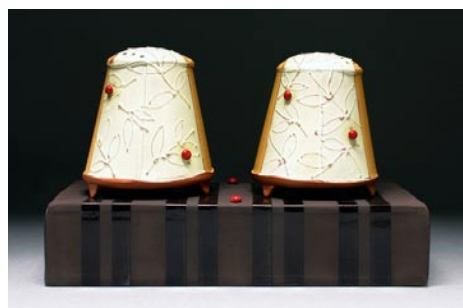


Lark & Key Gallery and Boutique in Charlotte, NC, Features Mixed Media Group Exhibition

Lark & Key Gallery and Boutique in Charlotte, NC, presents *Table Manners: Functional Pottery For The Table, A Feast For Your Eyes*, on view Oct. 5 through Nov. 26, 2011.



Work by Liz Zlot Summerfield

The 2nd Annual *Table Manners* exhibit aims to showcase a diverse collection of functional pottery and bring awareness to the hand-made in conjunction to the homemade. Jennifer Mecca and Amy Sanders, both production potters and busy moms, have taken on co-curator duties for the show, inviting several other 'Mud Mama' friends and mentors to participate.

Mealtime is especially important for families and often revolves around rituals and routines; the use of hand-made plates, bowls and other tableware can enhance these events. Nourishment comes not only from the food we eat, but how we eat and how we choose to serve the food. The combination of homemade and handmade allows us to focus on the moment - the aromas, tastes and textures of the food along with the visual and tactile experience of the vessels.

Exhibiting potters include Mecca and Sanders, as well as Linda Christianson, Victoria Christen, Amy Evans, Ursula Hargens, Allison McGowan, Connie Nor-

man, Gillian Parke, Kari Radasch, Paula Smith and Liz Zlot Summerfield.

The exhibit also features two-dimensional artwork that focuses on the theme of food and table - artwork by gallery co-owner Duy Huynh and guest artists Wanda Steppe and Diane Hoepfner.



Work by Wanda Steppe

A portion of sales from the *Table Manners* exhibit will be donated to Friendship Trays, a Charlotte, NC, based non-profit delivering meals to the elderly, handicapped and convalescing people daily throughout the Charlotte-Mecklenburg area. To learn more about Friendship Trays visit their website (www.friendshiptrays.org).

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

the National Organization of Ophthalmic Rehabilitation (NOOR), the country's singular eye care program. Her most recent trip in September/October 2009 was to meet with various woman's organizations.

Audiences have been captivated by her depth of understanding of the complexities of the history and current situation in Afghanistan and her ability to synthesize this knowledge into moving audiovisual experiences that bring her lectures about her experience to life. Houde's impacting work has been shown in dozens of galleries and her informative multi-media presentations depicting the realities of life in Afghanistan have illuminated audiences.

Houde says, "While in Afghanistan I quickly fell in love with the people I met-- the noble faces of the men, the strength of the women and the poignant beauty of the children whose eyes were windows to their souls. I am not simply looking at the Afghans through my lens, I am capturing them looking back at us."

Houde was awarded a 2006 New York State Council on the Arts Grant to photograph and record the harrowing and untold stories of escape and resettlement in the US, of some of the over 3000 Afghans who

now live in the capital district. She began recording, photographing and exhibiting this material and has seen the healing effects these stories have not only for the teller, but also for the people of their new country whom have also felt the effect of the war in Afghanistan. Her project has helped to bridge the differences and to recognize the similarities between these two groups whose lives have been affected by the horror of war.

This project is one example of how she uses her vision as a photographer to depict the spirit and sacredness of people and their surroundings. The cultural heritage and way of life of many different people are often threatened by global events, war and industrialization. Houde's skill as a photographer coupled with her love of humanity enable her to depict the nobleness of these people and their lands as they strive to keep their autonomy, culture and community alive. While each group maintains its own cultural identity many attributes, expressions and concerns of living are universal, creating a sense of brotherhood, a global village.

For further info check our SC Institutional Gallery listings, call 803/425-7676, ext. 306 or visit (www.fineartscenter.org).

