

Smith Galleries on Hilton Head Island, SC, Celebrates American Craft Week

This year's American Craft Week celebration, to be held Oct. 7-16, 2011, will bring together individuals, small businesses and organizations from all fifty states in recognition of the countless ways handmade objects enrich our daily lives and contribute to our national aesthetic and economy.

In celebration of American Craft Week, Smith Galleries on Hilton Head Island, SC, will feature two special jewelry exhibitions on view through Oct. 31, 2011.



Work by Victoria Varga

The first one features the jewelry of Victoria Varga, a longtime favorite at the gallery. From her early years in New York, Varga has crafted jewelry that combines precious metals with a variety of materials that are often discounted as ordinary. She has perfected a process of combining sterling silver, 23 karat gold leaf, resin, crushed stone and common artist pigments to create her signature line of jewelry. Instantly recognized for its timeless good looks, Varga jewelry delights both men and woman with its innovative combination of unexpected materials and whimsical design.

A second exhibition features the work of Mary+Lou Ann, newer exhibitors in the gallery. Mary Filapek and Lou Ann Townsend are both trained silversmiths who met while they were students at the University of New Mexico. Their work is truly collaborative and they share equally in all aspects of design and production. They design and produce jewelry in sterling silver, inlaid with polymers. They fabricate the metal framework of each



Work by Mary Filapek and Lou Ann Townsend

piece in sterling or use a mixture of cast and fabricated sterling components. All cast components are created from masters that they have fabricated themselves in silver and copper or carved from wax. The color process is a mixture of both liquid and clay polymers. They create colors primarily through oil pigments and integrate both synthetic and organic materials, such as sugar or sand, to create texture.

Filapek and Townsend occasionally use semi-precious stones for contrast and accent colors. They utilize a surface finishing process of ultra-fine sanding grits to create a semi-gloss surface on the polymers. Each piece is oxidized and scratch finished by hand, creating texture and drama within the silver. Necklaces and pendants are strung on stainless steel cables, sterling cables or non-traditional materials.

Smith Galleries will further celebrate American Craft Week by offering special values on a specific craft medium each day. The gallery will begin with "Clay Day" on Oct. 7, followed by "Jewelry Day" on Oct. 8, "Kaleidoscope Day" on Oct. 10, "Metal Day" Oct. 11, "Glass Day" on Oct. 12, "Sticks Day" on Oct. 13, "Ladies Accessories Day" on Oct. 14 and concluding with "Wood Day" on Oct. 15.

Smith Galleries is located on William Hilton Parkway in the Village at Wexford. Handmade refreshments will be served throughout American Craft Week.

For further information check our SC Commercial Gallery listings, call the gallery at 843/842-2280 or visit (www.smithgalleries.com).

Hilton Head Library on Hilton Head Island, SC, Features Works by Les Bonnes Artistes Group

A Burst of Color comes to the Corridor Gallery at the Hilton Head Library on Hilton Head Island, SC, beginning on Oct. 4 and continues through Dec. 23, 2011. Eleven artists, known as Les Bonnes Artistes, will be displaying their colorful collection of paintings in a variety of media, subjects and sizes.



Work by Dorothy Steelman

Les Bonnes Artistes group was formed by Doris Shay a few years ago and has presented its work in numerous venues over the years. All of the artists are well known in the community, with many of them exhibiting their work in local galleries on Hilton Head Island and in Bluffton, SC. All are also members of the Art League of Hilton Head. They include: Joanna Chalson, Annie Coughlin, Doris Shay, Jo Dye, Evie Kowtko, Joyce Nagel, Bobsy Simes, Barbara Spencer, Faye Willis, Dorothy Steelman and Irene K. Williamson. The group meets monthly to follow the progress of its members and inspire them to seek out new subjects and hone their skills.

A number of the artists are teachers at the Art League's Art Academy on Cordillo Parkway on Hilton Head Island. Joyce Nagel shares her knowledge of the use of pastels, and Joanna Chalson is an expert in printmaking.

Though some artists have decided to express their burst of color by painting clusters of colorful flowers, like Dorothy Steelman's *Hydrangeas*, other artists have chosen abstract themes done in complex collage patterns. Jo Dye's *Apartmental* is a good example of creative mixed media.

Annie Coughlin's watercolor painting titled *Squire Pope Barber Shop*, is a colorful rendering of a quaint local scene. This plein air painting captures the ambience of the shop that is a well-known landmark and is part of the history of the island.

The paintings that comprise this show shout with excitement to catch your eye, but promise to not disturb the library's quiet readers. Irene K. Williamson's *Work in Progress*, is an abstract acrylic painting with some collage elements. Utilizing a piece of copper flashing from her roof and depicting a hand holding a fist-full of nails talks to the craftsmanship of an ongoing project. Her parrot collage offers a silent "Hello."

From the simplicity of Joyce Nagel's oil painting titled *Bird of Paradise*, to the autumn landscape done in oils by Barbara Spencer, there's a visual experience waiting for you. Just stop to view the paintings in the Corridor Gallery.

For info check our SC Institutional Gallery listings, call the Library at 843/255-6500 or Irene K. Williamson at 843/689-5088.



Arts & Seafood Festival Historic Bluffton

Where Fine Art
and the Bounty of
the Sea Come Together

Art & Seafood Street Fest



Saturday & Sunday, October 22 - 23, 2011
Hours: Sat., 10am - 5pm Sun., 10am - 4pm
Over 90 Artists from 10 Different States
Displaying Fine Art



Eric Soller, Charlotte, NC

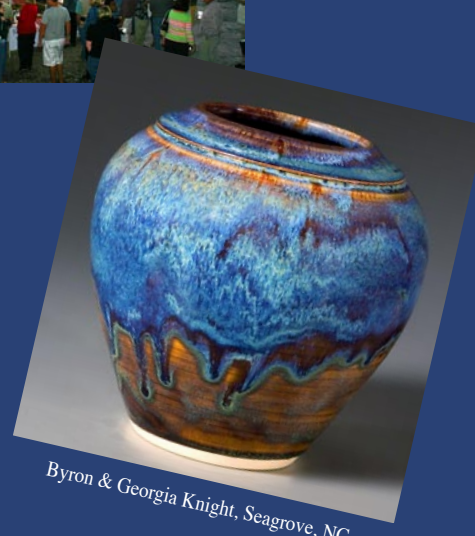


Bryan Yung, Rockville, VA

Local Seafood and Lowcountry Cuisine
Live Music, Iron Chef Challenge and
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Byron & Georgia Knight, Seagrove, NC

October 16 - 23, 2011
Blessing of the Fleet, Daily Gallery
Happenings, Kayak Tours, Author Night,

For a Complete Schedule of the
Week-Long Celebration, Please visit
www.blufftonartsandseafoodfestival.com
843.757.BLUF (2583)