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M Gallery of Fine Art in Charleston, SC, Offers Works by Michelle Dunaway

M Gallery of Fine Art in Charleston, SC, will present the exhibit, *Strength and Grace*, featuring a solo exhibition of work by Michelle Dunaway, on view from Sept. 2 - 30, 2011. A reception will be held on Sept. 2, from 5-8pm.

The show will include approximately 23 pieces, ranging from smaller alla prima studies and drawings to larger studio works, portraits and still lifes.



Work by Michelle Dunaway

Dunaway believes that every aspect of creation contains a balance of strength and grace. Strength, according to Dunaway, is that which we are able to bring about through our determination and perseverance, while grace takes care of whatever is beyond our control.

"I believe that sometimes the greatest act of courage and strength is to trust that grace is there even when we can't see or feel it...to persevere and continue to

hope," says Dunaway.

The paintings and drawings in the show represent Dunaway's explorations of these aspects and moments where she has felt the elements of strength and grace come together.

The title piece for the show *Strength and Grace*, actually came to Dunaway in a dream. She woke up one morning with the vision of her cousin Justyne wrapped in her grandmother's handmade quilt. The painting is of a girl "on brink of womanhood wrapped in the creative gifts of the woman who came before her," explains Dunaway. In the painting, strength seems particularly visible in the young girl's eyes, while grace is represented by the grandmother's loving spirit that is implied through the quilt.

Dunaway was raised in Alaska, where her artistically inclined mother encouraged her to draw at a young age, and her father took her on frequent nature walks.

"Nature has also always and continues to be a constant source of inspiration...I remember as a child being fascinated with the smallest nuances, the way a leaf curls and changes colors uniquely, the way the color of the light and time of day seems to infuse an emotional aspect into a moment or place, the way the environment affects the person in it, these things constantly fascinate me as an artist," says Dunaway.

As a teenager, Dunaway lived in New Mexico, where she studied at Art Masters with Lou Maestas. She went on to attend Art Center College of Design in Pasadena, CA, where she studied with Steve Huston, among others. In her mid-20s Dunaway was exposed to the likes of John Singer Sargent, Cecilia Beaux and Jules-Bastien Lepage. During this time, she also attended workshops by Jeremy Lipking and Morgan Weistling. More recently she taught at California Art Institute in Westlake Village and at the Lost Angeles

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Academy of Figurative Art. She now lives in New Mexico. Dunaway was featured in *Southwest Art* magazine's "21 under 31" as one of 21 emerging fine artists in the US.

"There's nothing as exciting and honest as painting from life to me," Dunaway admits. "To paint with the person or subject directly in front of you, well, there is a communication going on... it is a shared moment and is alive and filled with truth." To Dunaway, it is the expression of

honesty that makes a good painting. She believes that to be honest, you must stay true to the inspiration that first draws you to paint a particular subject. With that in mind, she attempts to simplify everything else that is superfluous to that initial inspiration.

For further information check our SC Commercial Gallery listings, call the gallery at 843/727-4500 or visit (www.mgalleryoffineart.com).

Robert Lange Studios in Charleston, SC, Features Works by JB Boyd

Robert Lange Studios in Charleston, SC, is presenting the exhibit, *Solo*, featuring a dramatic and engaging series of paintings that depicts the movement and fluidity of water from a low angle perspective by JB Boyd, on view through Sept. 26, 2011. A reception will be held on Sept. 2, from 5-8pm. Additionally, the artist will be painting in the gallery from 5-10pm, Wed. through Sun., through Sept. 18, 2011.

Boyd's unique and often meticulous painting style captures the smallest details, individual ripples in the ocean, to the grandest gestures, like the smooth gradients of the sky above. The ocean scenes, which place the viewer in the water, create a sense of floating through their deep perspective. These peaceful views relate how simple life can be, but are only simple through their elegant sophistication.

"The instant makes the mosaic of life a reality, and it is the gift of the artist to be able to pick apart, mull it over, slow it down, and refine it into an image," says Boyd. "Ideally the painting is not simply what it is, but becomes something else. That is the transformative nature of painting at it's best."

Boyd starts with a photograph, or more specifically over 3,000 photographs for 15 paintings taken during nearly two dozen individual photo-shoots while swimming in the ocean. He then edits the photos back in his studio, sometimes using several

exposures to create a single in-focus image. Using a transfer process, Boyd then sketches the basic shapes of the image onto the panel on which he paints. The first layer of paint blocks in these shapes and establishes bright tones of color, while the second layer tightens the detail and refines the color to a naturalistic light. Finally, the paintings are glazed with transparent layers of color. This method creates depth and light that emanates from within the painting.

"It is my sincere hope that through no lack of effort, will, and technique I can refine these paintings to the point where the image translates both into a reality and an abstraction for you, the viewer," said Boyd. "And make no mistake, it is your moment, and I hope it is beautiful. Because in the end life is beautiful, and the harder you look the more perfect and complete it may be."



Work by JB Boyd

Boyd's paintings capture the unique quality of Lowcountry light as well as awe-inspiring moments at various times of day. Boyd's painting style is a contemporary

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