

# Art League of Hilton Head

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Artists program is also funded in part by donations from members of Art League of Hilton Head.

Marynowski has brought other artists in various media to work with the men. She has provided the men with canvases, brushes, paints and other supplies. She has taken other, more advanced artists with her to the prison to teach the men about abstracts, Impressionism, color and light.

Artist friends have given her photographs for the men to use as reference materials to create their paintings.

As the men became more expressive in their art, their true talent started to shine. When she saw this, and saw the transformation the artists have experienced as people, Marynowski was compelled to find a way for them to share their works outside the prison gates. She said the men's dream was to show their work in a real gallery.

This exhibit will mark the first time



Work by James

ever that Art League of Hilton Head has allowed non-members to be featured in the gallery.

The works of 150 member artists will also be on display and available for sale.

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings, call the League at 843/681-5060 or visit ([www.ArtLeagueHHI.org](http://www.ArtLeagueHHI.org)).

## Society of Bluffton Artists in Bluffton, SC, Offers Works by Melinda Welker

The Society of Bluffton Artists in Bluffton, SC, will present *Come Fly with Me*, featuring works by Melinda Welker, a wildlife and nature photographer, on view from Aug. 5 through Sept. 1, 2019. A reception will be held on Aug. 11, from 3-5pm.

The Lowcountry's sprawling live oaks and active marshes often serve as a muse for many local artists. This August, Melinda Welker, a wildlife and nature photographer, will feature the Lowcountry's majestic birds in a special exhibit called *Come Fly with Me*. Welker's photographs capture birds during their usual routines - beautifully frozen in poses the average onlooker doesn't normally see.

"Birds are beautiful, graceful and, sometimes, just down right funny," Welker said. "They are also skittish and elusive, making them a challenge to photograph. By studying birds in their natural habitats, I've learned to anticipate bird behavior to photograph them when they preen, display courtship rituals, take flight or dart in a pond to spear a fish. I never tire of spending time in a bird rookery."

Welker studied photography at the Savannah College of Art and Design (SCAD) before digital photography took hold. She combined her photography skills with a career in publishing. She was the founding editor of *Asian Home Gourmet*, a food and lifestyle magazine in Singapore, as well as *Centered on Taipei*, a magazine for the expatriate community in Taipei, Taiwan.

"My photographic style is Asian influenced, where I prefer an uncluttered scene with negative space to let the bird be the star of the picture," Welker said. "Where possible, I shoot with a shallow depth of field to achieve a background like a Monet painting."

Welker's passion for photographing birds began when she moved to South Carolina, fully embracing digital photography. In addition to regularly exhibiting photographs at the SoBA gallery, Welker's



Work by Melinda Welker

work has been exhibited nationally. She was accepted as a member of The National Association of Women Artists (NAWA) in 2018, having met the standards required by the NAWA jury panel in NY. Her work was curated into two national exhibits this year - the *Biennale* at the Art League of Hilton Head and a NAWA exhibit at the Art Club of Washington, DC.

Welker is a member of the Callawassie Island photography club, where she has exhibited at annual shows and shared her knowledge of photography through a mentor group. She also is a member of the Lowcountry chapter of the Carolinas' Nature Photography Association, where like-minded North and South Carolina photographers share their passion for the world of outdoor photography.

SoBA is the flourishing art hub in Bluffton's historic District at the corner of Church and Calhoun streets. SoBA offers regular art classes, featured artist shows, exhibitions and more.

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings, e-mail to ([sobaupdates@sobagallery.com](mailto:sobaupdates@sobagallery.com)) or visit ([www.sobagallery.com](http://www.sobagallery.com)).

Looking for info on the next juried art show in the Carolinas, an opportunity to show & sell your work at the next featural taking place in the Carolinas or do you want to know who the new director of an art museum in the Carolinas is - just check out our Blog, "Carolina Arts News" at (<https://carolinaartsnews.wordpress.com/>).



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