

# Sunset River Marketplace in Calabash, NC, Features Works by Eric McRay

Sunset River Marketplace art gallery in Calabash, NC, is presenting *Eric McRay: Contemporary Modernist*, on view through May 1, 2021, gallery owner Ginny Lassiter has announced. A reception to meet the artist is scheduled for Apr. 9, from 4 – 7pm and a gallery talk by the artist is set for the following day, Apr. 10 at noon.

McRay's artwork overflows with bright colors, expressive styles and energized designs. In this body of work, he has used non-objective abstraction in the tradition of the New York School of the 1940s and 1950s. His focus is on subjective emotional expression with a particular emphasis on spontaneous creative actions. The exhibition will include over 20 abstract works in acrylic.

"Eric's work is so vibrant, so moving. I can't wait to have it in the gallery," Lassiter says. "I first met Eric years ago at an Artspace fundraiser in Raleigh. My husband and I bought his painting! I've been wanting to bring him to Calabash ever since, so I'm thrilled that our schedules finally jelled."

A native of Washington, DC, McRay received a BFA degree at the Maryland Institute where he earned a four-year scholarship for his artistic talent. Now living in Raleigh, NC, the high energy painter has been featured on television and radio as well as numerous newspapers, magazines and online media outlets. The *Raleigh News & Observer* named him one of the "Artists to Watch." He has been featured in *Our State Magazine* and *Southern Living*.



Work by Eric McRay

psychological and spiritual content."

"When someone collects abstract art it can be for investment," add McRay. "It could be decorative reasons because they want something that looks visually engaging, but no pictures of people or things. Someone may buy abstract art because of how it affects them emotionally, as I stated before based off the colors, shapes, textures and so forth."

"Now concerning someone buying art only because that work is produced by me. That is also a possible factor, because I've spent a lifetime building my brand and reputation so someone will invest in my work versus someone else. For example, someone goes into a restaurant and asks for Coca Cola. They don't ask for RC Cola."

"Once again abstract art isn't necessarily about the specific thing you see, but how does that image make you feel. Instrumental music whether techno, jazz, classical, or Muzak; all have an impact on others yet have no lyrics. That is Abstract Art!"

Located in coastal Brunswick County, Sunset River Marketplace caters to both tourists and a growing local community of full time residents seeking fine art for their homes and businesses. Featuring work by approximately 150 North and South Carolina artists, the eclectic gallery is well known in the area for its collection of oil paintings, watermedia, pastels, photography, hand-blown glass, fused glass, pottery and clay sculptures, turned and carved wood, unique home décor items and artisan jewelry.

There are two onsite kilns and five wheels used by the gallery's pottery students. Art classes are currently being offered on a limited basis. Call the gallery for details.

**Special COVID 19 Notice:** To meet North Carolina State mandates, Sunset River Marketplace requires that patrons wear face coverings and requires the use of hand sanitizer plus six-foot social distancing between gallery visitors and at the cash register. The gallery staff conducts thorough cleaning of surfaces upon opening and closing and during the day and has placed complimentary hand sanitizer throughout the gallery for visitor use. A Frame Center is located within the gallery, call framer Louis Aliotta directly at 910/368-7351 for further info.

For further information check our NC Commercial Gallery listings, call the gallery at 910/575-5999 or visit ([www.sunsetrivermarketplace.com](http://www.sunsetrivermarketplace.com)). Daily updates are available on the gallery's Facebook and Instagram pages.



Work by Eric McRay

Collectors of his work include the SAS Institute, Duke University Medical Center, North Carolina Central University Art Museum, University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill, and Western Wake Hospital. McRay was also a participant in the US State Department's Art In Embassies program, which displayed his work at the U.S. Embassy in Copenhagen, Denmark.

