

University of South Carolina in Columbia, SC, Offers Exhibit Focused on Women's Needlework

The University of South Carolina in Columbia, SC, is presenting *Needlework: Women's Unspoken Art*, an exhibition which celebrates women's artistry and imagination through needlework, on view at the McKissick Museum, through Aug. 31, 2023.

More than a required skill for girls and women in the 19th century, hand sewing was an act of creative expression. From functional household textiles, to clothing, to home décor accents, small embellishments made a big statement as an indicator of women's artistry and imagination.

The exhibition was guest curated by art history major and USC staff member Rachel McKeown. This exhibit celebrates the individuality and craftsmanship of historic textiles from McKissick Museum's permanent collection. The exhibit examines the embellishments as fine art, contending that the aesthetic qualities and skillful mastery of techniques are of greater historical significance than the textile's function. Viewers are thus encouraged to closely examine the quality of the needlework, rather than

the type of textile, on display.

Through the exhibit, McKeown aims to educate the public about the art of needlework and examine how women's work in textiles might be understood as a high art form. "Being an art history major, I have studied what society considers 'high art.' Historically women have been unseen in the art world. I want to spotlight the creativity that our great-grandmothers embodied through embellishing clothes, blankets, doilies, handkerchiefs, and curtains."

The University of South Carolina's McKissick Museum tells the story of Southern life: community, culture, and the environment. The Museum is located on the University of South Carolina's historic Horseshoe with available parking in the Pendleton Garage at the corner of Pendleton and Bull Streets. All exhibitions are free and open to the public unless otherwise stated.

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings, call the Museum at 803/777-7251 or visit (<http://www.sc.edu/mckissickmuseum>).

701 Center for Contemporary Art in Columbia, SC, Features Works by Ginny Merett

701 Center for Contemporary Art in Columbia, SC, will present *Tall Women*, featuring collage works by Ginny Merett, on view in the Center's Hallway Gallery, from June 2 through July 29, 2023. A reception will be held on June 4, from 2-4pm and an Ekphrastic Poetry Reading will be offered on July 9, from 2-4pm.

Join artist Ginny Merett for an exhibit of her "Tall Women" series that pays homage to all women who stand tall even in the face of adversity. The roughly 12x60" multi-media collage figures showcase how Merett reconstructs parts and pieces from magazine pages and other found materials to create new characters with unique personalities.



Works by Ginny Merett

comfortable yet irrational".

Ginny Merett is a visual artist and art educator who is known for her eccentric collage works. Her collage pieces have been shown in solo and group exhibits at Stormwater Studios, ArtFields, Koger Center for the Arts, the Jasper Project, USC's McMaster Gallery, SC State Library, and other local venues like Sound Bites Eatery, Trustus Theater, She Festival, Cottontown Art Crawl and Melrose Art in the Yard. Her work is published in the Jasper Project's *Jasper Magazine* Spring 2019 and Fall 2022 editions, and in *Sheltered: SC Artists Respond During the 2020 Pandemic*; and in *Bullets and Band-Aids, Vol. 3*.

Merett graduated from the University of Georgia with a degree in Art Education and holds two master's degrees from the University of South Carolina. She taught K-12 art for 30 years and spent many years as adjunct at the University of South Carolina working with pre-service teachers.

She has two children and 4 grandchildren, and lives in Lexington, SC, with her dogs. Merett serves on the board of The Jasper Project. Look for her on all social platforms.

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings, call the Center at 803/238-2351 or visit (www.701cca.org).



Works by Ginny Merett

Merett offers the following statement, "I am inspired by stylish women in my life and around the world; ordinary faces and things found in old photo albums, magazines, and around town. I am nostalgic for family gatherings, women's fashion in the early 1900's and by personalities I meet day to day. I take parts and pieces from current-day sources to create present moments, social commentary, and new personalities."

"My work is uplifting and appealing where every face has a unique personality," adds Merett. "It shows the deconstruction of beauty, an escape from reality. It's built on mundane fragments of daily life communicated in a way that feels

Richland County Public Library in Columbia, SC, Features Works by Marie Boyd

The Richland County Public Library in Columbia, SC, is presenting *A Quilled Garden*, featuring works by Marie Boyd, on view in The Gallery at Main, through June 25, 2023.

Marie Boyd's art exhibit arrives in time to celebrate the arrival of spring flowers. The exhibit includes select original illustrations from her debut picture book *Just a Worm*, which was published by Greenwillow Page 18 - Carolina Arts, June 2023

low Books, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers.

Boyd used a technique called quilling to create the art and illustrations in the exhibit. She cut colorful paper into narrow strips and then coiled, curled, and shaped the paper and glued it on edge to make the art.

In May of this year, Boyd had her *continued above on next column to the right*



MOUSE HOUSE, Inc.

2123 Park Street, Columbia, SC 29201
(803) 254-0842
Weekdays 9:30am - 5pm & Saturday, 10am - 2pm

mouse_house@prodigy.net
<http://mousehouseinc.blogspot.com>

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debut national interview on *The Sunday Show with Jonathan Caphart* on MSNBC to discuss *Just a Worm*. Last month she read the book to children from across the country at the White House Easter Egg Roll.

In *Just a Worm*, after being called "just a worm" by two children, Worm embarks on a journey through the garden to prove them wrong. Along the way, Worm encounters several insects and other creatures, each of which has important qualities. But what can Worm do? Just a Worm offers a heartwarming message of discovery and self-worth.

Boyd wrote *Just a Worm* for everyone who has ever compared themselves to others and felt that they have fallen short.



Work by Marie Boyd

Kirkus Reviews had high praise for *Just a Worm*, "The cleverness of this story lies in its lighthearted, effective dissemination of information about various insects as well as earthworms. It doesn't hurt that the expressive little worm is downright adorable, with emotions that will resonate with anyone who has felt unimportant."



Work by Marie Boyd

The exhibit at Richland Library Main is funded in part by the South Carolina Arts Commission which receives support from the National Endowment for the Arts. The exhibit is also funded in part by a generous award from the John and Susan Bennett Memorial Arts Fund of The Coastal Community Foundation of South Carolina. Boyd also thanks Richland Library and Greenwillow Books, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers, for their support.

In addition to writing and quilling, Boyd is a law professor at the University of South Carolina. She lives in Columbia, SC, with her husband Jaime Harrison and their two kids. She was one of four artists selected to participate in the Columbia Metropolitan Airport's 2022-2023 Art in the Airport Program.

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings, call the Library at 803/988-0886 or visit (www.richlandlibrary.com).

The deadline each month to submit articles, photos and ads is the 24th of the month prior to the next issue. This will be June 24th for the July 2023 issue and July 24 for the August 2023 issue. After that, it's too late unless your exhibit runs into the next month. But don't wait for the last minute - send your info now. And where do you send that info? E-mail to (info@carolinaarts.com).