

Florence County Museum in Florence, SC, Features Works by Edward Gay

The Florence County Museum in Florence, SC, is presenting *Edward Gay: An American Landscape Painter*, on view through Feb. 23, 2025.

New York based artist Edward Gay (1837 - 1928) began visiting and painting in South Carolina after his daughter Vivien, an architecture student at Cornell University, was married to James Lide Coker, Jr., of Hartsville, SC. Years later, the artist's son Duncan married James Coker's sister, Jennie.

Because of these intermarriages, many of Gay's paintings entered Southern collections.

"There's a story to be told here," said museum curator Stephen W. Motte, "This is an exhibition we have been looking forward to for a long time."



View inside the exhibition

The museum worked with descendants of the Gay family, as well as several art institutions and representatives from Coker University in order to bring the artworks together. The exhibition is sponsored by the Trustees of the Florence Museum.

The exhibit takes a look at Gay's artistic



Work by Edward Gay

development through the lens of his involvement with the National Academy of Design, with a special focus on the works Gay created in and of South Carolina.

The National Academy was the country's most influential art institution in the 19th century. Gay was a member for almost 60 years and was heavily involved in its affairs.

"The foremost purpose is to present Edward Gay as an artist of the Academy, whose work represents a significant transformation in American landscape painting around the turn of the century, which just so happens to coincide with the time he began traveling here," Motte said.

The exhibition includes a portrait of Gay painted by former Academy president Thomas Waterman Wood, and a large canvas of Black Creek, Hartsville, that won Bronze Medal at the St. Louis World's Fair in 1904.

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings, call the Museum at 843/676-1200 or visit (flocomuseum.org).

Frances Marion University in Florence, SC, Offers Works by Mär Martinez & Annual Small Works Show

Frances Marion University in Florence, SC, is presenting the *2024 Small Works Competition*, presented by the Florence Regional Arts Alliance (FRAA), and juried by Mär Martinez. The exhibition is on view at the Steven F. Gately Gallery, through Oct. 3, 2024.

For its eighth year, 78 entries by 41 artists were received from cities throughout South and North Carolina. Twenty-five pieces by 20 artists representing nine cities will compete in this year's exhibition.

The following pieces and artists have been juried into this year's competition:

A Symphony of Pomegranates by Sue Brand, Hartsville, SC; *An Echo of Belonging* by Douglas Gray, Florence, SC; *Auspicious Object* by Luke Sarmiento, Florence, SC; *Benavides* by Julie Mixon, Florence, SC; *Brays Island* by Dale Weatherford, Darlington, SC; *Fences* by Barbara Terry, Florence, SC; *Flea Circus* by Amber Tyler-Elliott, Fayetteville, NC; *Gentle Giant* by Genia Tyson, Florence, SC; *Gitty* by Doug Mcabee, Laurens, SC; *Into the Fog* by Dale Weatherford, Darlington, SC; and *Just Off Bottom* by Gregory Fry, Florence, SC.

Also on view is: *Lichen, Day/Night I* by Brittany Gilbert, Florence, SC; *Mission Shadows* by Patricia Schoelkopf, Hilton Head, SC; *Mooring* by Douglas Gray, Florence, SC; *Pheasant* by Uschi Jeffcoat, Florence, SC; *Portrait of Ryan Mountcastle* by Michael Mitchell, Florence, SC; *Prejudices* by Aldo Muzzarelli, Mauldin, SC; *Pura Vida* by Richard Flowers, Florence, SC; *Shifting Shadows: Shaping Identity* by Delaney Shin, Florence, SC; *Skyscape Triptych* by Mel Schnur, Beaufort, SC; *The Gloomy Shade Awaits* by Jessica Davis, Florence, SC; *The Phoenix* by Jessica Davis, Florence, SC; *Traces* by Julie Mixon, Florence, SC; *Twofold Flood* by Julie Mixon, Florence, SC; and *Wendy's Daughter* by Katherine Rumminger, Liberty, SC.

These works by artists are no larger than 12" x 12" x 12" and will be available for purchase. The show provides a place for the emerging artist to place alongside the professional artist.

Renowned artist Mär Martinez will serve as juror and will award a \$600 (First Place), \$350 (Second Place), \$250 (Third place)



Work by Mär Martinez

and a Juror's Recognition. Martinez said, "I was impressed by the quality and the scope of work submitted to the *2024 Small Works Juried Competition Exhibition*. I selected a range of the wide variety of media and techniques so that it reflects the diverse artistic voices of the applicant pool. I am thankful to the Florence Regional Arts Alliance for giving me this opportunity to see the talent, creativity, and artistry from North and South Carolina."

Organized by the FRAA, the show is hosted by Steven F. Gately Gallery. The show aims to support the downtown economic revitalization efforts by highlighting arts space in the area. The size of these pieces allows for an affordable way for local art patrons to either compliment, add to or begin a personal art collection.

The Florence Regional Arts Alliance is a community-based local arts agency that serves the citizens of Florence County and the Pee Dee. It is committed to preserving, supporting and promoting a vibrant arts community for Florence County and the surrounding region. This organization is funded in part by the South Carolina Arts Commission, which receives support from the National Endowment for the Arts.

