

Society of Bluffton Artists

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Work by Christy Chen

father was an artist, and my two older sisters as well," says Chen, who prefers to work in acrylics but isn't afraid to try new methods. "Art was always being created in our home. Drawing, painting, and even sewing. It just seemed very natural to us." Chen has been a professional artist for nearly 30 years, selling her artwork in all 50 states, Canada, Mexico and Paris, France. She has lived in Bluffton the past eight years. "It is a wonderful place to be an artist," says Chen.

SOBA is the heart of the flourishing art



Work by Christy Chen

hub in Old Town Bluffton's historic district at the corner of Church and Calhoun streets. As a non-profit art organization, SOBA offers regular art classes, featured artist shows, exhibitions, scholarships, outreach programs and more.

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings, call the Society at 843/757-6586 or visit (sobagallery.com).

Hampton County Arts Council in Hampton, SC, Features Works by Amiri Geuka Farris

The Hampton County Arts Council in Hampton, SC, will present an exhibit of works by Amiri Geuka Farris, at the Palmetto Theater, beginning on June 19, during the Juneteenth celebration. The exhibit will be on view through July 8, 2022, concluding with an event featuring Farris painting live on-stage during a concert headlined by Grammy-Winning drummer Quentin Baxter of Ranky Tanky Fame, and his Quentin Baxter Quintet, offering a unique evening of art and entertainment.

Farris, a multi-disciplinary contemporary artist known for dynamic, powerful artwork that combines an alluring blend of vivid colors and layered textures, will debut his unique Summer touring exhibit at the Palmetto Theater in Hampton County.

The exhibition will open at the Palmetto Theater on Sunday, June 19th and be open daily throughout the following week during the famous Hampton County Watermelon Festival from June 20th through June 25th. On June 25th, Farris will be on site in Hampton, behind Studio 111 (111 Lee Avenue) with award-winning print-maker Ian Welch, creating signed, limited edition prints of his work. That evening at 8:30pm he will host an interactive party for the whole community in Hampton's Art Alley.



Work by Amiri Geuka Farris

The evening event, "Artscape After Dark", will feature pop-up street performers, glow-in-the-dark art, and original music created for the exhibit. After June 25th, the remainder of the collection's time in Hampton will be open by appointment for school and community groups and individual collectors.

The closing send-off Concert/Live Action Painting Event will take place on Friday, July 8th starting at 7pm, with tickets to this special concert event priced at \$25.

The exhibition is a collection of new works by Farris, who is known as "Amiri



Work by Amiri Geuka Farris

de Artist" – and will highlight 92 pieces of artwork inspired by this season of Summer in the year 2022. Original artwork for the tour will include everything from smaller postcard sized works to large mural sized artworks, and will be comprised of paintings, assemblages and multimedia works to take people on an introspective journey, deep into the artist's view of this season of active conscience summer. Each piece is an unfiltered look into the artist's reality, as seen through the prism of hues, culture, memory and perceptions on the artist's view of Summer. From Hampton, the pieces will travel throughout the Low-country for the rest of the Summer.

"One of my goals is to make artwork more accessible to art lovers in out-of-the-way places and new viewers of contemporary art," said Farris, whose work has been featured in more than 50 solo exhibitions and juried museum exhibitions across the United States, including the US Capitol in Washington, DC, and the Smithsonian. "Other unique aspects of this exhibit include Action Painting and artist talks at local venues in the South throughout the Gullah Geechee Corridor."

Amiri de Artist will be collaborating with museums, art centers, collectors, and unexpected partners including libraries and doctors' offices to bring art out into smaller, underserved communities without a formal arts presence. The pieces will be available for purchase but prices will be set by the public, who can offer a dona-

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tion, similar to a private auction. The exhibition will also be available to view online and on various social media outlets.

For more details about Farris' Summer exhibition at the Palmetto Theater, or to purchase tickets for the July 8th Concert featuring Grammy-winner Quentin Baxter

along with Farris' live on-stage Action Painting, visit (www.palmettotheater.org). In addition, for more information about how to get your community included in this tour, Contact Heather Bruemmer at Hampton Friends of the Arts by e-mail at (Hamptoncountyarts@gmail.com).

Greenwood, SC, Chamber of Commerce Presents 55th SC Festival of Flowers - June 10-11, 2022

The Greenwood SC Chamber of Commerce in Greenwood, SC, will present the 55th South Carolina Festival of Flowers, with the Main Weekend celebrating 15 years of Topiaries, taking place June 10 & 11, 2022, presented by HOMESTAR The Poulin Team.

Celebrate the beginning of Summer and enjoy traditional Southern hospitality at the 55th South Carolina Festival of Flowers in beautiful Greenwood, SC. This premier annual event of the Greenwood Chamber of Commerce is an award-winning "blooming good time" each year in June and July.



One of the 44 unique topiaries

You'll discover throughout Uptown Greenwood all kinds of animals and interesting garden sculptures. When it comes to gardening magic, everyone loves the topiaries - from the majestic elephant to the dabbling ducks to the Safari Jeep.

You will be astonished to see the variety of topiary sizes, the variety of plants, the amazing colors and impressive textures. In all, 44 unique "living" creations are uniquely set in beautifully blooming landscaped areas in Uptown Greenwood through July 11.



A view of a previous juried art exhibition

The visual arts are also on display during the Festival including exhibitions at The Arts Center of Greenwood in the Federal Building and the *Juried Arts & Crafts Show*, taking place at the Uptown Market, 220 Maxwell Avenue, on June 10, from 9am-8pm and June 11, from 9am-8pm. Discover unique garden art, jewelry, pottery, foods and so much more.

The *South Carolina Festival of Flowers Juried Youth Art Show*, on view



Another of the 44 unique topiaries

through June 13, with a reception being held on June 9, from 5-6:30pm, is a sanctioned exhibition hosted annually by The Arts Center of Greenwood in concurrence with the award-winning festival. The exhibition was established in 2015 with funding attributed to an endowment for the arts in the name of Virginia Self. The exhibition represents artwork by regional grade school students.

The *South Carolina Festival of Flowers Juried Art Show*, on view June 9 through Aug. 11, 2022, with a reception on June 11, from 5-7pm, is a sanctioned exhibition hosted annually by The Arts Center of Greenwood in concurrence with the award-winning festival. The exhibition represents contemporary art from throughout the state and Southeast. Awards total \$3,000.



The entire city of Greenwood is covered in flowers

Other events include: Ladies Luncheon, featuring Lindsay Adams Blair, The Museum's special Exhibits, the Greenwood Community Theatre's Rodgers & Hammerstein's *Cinderella*, (new event) Garden Symposium, Uptown Brass Band Performance, The Railroad Historical Center Tours, USTA Junior Tennis Tournament, 5k Run & 1 mile fun run, Emerald City Annual Antique & Classic Car show, Kidfest '22, Topiaries, Tastings & Tunes with GPA, (new event) Beer Garden, Cokesbury College Tour & Ice Cream Social, Flag Day Ceremony, Bee Buzzin' Bike Tour, Ladies Bridge Luncheon, and Men's Amateur Golf Tournament.

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings or visit (scfestivalofflowers.org).

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