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Tapp's Art Center in Columbia, SC, Offers Work by Baba Seitu Amenwahsu

The Tapp's Art Center in Columbia, SC, will present *BA AKHU: A New Vision*, featuring works by local artist, Baba Seitu Amenwahsu, on view from May 3 - 28, 2018. A reception will be held on May 3, beginning at 6pm, during the First Thursday Art Walk.

Baba Seitu Amenwahsu is a BA AKHU Mystic (Baba), visual artist, spiritual/holistic healer and International Representative of BA AKHU MYSTICAL HEALING MOVEMENT, an Autonomous and Independent Spiritual Institution in Columbia, SC.

Baba Amenwahsu is a versatile artist and spiritual educator who utilizes a range of spiritual healing modalities, i.e., Reiki, sound, color, dowsing/radiesthesia, reflexology/color zone therapy, meditation, dream work, chakra work, as well as the visual arts.

His formal education includes Columbia area schools, Howard University; Master Of Fine Arts (MFA) Art Studio Painting, 1994 - 1996, Benedict College; Art Education Teacher Certification K-12, 1986 - 1987, University Of South Carolina; Art Studio Painting, 1981 - 1984, and Spartanburg Methodist College; Liberal Arts, 1979-1981.

Baba Amenwahsu is a self-taught musician, singer, composer, Afrikan drummer, jazz vocalist, and flutist, and instrument maker who plays numerous other instruments.

He has 40+ years as a visual artist and participated in many visual art exhibitions mainly in the southeastern region of the United States, 30 years in public school education, K-5 in South Carolina public schools and has taught college level courses at Allen University and at Howard University.

He is a retiring art teacher from Richland School District One at the end of the 2018 school year.

Baba Amenwahsu is married to Sufia Giza Amenwahsu, an Ancestrally inspired artist, Reggae Dub-Poetess, Ethno-Botanical Historian, Documentarian and Film-Maker.

Baba Amenwahsu's art work represents his interpretation of his spiritual path he founded called, BA AKHU, (Soul of Light).

He creates art in the painting medium that promotes spiritual healing which is all at once meditative, transformative and evolutionary through the visual aesthetic of this spiritual path.

The prophetic message intended in his work speaks to his belief in the liberation and restoration of African people to their rightful place as the parents of world civilization and that the Afrikan human being is a divinity by nature. His paintings reflect his and humanity's journey as divinities to realize and awaken to this state of awareness and being-ness that is on-going and evolutionary.

Baba Amenwahsu work in the painting medium on canvas and paper is polyrhythmic, multi-colored, multi-patterned with



Work by Baba Seitu Amenwahsu

multi-dimensional layers of colors, human figures, African symbols and geometric shapes. The spiritual writing symbols in his work are called, 'Blue Spirit Mumbins'. They are the written expression of chants and mantras that where channeled through him by the spirit of God and his African Ancestors. As founder of the tradition of BA AKHU and its visual art aesthetic, 'Ba Akhu Hemut', he uses these visual icons along with a patterned aesthetic to create a vibrational and rhythmic sensation in the eye of the viewer as well as to feed his own spiritual and emotional sensibility in music. Baba Amenwahsu sees, hears and feels color, rhythm, pattern, texture, lines, symbols and shapes in his subconscious mind and spirit.

It is the goal of his work to introduce *BA AKHU; A New Vision* to the world and help develop and bring the image of the subconscious into the conscious, unveiling the true nature of the divinity within and to share that vision with humanity. He creates these works to reflect the creative aspects and cosmic processes through which God created the universe through the spoken word.

The spiritual figures and beings of light in his work portray the process through which God created the universe and is creatively spontaneous, evolutionary, changeable, transformative, refigured, transmuted, forever-planned, improvisational, rhythmically innovative and forever happening. Human figures are almost always an important feature in his work. The figures in his art are overlaid with the rhythmic patterns, lines, shapes, and colors to express the energetic principles reflecting the life-giving spiritual force or Holy Spirit, reflecting values that ultimately will help to move Afrikan people and humanity in general to the next logical stage of evolution which is to become Soul Beings of Light, BA AKHU!

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings, call the Center at 803/988-0013 or visit (www.tappsartscenter.com).

