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COLUMBIA, SC

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Art Music Poetry Fun

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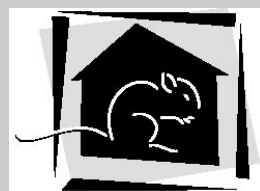
Weekdays 9:30am - 5pm & Saturday, 10am - 2pm

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<http://mousehouseinc.blogspot.com>

The fiber art studio of Susan Lenz
Also specializing in antiquarian prints and mirrors

www.susanlenz.com



MOUSE HOUSE, INC.
FIBER ART & ANTIQUE PRINTS

University of SC - Aiken

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hundred individual works in Lenz's collection. Together, these closely hung, framed works encourage viewers' minds to wander, envisioning forgotten friends, past holidays, ancient occasions, former cars, and hilarious fashion trends.

Buttons! is a brand new exhibition. The mixed media work is Lenz's response to an art administrator's harsh criticism of her "Button" art residency proposal. Told that her work romanticized materials and didn't push boundaries as a professional studio artist, Lenz fought back in the only manner she could. She made art. She also got a 2017 summer art residency at Homestead National Monument in Nebraska where much of the work was created.

"I am indebted to the criticism. It forced me to go beyond the scope of my initial proposal. It made me admit that I do romanticize my materials. In fact, I count on the public's nostalgic association with this humble object. There's nothing wrong with this. Also, I do push boundaries, but this time I pushed a lot harder and the effort paid off," says Lenz.

Since her National Park residency, Lenz has continued to use the seemingly insignificant clothing button to communicate issues of gender, race, politics, relationships, and personal narratives. "My work explores the many functions and possibilities of these ordinary objects while challenging viewers to see buttons as more than utilitarian fasteners". Included in this exhibition are several vintage typewriter advertisement and xylene photo transfers of cemetery angels surrounded by hand-stitched buttons. *His Secrets* and *Her Secrets* each feature forty, crowd-sourced, close-up snapshots of mouths on which large red and pink buttons



Detail of Installation by Susan Lenz are stitched.

Not all the work made in this series will be featured in the Aiken exhibition. A large, altered police practice target with a button bull's-eye called *Ready, Aim, Fire!* was accepted into *Guns: Loaded Conversations*, a Studio Art Quilt Associates national traveling exhibition. It will tour through 2019. Atlanta based curator Dot Moye noticed this piece and requested a similar work, now known as *Second Shot, for Transformers: Artistic Alchemy* at Agnes Scott College's Dalton Gallery in Decatur, GA. This invitational show opens Sept. 13 and runs through Dec. 8, 2018.

"I almost can't believe that my piece will hang along side work by Amy Orr, Sonya Clark, Chakaia Booker, and artists who I've admired for so long. Pushing boundaries has paid off and I'm always on the look out for new ways to use a button."

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings, call the Center at 803/641-3305 or visit (<https://etherredge.usca.edu/gallery/>). For more information about the exhibition, Susan Lenz can be reached by e-mail at (susan@susanlenz.com).

Columbia Museum of Art in Columbia, SC, Features Works by Katie Pell

The Columbia Museum of Art in Columbia, SC, is presenting *Something's Happening: The Big Art of Katie Pell*, on view through Oct. 28, 2018. Organized by the CMA, Pell's first solo museum exhibition is an irreverent rite-of-passage narrative that uses the artist's own life to explore the ordinary side of icons, the exceptional side of ordinary people, and the power of identifying your story.

"This exhibition is bold, ironic, unexpected, and fun," says Executive Director Della Watkins. "The CMA is delighted to bring Pell's distinctive artist-educator brand of wit and charm to the lively South Carolina arts scene."

Pell makes work about life's joys, pitfalls, and big slighted dreams. She embraces the beauty in imperfection and the humor in insecurities, welcoming the downtrodden and enveloping them affectionately in oversized art. She engages an eclectic supporting cast to tell her story, including fallen rock angel Peter Frampton, Jesus of Nazareth, sensitive woodland creatures, and awkward teenagers. With a mix of hippie-era idealism, dark wit, and personal grit, Pell reminds us that we are all performing our lives. We occasionally deserve a little luck and a standing ovation.

"*Something's Happening* is a weird and wonderful valentine to the human condition in all its flawed beauty," says Curator Catherine Walworth, who worked closely with Pell to develop the exhibition. "Our goal was to create a kind of dream sequence that a teenager might launch into while listening to record albums and thumbing through their yearbook."

The exhibition consists of 71 pieces - including sculpture, textile, drawing, collage, and an artist's book - in a sprawling four-gallery installation that creates a visual wonderland of images, materials,



Katie Pell, "Rosy Dawn and Loyalty", 2018, Pastel on paper, 46 x 58 inches

and shifts in scale. It begins with a series of gold-leaf encrusted, hand-altered record album covers and digital prints that conflate 1970s male celebrity musicians with Jesus. In these works, the idolization of rock stars and posters pinned to bedroom walls merge with the gold background of medieval icons as devotional objects of personal salvation.

That spirit of almost unobtainable celebrity status is subverted in the next gallery with Pell's large pastel and charcoal "adoration drawings." Referencing the swirling and buoyantly rounded forms of Baroque art, these drawings serve as backdrops in front of which visitors are encouraged to pose and take photos while being surrounded by adoring woodland creatures offering love tokens.

"I have decided to make work that celebrates a paradigm of love," writes Pell

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The deadline each month to submit articles, photos and ads is the 24th of the month prior to the next issue. This will be Sept. 24th for the October 2018 issue and Oct. 24 for the November issue. After that, it's too late unless your exhibit runs into the next month. But don't wait for the last minute - send your info now. And where do you send that info? E-mail to (info@carolinaarts.com).