

City of North Charleston, SC, Offers Exhibition of Abstract Works

The City of North Charleston's Cultural Arts Department will present an exhibition of works by the Women of Expressive Abstracts Group, which highlights mixed media works by female artists from throughout the US, on view at the North Charleston City Gallery, located in the Charleston Area Convention Center, from Aug. 2 - 31, 2018. A reception will be held on Aug. 2, from 5-7pm.

The Women of Expressive Abstracts group consists of 35 female Abstract Expressionist painters that share a common interest and passion for abstract art. They come from across the US, California to New Jersey, and Maryland to Florida. Twenty-six of the group's members will present new mixed media work in their group exhibition titled *Inside Out: Expressing Our Inner Voices*.



Work by Peggy Vineyard

group have never met in person, they have all studied with Aimone. The experience engendered a shared language and support system that has kept them connected online over the years.

Participating artists include: Andrea Baetti, GA; Penny Beesley, SC; Juanita Belavance, GA; Billie Bourgeois, LA; Carolyn Busenlener, MS; Annette Cargill, OH; Mary Beth Cornelius, GA; Annette Crosby, GA; Bre Barnett Crowell, NC; Terry Jarrard-Diamond, SC; Debbie Ezell, GA; Melinda Hoffman, SC; Gayle Hurley, AL; Suzanne Jacquot, CA; Annette Margulies, FL; Thyra Moore, MD; Wendy Nicholas, FL; Vicki Overstreet, MS; Kate Pendleton, GA; Betty Perry, GA; Nancy Perry, SC; Garnet Rardon, GA; Kathy; Blankley Roman, IL; Nell Tilton, LA; Marcia Holmes, LA; and Peggy Vineyard, NC

The North Charleston City Gallery is situated in two corridors of the northwest corner of the Charleston Area Convention Center, located on Coliseum Drive in North Charleston. Inquiries regarding the artists or purchase information may be directed to the North Charleston Cultural Arts Department at 843/740-5854.

For further information on additional exhibits, programs, and events, visit the Arts & Culture section of the City's website at (www.northcharleston.org).



Work by Penny Beesley

Inside Out is an exuberant celebration of the language of nonobjective abstraction. The participating artists draw from their personal experiences and interpret them with their own unique voice. At the core, they share an intuitive process using mark making, form, and color to tell their stories that collectively come together in perfect harmony. The common denominator bringing these artists together is their mentor - master artist, educator, and author Steven Aimone. Though some of the women in the

College of Charleston in Charleston, SC, Offers Works by Italian artist Hitnes

The College of Charleston's School of the Arts in Charleston, SC, will present *The Image Hunter: On the Trail of John James Audubon*, featuring new works by Italian artist Hitnes, on view at the Halsey Institute of Contemporary Art, from Aug. 17 through Sept. 29, 2018. A reception will be held on Aug. 24, beginning at 6:30pm. An Artist Talk will be offered on Aug. 25, at 2pm.

The exhibition and its related programming have been developed as a special research initiative by the Halsey Institute given the primacy of Charleston to Audubon's legacy.

In the early half of the nineteenth century, John James Audubon spent decades tracking birds and drawing them, hoping to create a compendium of all of the birds in the United States. Charleston played an important role in Audubon's work as he kept a studio in the home of his friend and fellow naturalist John Bachman. Audubon hunted for specimens on the Sea Islands off of Charleston's coast, and he even included the city's distinctive skyline from the 1830s - replete with its church steeples - in his drawing of the long-billed curlew.

Nearly two hundred years later, the Italian painter and muralist holding the moniker Hitnes embarked on a twenty-city road trip to retrace and rediscover the America that Audubon traversed in the making of his opus *The Birds of America* (1827-39). Traveling along Audubon's exploratory routes, Hitnes observed, sketched, and painted what he saw, creating an updated visual documentation of Audubon's birds.

Hitnes's exhibition will document his journey, elaborating on what it is that drives a person to dedicate multiple decades of their life to pursuing an obsession like Audubon did. The exhibition will feature a range of work informed by his own expedition, and he will include other objects and



Work by Hitnes

ephemera collected on his trek including his sketchbooks and the clothes he wore. The exhibition will also be accompanied by a feature-length documentary film on Hitnes's trip, directed by filmmaker Giacomo Agnetti. Hitnes was an artist-in-residence at the Halsey Institute in the summer of 2017 and returned for a second residency in the summer of 2018.

Born in Rome, where he currently lives and works, Hitnes is a painter and muralist. A frequent traveler, Hitnes has completed residencies in countries including China, Australia, Mexico, Russia, Norway, Colombia, and the United States. His work has been featured in venues around the globe, including the Instituto Italiano di Cultura, New York; Museo Civico di Zoologia, Rome; 999contemporary, Rome; and Fif-

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