Fine Arts Center of Kershaw County in Camden, SC, Features Work by Laurie Brownell McIntosh

The Fine Arts Center of Kershaw County in Camden, SC, is presenting *Environmental Abstraction* by Laurie McIntosh: A Solo Exhibition, on view through May 11, 2018.

Above the main drag of South Carolina's famed Revolutionary War town turned horse racing mecca, in a light-filled, brick-walled loft, a jumble of paintings in various stages of completion are pinned to walls, resting on easels and lying on tables. To the casual observer - and even to one familiar with artists' studios' the scene is chaotic. How can an artist work in this cabal of canvas, paint, brushes, and wood, jumbled in no particular order, with a solo exhibition looming in a few weeks?

For Camden artist McIntosh, whose abstract paintings involve deconstructing ordinary aspects of life and reconfiguring them into finished works, the scene is life imitating art. As she moves through her studio, she knows exactly what needs to be done before her exhibition at the Fine Art Center of Kershaw County.

McIntosh explains that while her abstracts involve recognizable objects from her life that is split between South Carolina's Midlands and the coast - an architectural element here, a comfortable old chair there and what appears to be a piece of horse tack in another - each one is like a remnant of a dream. Fleeting images rendered in a soothing color palette stir memories and emotions, creating more questions than answers. As such, McIntosh says her work is intentionally open to interpretation.

"The objects one might recognize in my paintings are not exclusively my story. They are pieces and parts of life in the South that connect with my viewer's memories and prompts them to put together what they see into their story. While my new works are an intimate look at my experiences, they are also personal to the viewer who sees their own life reflected in them," McIntosh said.

In addition to the main exhibition,



Work by Laurie Brownell McIntosh

McIntosh has collaborated with poet Elizabeth Wynne Marshall, on four new images. Marshall was raised in North Carolina, attended school in Virginia and Paris, moved to New York to work on Madison Avenue, but is thrilled to now call McClellanville home. She and her husband Bennie, both former Camdenites, are currently restoring an old Victorian home which she lovingly calls Mersea.

Over the course of her 35-year career in the arts, the last 23 of which have been dedicated to painting, McIntosh has participated in over 30 exhibitions of her art. Her work is also collected by both corporate and individual collectors. The Fine Arts Center exhibition will be her first in Kershaw County since relocating to Northlight Studio in Camden after seven years as a full-time resident artist at Vista Studios in Columbia.

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings, call the Center at 803/425-7676 or visit (www.fineartscenter.org).

The Summer of Glass Will Take Place in Western North Carolina - May - October, 2018

The Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina have long been associated with the art of glass and for years, Asheville's creative magnetism has drawn in masterful glass blowers, makers and artists.

From May through October 2018 - coinciding with a new exhibition at Biltmore of multi-media artist Dale Chihuly's monumental glass sculptures - the community will celebrate both the historical and contemporary context of glass and its talented artists in Western North Carolina.

The *Chihuly at Biltmore* exhibition will be at the estate from May 17 through Oct. 7, 2018. The exhibit will be on display in the Winter Garden of Biltmore House and the Estate's stunning gardens. For the first time, Biltmore will also host an evening experience in the gardens offering views of the sculptures after dark each Thursday through Sunday night.



Biltmore House and Gardens

Alongside the Chihuly exhibition, the Asheville and regional glass community offers its own community-wide celebration of glass through special local exhibitions (<https://www.exploreasheville.com/>



Chihuly photo copyright ©Chihuly Studio, courtesy of The Biltmore Company.

summer-of-glass/where-to-see-glass/), tours, workshops and events. Demonstrations of glass blowing, glass jewelry making, stained glass, enameling and working with glass beads will occur in artists' studios, galleries and other locations across the city and surrounding region.

Asheville's reputation as an arts destination is well known, but there are still under-the-radar parts of the art scene to explore. While many associate Western North Carolina with the pottery tradition, the region was more recently pivotal in the development of another field: studio glass. If you're not familiar the Asheville area is a great place to start discovering this extraordinary art form.

While immersing yourself in Asheville's celebrated arts scene, checking out local studio glass artists is a must. There are a few reasons Western North Carolina's studio glass community is considered world-class.

Bringing glass beyond the functional

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