USC Sumter in Sumter, SC, Features Works by Lisa Puryear

USC Sumter in Sumter, SC, is presenting the exhibit, *Everything is Coming Up Poppies!*, featuring paintings by Lisa Puryear, on view in the Upstairs Gallery through Nov. 5, 2011.



Work by Lisa Puryear

Puryear has been painting most of her life. She began her studies as a child, painting first under Mildred White at the Sumter Gallery of Art in Sumter. In High School she worked for famous SC artist Ray Davenport. She was among a select group of young artists to attend the South Carolina Governor's School for the Arts at Furman University in the summer of 1985.

Puryear continued her studies in art at the University of South Carolina under Caralyn Getty, Phillip Mullen, Roy Drasites and Ann Hubbard, to name a few. Puryear is currently a member of the Trenholm Artists Guild in Columbia, SC, and the About Face

group at the Columbia Museum of Art.

Puryear is inspired by many things in nature. Not interested in realism, she takes the object or photo and transforms it into something unique by bringing her paintings to life using a variety of techniques and interesting colors. The artist hopes that looking at her paintings can evoke a sense of peace and tranquility.

Puryear offers the following statement which defines her perspective of her work and goals: "I paint so that I can express myself and create beauty. I have always gotten lost in my art work - I can paint for hours and forget about eating or sleeping. Most of my paintings are inspired by images I've captured in a photo or just by something in my mind. I like taking an image and making it my own - what we see in a photograph is seldom what we are actually processing in our mind. I remember a shape or a color that may not be apparent to everyone. Sometimes the colors I use in my paintings are dissections of the whole - a brown tree might look like blue, red and yellow to me instead of just brown. As an artist I want to stretch the imagination of the viewer."

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings, call Caralyn Getty, Gallery Director, at 803/938-3727 or e-mail at (cgetty@uscsu.edu) or the Gallery Assistant, Laurel Jordan at (jordalau@uscsu.edu).

Providence Gallery in Charlotte, NC, Offers Works by Lita Gatlin

Providence Gallery in Charlotte, NC, will present a one-woman show featuring a selection of fine oil paintings by Lita Gatlin, on view from Oct. 10 - 31, 2011.



Work by Lita Gatlin

This exhibition offers landscapes and figurative works depicting locales throughout the Southeastern United States and Europe.

Whatever her chosen subject, Gatlin seeks to use her canvas in order "to capture life being lived." The beauty of nature and the chameleon-like appearance of the

environment offer Gatlin's keen artistic eye a constant source of inspiration for her atmospheric renderings of the world in which we live.

Gatlin succinctly describes her fascination with the natural world, explaining, "I am always amazed at the colors in nature and how they constantly change due to daylight and atmosphere." In each of her compositions, Gatlin strives to illustrate the effect of these changes on the mood and temperature of each scene.

Gatlin is an Associate Member of the Oil Painters of America. Her paintings have been included in special gallery, juried and competitive exhibitions across the Southeast. As an established, leading artist in the region, Gatlin's work has earned a place in distinguished corporate art collections throughout Charlotte including Duke Energy, the North Carolina Dance Theater and Marriott Hotels.

For further information check our NC Commercial Gallery listings, call the gallery at 704/333-4535 or visit (www.ProvidenceGallery.net).

Fine Arts Center of Kershaw County in Camden, SC, Offers Works by Connie Frisbee Houde

The Fine Arts Center of Kershaw County in Camden, SC, is presenting the exhibit, Connie Houde - Global Village Photographer, on view in the Bassett Gallery through Oct. 28, 2011.

As a photojournalist Houde strives to depict the spirit and sacredness of people and their surroundings. The cultural heritage and way of life of many different people are often threatened by global events, war and industrialization. Houde focuses on the

nobleness of these people and their lands as they strive to keep their autonomy, culture and community alive. While each group maintains its own cultural identity many attributes, expressions and concerns of living are universal, creating a sense of brotherhood, a global village.

Houde first traveled to Afghanistan in 2003. In 2004 and 2005 she traveled deep into the heart of Afghanistan photographing

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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 would be Oct. 24th for the November 2011 issue and Nov. 24 for the December 2011 issue. After that, it's too late unless your exhibit runs into the next month.