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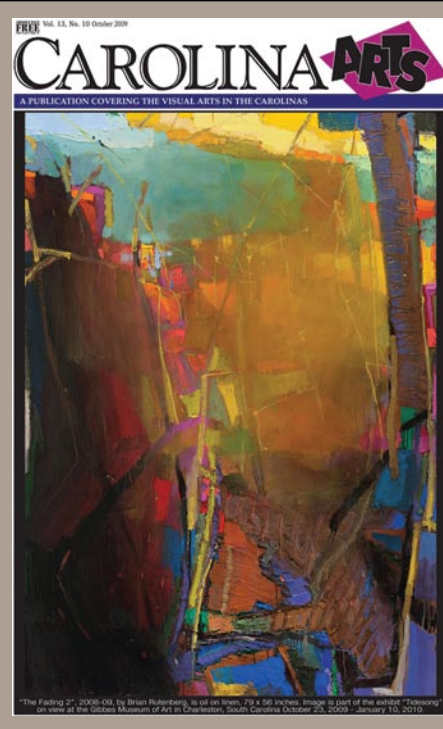
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Stormwater Studios in Columbia

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from 11am-3pm.

Stormwater's resident artists include: Eileen Blyth, Stephen Chesley, Gerard Erley, Heidi Darr-Hope, Pat Gilmartin, Robert Kennedy, Sharon Licata, Michel McNinch, Kirkland Smith, and David Yaghjian. Stormwater, a newly launched nonprofit organization that supports the thriving working artist community in Columbia's Vista district, announces that local painter Malik Greene will join Stormwater Studios as the artist-in-residence in the organization's inaugural BIPOC Residency Program. Funded by an anonymous donor and matched with funds from One Columbia for

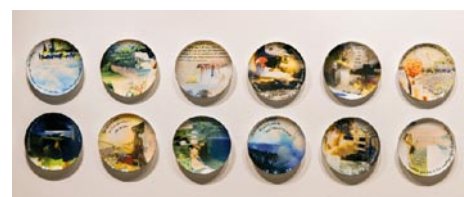
Arts and Culture, this one-year residency program was created to reflect the greater art community at Stormwater by building a more inclusive culture that encourages, supports and celebrates diverse voices. As a resident, Greene will occupy one of the 10 working artist studios at Stormwater Studios, participate in the bi-annual group shows as well as the operational duties that keep the gallery open to the greater Columbia community.

For further information check our SC Commercial Gallery listings or visit (www.StormwaterStudios.org).

University of South Carolina in Columbia, SC, Features Works by Sophia Brueckner

The University of South Carolina in Columbia, SC, is presenting *Unrequited United: Sophia Brueckner*, on view in the McMaster Gallery, at the School of Visual Art and Design, through Dec. 6, 2024.

Brueckner offered the following artist's statement, "*Unrequited United* explores Amazon Kindle Popular Highlights in romance novels. A passage in a Kindle e-book becomes a Popular Highlight after a certain number of people independently highlight the same passage. Popular Highlights show up as underlined text along with the number of people who highlighted that passage. I expected that romance readers might highlight the smutty parts, but, surprisingly, they are predominantly highlighting passages about grief, loneliness, and trauma. These often heartbreaking passages are not the sort of thing that people would broadcast on social media. They aren't something people are bookmarking to return to later or posting on Goodreads. The anonymity of



Works by Sophia Brueckner

Popular Highlights allows people to show vulnerability and empathy with feelings they might be reluctant to reveal on other social media platforms."

"Since 2010, I have collected thousands of Kindle Popular Highlights from romance novels into a database," adds Brueckner. "Over one hundred thousand individual acts of highlighting were used to determine the content for these artworks telling the story of the intense loneliness, grief, vulnerability, and discontent felt by the readers. This work reveals a glimpse of a positive, anonymous social network emerging unintentionally—continued above on next column to the right

ally through this minor Kindle feature. With this ongoing project I draw attention to this existing example of collective social support in order to change society's vision for the future of social technologies."

Sophia Brueckner is a futurist artist/engineer who researches how technology shapes us. Inseparable from computers since the age of two, she believes she is a cyborg. As a software engineer at Google, she designed and built products used by tens of millions. At RISD and the MIT Media Lab, she researched the simultaneously empowering and controlling aspects of technology with a focus on haptic and social interfaces. Since 2011, Brueckner has taught Sci-Fi Prototyping, a course combining science fiction, extrapolative thinking, building prototypes, and technology ethics. The class and the students' projects received international recognition and were featured by *The Atlantic*, *Smithsonian Magazine*, *Wired*, NPR, *Scientific American*, *Fast Company*, and many others.

Brueckner's work has been featured by *Artforum*, *SIGGRAPH*, the Peabody Essex

Museum, Leonardo, Eyeo, ISEA, and more. She was an artist-in-residence at Autodesk Pier 9 and Nokia Bell Labs E.A.T. She is currently an associate professor at the Stamps School of Art and Design and co-director of the Center for Ethics, Society, and Computing (ESC) at the University of Michigan. Her ongoing objective is to combine her background in design and engineering with the perspective of an artist to inspire a more positive future.

McMaster Gallery, located in the basement level of the McMaster Building, on Senate Street, is dedicated to promoting visual art as a tool and a channel for education within the university and the community. The gallery hosts rotating exhibitions and programming that examine cultural and social contexts, challenge contemporary perceptions of art making, and provide a framework for intellectual and creative inquiry.

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings, call Olga Dickey, Gallery Director, at 803/422-4289 or e-mail to (yukhno@mailbox.sc.edu).

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