

Catawba Valley Pottery Festival

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a mission to showcase the history of Catawba Valley alkaline glazed stoneware and the potters who continue to produce this traditional utilitarian ware. Development and growth have allowed the festival to include potters from across the state and the South, as well as dealers offering historical pottery and antiques, providing a context for understanding the history and use of pottery in the South. The

festival is a non-profit event benefiting the Historical Association of Catawba County in Newton, NC, and the North Carolina Pottery Center in Seagrove, NC. More than \$500,000 has been donated to the institutions over the past 25 years.

For additional event details and ticket info visit www.catawbavalleypotteryfestival.com.

Orangeburg County Fine Arts Center in Orangeburg, SC, Offers Retrospective of Works by Susan Livingston

The Orangeburg County Fine Arts Center in Orangeburg, SC, will present *Retrospection • Introspection: Works by Susan Livingston*, on view in the Lusty Gallery, from Mar. 5 through May 31, 2024. A reception will be held on Mar. 13, from 6-8pm.

Every major event in Susan Livingston's life has found expression in the fiber and mixed media works she has created over the years. And each work comes with a history or story, that inspired the work or was inspired by the finished piece. She calls this collection, spanning over four decades, *Retrospection • Introspection*.

Self Portrait (1981) is the earliest piece in the exhibition, which she calls the beginning of *Retrospection • Introspection*. "I started this when I was pregnant with my daughter. It was a self-portrait that became a little bit more," says Livingston. An arm resting, horizontal, and delicately visible beneath the tunic-shaped fabric, has acquired more meaning. "The arm is under there because I couldn't figure out how to handle the stitching there. Now it seems to represent the arm I have a little bit of a problem with due to dead nerves. Someone else pointed out that when you're pregnant that is very often how you stand."



"Self Portrait" by Susan Livingston

Like *Self Portrait*, Livingston's work, over the years, has not only taken on depth of meaning but a deepening, exquisite symbolism expressed through placement of

found objects she's integrated and stitched into acquired and rendered fabric. She has undertaken this with the competencies that only a mastery of needlework and imagination could accomplish. *Life is Round* (2023), which could be described as the work that inspired the title of the exhibition, gives new meaning to the term "work of art," through its intricate patterns of illustrations. The magnetism evoked by its stitching, embracing of found and treasured objects narrate the meaning of life as Livingston perceives it in this period of her life.



"Life is Round" by Susan Livingston

"You start thinking back about what you have done, what you want to do, and how what you've done in the past influences where you are now," adds Livingston. "*Life is Round* is based on our beginnings, our middle and how we circle back to different parts. Life is round. We begin life as a small egg, developing our many character traits within. As each of us leaves the womb, we move into our first nest. We grow and our nests become more elaborate, expanding with our needs. With age, we often return to our smaller, more intimate nest, surrounding ourselves with memories and family."

She Stands Alone (2022) is a statement piece from Livingston, whose years included the eras that saw the rising profiles of women pursuing roles outside the home, inserting their voices and choices but still facing the persistent realities of misogyny and exploitation. It is a formidable abstract, stark, effectively forbidding, meant to evoke the many



"She Stands Alone" detail by Susan Livingston stories that will remain untold even with the "Me Too Movement."

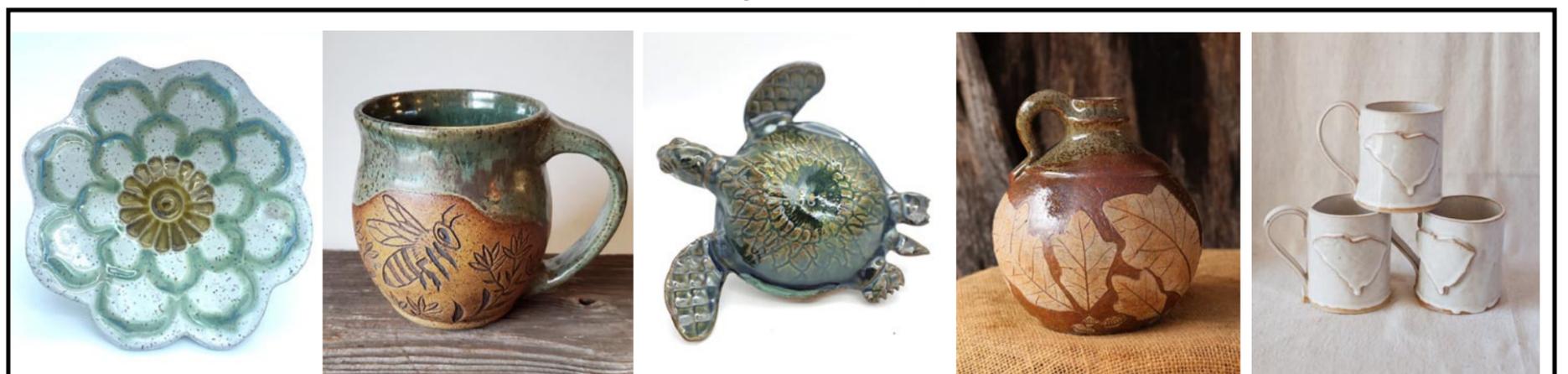
"We think the women's movement has made great strides, but we still have to keep fighting and still try and stand up for ourselves." She in *She Stands Alone* is positioned in the top right of the piece, her sword arm out, ready to defend herself. "To me it's a position that as a woman we're in often and it's sad to me that we are still in that position quite often. This is my tribute to the 'Me Too Movement' and I feel like it's a very special piece," says Livingston.

In Livingston's Artist Statement she says, "For many years, I have been using a needle and thread to explore, to define, to illustrate — each piece becomes a part of my personal biography. I often feel my work is simply a representation of the many ongoing conversations I have with myself."

Retrospection • Introspection is a very special conversation, an intimate collection that communicates stories that can be deeply heard through what we see.

The Orangeburg County Fine Arts Center, is located on Riverside Drive, in Orangeburg.

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings, call the Center at 803/536-4074 or e-mail to Vivian Glover at vglover@orangeburgarts.org.



HERITAGE TRAIL

pottery tour and sale

Saturday, April 27th, 10 am - 5 pm

Sunday, April 28, 12 pm - 4 pm

8 potters, 5 locations in Edgefield County, SC

Groundhog kiln opening at 9am

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