Asked recently by a collector why people buy his art, McRay answered this way: "Some collect abstract art because it does not have a specific subject matter. There can be a broad range of reasons why someone would buy a piece of abstract art. For example, someone may like Krispy Kreme, someone else may like Dunkin Donuts. It's subjective and a matter of taste. With abstract art, it's how someone may feel emotionally when they see the piece of artwork (similar to when they listen to classical music or jazz music). Neither has lyrics, but they have emotional content. Abstract art has emotional,

So you're the Marketing Director of a visual arts organization, art museum, arts center, arts council or artist guild and you're wondering why you never see the exhibits presented at your facility included here. Maybe you're the owner of a commercial art gallery and you've never seen your exhibits included with others presented in your area.

You might even be an individual artist who is having an exhibit in a non-profit space or commercial space and you don't see your exhibits included.

My question to you is - How long will you put up with that before you ask someone, "Why that is the case?" If you're not included - it's your fault.

## Official Art Show of the Azalea Festival



Artist: Janice Castiglione

# ART Show & Sale

39TH ANNUAL JURIED SPRING SHOW & SALE

SHOW DATES: April 3 – APRIL 11, 2021

Hannah Block Historic USO/Community Arts Center

Face Mask & Social Distancing will be Encouraged

Saturday, April 3rd - Thursday, April 8th, 10am - 5pm

Friday, April 9th - 10am - 7pm

Saturday, April 10th, 10am - 5pm

Sunday, April 11th, 10am - 4pm

Presented by the Wilmington Art Association

Design by: MeffDesign



## Art League of Leland in Leland, NC, Offers Annual Exhibit and Sale - May 1 & 2, 2021

The Art League of Leland (ALL) in Leland, NC, will host "It's ALL Art," its annual art exhibition and sale, on May 1 - 2, 2021, at the Brunswick Forest Fitness & Wellness Center. The venue is located at 2701 Brunswick Forest Parkway, Leland, NC 28451. Event hours on May 1 are 9am-4pm and 10am-3pm on May 2. The event is free and open to the public.

The exhibition and sale will include original artwork by 2-D and 3-D artists from the Cape Fear region. Artwork on display will consist of oil, watercolor, acrylic and pastel paintings, photography, mixed-media art, hand-thrown ceramics, as well as fiber, glass, and wood artwork. Three People's Choice Awards will be voted on by visitors to the event.

ALL President Ricardo Perez said, "With more time at home, many artists are exploring and expressing their individual passions through their artwork. The power of art to revive our souls, inspire, and cre-

ate magic can be found at this year's art show. Connecting people with local artists enriches our community. It also provides the opportunity for art enthusiasts to collect unique regional works."

ALL's event will feature a variety of raffles to benefit the youth programs at Dreams of Wilmington. Established in 1996, Dreams is a youth development organization dedicated to building creative, committed citizens by providing youth-in-need with high-quality, free programming in the literary, visual, and performing arts.

The Art League of Leland is a 501(c)(3) organization, and its mission is to encourage, guide, support, inform, and provide learning opportunities for local artists and art enthusiasts. Adults living in the southeastern North Carolina area are welcome to become a member.

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings or visit ([www.artleagueofleland.org](http://www.artleagueofleland.org)).

## Waccamaw Arts & Crafts Guild Offer 49th Art in the Park in Myrtle Beach, SC - Apr. 24 & 25

The Waccamaw Arts & Crafts Guild will hold its 49th Art in the Park event at Valor Park, Market Common (old Air Force base), Myrtle Beach, SC, on Apr. 24 & 25, 2021, from 10am-4pm.

Art in the Park (AIP) is the Grand Strand's premier outdoor show and sale, hosted by the oldest art guild in the area, Waccamaw Arts & Crafts Guild (est. 1969). Since 1972, Art in the Park has hosted artists from all over the country working in a variety of mediums. Artists are required to submit original works or



reproductions of their original works.

The extraordinary success of AIP relates directly to the high quality of the art and fine art crafts that are juried into these shows. Art in the Park, Myrtle Beach, SC

continued on Page 27