

Sumter County Gallery of Art

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Works by Jiha Moon

ing ink and acrylic paint on Hanji paper (traditional Korean mulberry paper). Often, she places the paper on the floor and stands or kneels to apply her calligraphic brushstrokes. After completing the abstract composition in this way, Moon reconfigures some of the markings to suggest recognizable images, such as cartoon characters and incorporates mass-produced items like textiles, embroidered patches, and small trinkets with her hand-rendered elements.

In her image- and color-saturated paintings and prints, Moon mashes up materials, motifs, and techniques to create dreamlike compositions, stuffed with Eastern and Western art historical and pop cultural references that challenge fixed notions of cultural identity and represent our information-overloaded world. Everything is fair game for Moon - she draws from sources high and low, real and virtual, ancient and contemporary, including 13th-century Taoist painting, American Pop, Disney cartoons, Dr. Seuss books, internet emoticons, fortune cookies, and Asian restaurant menus. Her exuberant compositions burst across the picture plane.

Gestural, abstract passages and calligraphic brushstrokes flow into landscapes, in which viewers may find Snow White with an idealized Chinese female figure, while smiley emojis and ripe peaches float about them. At once playful and dark, Moon's work parodies the persistence of cultural stereotypes in our globalized world.

"Jiha Moon is in a perpetual state of 'other' as she mines numerous histories and cultures, distilling them into sly and challenging works of art. There is no filter, just a quirky mix matching of references. Moon harvests cultural elements native to Korea, Japan, and China and then unites them with

Western elements to investigate the multifaceted nature of our current global identity as influenced by popular culture, technology, racial perceptions, and folklore. Moon blurs the lines between Western and Eastern identified iconography such as the characters from the online game Angry Birds and smart phone Emojis. They float alongside Asian tigers and Indian gods in compositions that appear both familiar and foreign, ancient and modern," said Daniel Fuller, Curator, Atlanta Contemporary Art Center.

For the Sumter Gallery exhibition, Moon plans to present her largest "Tea Ceremony" to date. A series of low beautifully crafted tables will display numerous ceramic pieces both large and small. In addition, there will be new prints and paintings. Moon has lately been experimenting with painting on Mylar and the results are breathtaking.

Moon will give her artist talk at the opening reception, Thursday, Sept. 5 and will also conduct a painting workshop for ages 13 to adult Friday, Sept. 6. There will be other related events during the run of the exhibition, TBA.

As always, everything we do is a community effort. To bring an important artist such as Moon to our community, it takes a lot of belief and support. Thank you to First Citizens, Jones Chevrolet, The Glemore and May Sharp Trust and the Sumter County Cultural Commission which receives support from the John & Susan Bennett Arts Fund of the Coastal Community Foundation of SC, the SC Arts Commission and the National Endowment for the Arts.

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings, call the Gallery at 803/775-0543 or visit (www.sumtergallery.com).

Rob Shaw Gallery and Framing in West Columbia, SC, Features Works by George Stone

The Rob Shaw Gallery and Framing in West Columbia, SC, will present *George Stone - The Golden Hour*, on view from Sept. 6 - 30, 2019. A reception will be held on Sept. 6, from 6-9pm, during the State Street Art Walk.

Stone is a representational painter who focuses primarily on landscape and still life subject matter using the mediums of oil paints and watercolors. He paints extensively from life (plein air) but also works in the studio using plein air studies, sketches and photographic reference. He has won many local awards and his paintings hang in numerous private collections.

Stone attempts to convey the beauty and dignity of everyday scenes to his viewers through a clear concept, accurate drawing, expressive values and color and a well-designed composition. He is especially interested in developing moods in his landscapes by capturing the quality of light present during different times of day, different seasons of the year and different locations.

Rob Shaw Gallery and Framing is a full service Picture Frame Shop and Art Gallery,



Work by George Stone

located on State Street in West Columbia. Rob Shaw is a painter and enjoys introducing people to different styles of art. The function of the Gallery's monthly art shows is to share with clients the many different types of artists we have living in South Carolina.

For further information check our SC Commercial Gallery listings, call the gallery at 803/369-3159 or visit (www.robshawgallery.com).

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