintings which Thurman talks about at (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wJA2XNBPqvA&feature=youtu.be>). In July the painting were on display, but many have sold. They were planning a big splash in May, but then the COVID-19 Pandemic settled in Charleston and South Carolina.

"2020 marks my 50th year of painting in Charleston, and we are celebrating at The Horton Hayes gallery at 30 State Street in Charleston, SC," says Thurman. "My work has never been about subject matter, and remains a pursuit of dazzling light in a fleet-



"Southern Light, Velvet Night" by Rhett Thurman

ing moment. As I say in my video, which I invite you to enjoy, there is still so much to learn, so much to try, and the best painting must always lie ahead. I am convinced that

continued above on next column to the right



"Variety Store, Revisited" by Rhett Thurman

on my dying day I will be saying, 'Hold on! I've got to fix this one little thing!' Trying new things, edging out my comfort zone, trying always to be a better painter will always be my underlying theme."

Thurman grew up in the tiny hamlet of Gramling, SC, at the foot of the Blue Ridge Mountains. "It was the ideal way to start life," she says, "surrounded by loving, caring, high expectation people and beautiful scenery." She has lived in Charleston since 1970 where she has painted her entire adult life. Thurman was one of 10 painters featured in *American Artists in Paris* in 2013. She has achieved national acclaim for both oils and watercolors, winning awards from New York to California, and has exhibited with the prestigious American and National Watercolor Societies, and The Catherine Lorillard Wolfe Art Club of New York.



"23 Years at 241 King St." by Rhett Thurman

Thurman's work has been featured in national publications and is included in private, museum and corporate collections. She is the recipient of the 1995 Outstanding Alumna Award from Queens College in Charlotte, NC, where she earned her degree

in Studio Art. Her education and painting experience include further study in Europe and the United States. In turn, she has taught workshops nationally and internationally. In bold palette, her work offers an intimate glimpse at her life experiences.

Thurman has served as president of South Carolina Watercolor Society (now SC Watermedia Society), was a long standing faculty member with the Gibbes Museum of Art and the Artist in Residence for their Poet and Painters series.

Paintings may be viewed by appointment at Horton Hayes Fine Art. Call the Gallery at 843/958-0014, e-mail to (info@hortonhayes.com) or visit (www.hortonhayes.com). You can also see more of Thurman's work at the Rhett Thurman Studio, at 241 King Street. Make an appointment by calling 843/577-6066 or visit (www.rhettthurmanstudio.com). Thurman is also represented by The Red Piano Art Gallery in Bluffton, SC.

Editor's Note: I've been around Charleston's art community for a while, so I know some things. When I started doing an arts publication I came across some unique people in the visual art community, Willard Hirsch (sculptor), Louis Schwartz (photographer), William Halsey (painter & sculptor) & Corrie McCallum (painter) - they were all part of the end of the first Charleston Renaissance. Then there were the Four Amigos (as I thought of them), four women painters who were as thick as thieves: Eva Carter, Margaret Petterson, Betty Anglin Smith, & Rhett Thurman. They are part of Charleston's second Renaissance. They have all been supportive of our efforts to report on the art community, and we try to be supportive in return, but the best thing is, I love the work all four of them create. In their own individual way, they have all contributed much to Charleston and beyond. Now there is a retrospective exhibition I'd love to see someone present - that would be one heck of an exhibit.

Ella Walton Richardson Fine Art in Charleston, SC, Features Works by Richard Oversmith

Ella Walton Richardson Fine Art in Charleston, SC, is presenting *Tranquility*, featuring works by Richard Oversmith, on view through Aug. 10, 2020.

Oversmith's purpose in painting is to engage the viewer to interact with his pieces. His paintings are his voice, and stroke by stroke, he composes a whole that relates his vision. He primarily works in oil which is a medium compatible with the passion he puts into his creation.



Work by Richard Oversmith

Oversmith received formal training in Fine Art and Illustration at Kendall College of Art and Design in Grand Rapids, MI. While at Kendall he was invited to study at the Royal College of Art in London, England. There he gained essential



Work by Richard Oversmith

experience in plein air painting which changed his direction as an oil painter.

Oversmith allows the setting to speak to him, creating only as many brushstrokes as are needed for the viewer's eyes to understand and connect.

Oversmith finds inspiration not only at home but in his many travels. He has painted all over the USA and has taken several trips overseas to France and Italy. Whether at home or abroad, he surrounds himself in the elements of the scene while

continued on Page 9