Mär Martinez is an interdisciplinary artist specializing in sculptural painting. Her work dissects dominance, aggression and power dynamics through the lens of a culturally-enforced binary system. She received a BFA in Painting and a BA in

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Art History at the University of Central Florida. She is the recipient of the 2024-2025 Fulbright Open Research Award in the Arts. Recent solo exhibitions include: *Handwoven Histories*, GA, *Holding Myself Close*, FL, *Tension Point*, FL, *Push Comes to Shove*, FL, *FRACTURE*, FL, and *Illusions of Safety*, PA. Martinez has attended many residencies around the United States and will be artist in residence this summer at Studio Kura, Japan.

The Steven F. Gately Gallery is a visual arts gallery located on the first floor of Francis Marion University's charmingly renovated University Place Building. The Gately Gallery is an extension of Francis Marion University. The gallery's mission

TRAX Visual Arts Center in Lake City, SC, Offers Works by Alice Ballard

The TRAX Visual Arts Center in Lake City, SC, will present *Alice Ballard: Metamorphosis of Nature's Forms*, on view from Sept. 13 through Dec. 28, 2024.

Alice Ballard (American b. 1945) is a master ceramic sculptor born in Florence, SC. Ballard spent her formative years traveling and living around the world, including Paris, France, with her Air Force family before settling in her current home in Upstate South Carolina.

Ballard's life's work has been centered around observing and interpreting our universal world, and its abundant life forms, into transcendent sculptural statements as a continuing reminder of the deep interconnectedness of all things. Ballard received her Masters Degree in Art from the University of Michigan before becoming a professional artist and educator. Her teaching experience spans five decades and includes artist residencies in southern Alaska, leading classrooms at Charlotte Country Day in the mid-80s, positions at Francis Marion University, Coastal Carolina, Penland School of Crafts, Arrowmont Craft School, the SC Governor's School for the Arts and Humanities Greenville, and Christ Church Episcopal Middle School. Ballard has also led multiple museum workshops including sessions at the Greenville County Museum of Art. Her steadfast commitment to craft and mentorship was formally recognized in 2019 with an Honorary Doctorate Degree in the Arts from Wofford College.



Work by Alice Ballard

As a recipient of a Fulbright grant, Ballard studied in India, was one of eight ceramic artists to be invited to the International Ceramic Colony in Resen, Macedonia, has been supported by the NEA, and received two South Carolina Arts Commission Fellowships. She was awarded an MAC grant through West Virginia University and spent a summer studying in China.

Ballard has had solo shows at the Mint Museum in Charlotte, NC, and the Greenville County Museum of Art in Greenville, SC. A series of ceramic sculptures, *Wild Garlic*, is in the collections of the The Renwick Gallery of the Smithsonian American Art Museum in Washington, DC, Arrowmont School, the Mint Museum of Art, and the Greenville County Museum of Art.

Coker University in Hartsville, SC, Features Works by Mayuko Ono Gray

Coker University in Hartsville, SC, is presenting *This too, shall pass*, featuring works by Mayuko Ono Gray, on view in the Cecelia Coker Bell Gallery, through Sept. 20, 2024.

Mayuko Ono Gray is an artist based in Houston, TX, whose primary medium is large scale graphite drawing. Born in Japan,

is to provide the community with a venue to experience a wide range of culturally diverse regional, national, and international visual artwork from emerging and established artists. The Gately Gallery offers free admission to rotating exhibitions that are designed to inspire and engage the residents of the Pee Dee Region. The Gately Gallery serves as catalyst for downtown development in the City of Florence, a meeting place for artists, art enthusiasts and a place to gather for private events.

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings or visit (<https://www.fmariion.edu/universityplace/gately-gallery/>).



Work by Alice Ballard

Ballard's work traveled as part of *Tradition/Innovation: American Masterpieces of Southern Craft & Traditional Art*, an exhibition organized by South Arts and the Knoxville Museum of the Art.

Ballard recently retired from the classroom but maintains a studio practice in Clover, SC, under the watchful eye of her architect husband, Roger Dalrymple, and their two loving standard poodles. Ballard is represented by Blue Spiral 1 in Asheville, NC, and Cerbera Gallery in Kansas City, MO.

Ballard offered the following artist statement, "My life's work has been centered around observing and interpreting our natural world, and its abundant life forms, into transcendent sculptural statements as a continuing reminder of the deep interconnectedness - and inherent strength - of all things."

"I consider much of my work a form of self-portraiture that documents and celebrates the phases of healing and rebirth related to traumatic events," adds Ballard. "I view life as a spiral that returns us, over time, to important people, ideas, places, and events. To that end, much of the work has required decades of germination before emerging as something tangible in the studio."

"It is my deepest desire that those who connect with my work can share in the calming, grounded narratives that reveal themselves to me during the creative process. "Healer be healed" has become a mantra for me as a reminder of how our eternal stories of struggle, growth, renewal, and hope continue to connect each of us to ourselves, one another, and our very wide, and wondrously brave, natural world."

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings, call the Center at 803/435-3860 or visit (<https://www.traxvisualartcenter.com/>).

she was trained in traditional Japanese calligraphy in her youth and later studied classical Western drawing. Ono Gray moved to the United States following high school and went on to receive for MFA in painting from the University of Houston in 2007. Her work has been exhibited extensively in

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