

Black Creek Arts Council in Hartsville, SC, Presents a Smithsonian Traveling Exhibition on the Roots of Music

The Black Creek Arts Council in Hartsville, SC, is presenting the exhibit, *New Harmonies: Celebrating American Roots Music*, a Smithsonian Institution traveling exhibition exploring the roots of American music, on view through Nov. 6, 2012.

When you stop and listen, you quickly realize that music is all around. Whether you're hearing blues, country western, folk, or gospel, American roots music reveals the American story – people reshaping themselves in a new and changing world. As Americans from a variety of heritages shared cultural influences, musicians found new ways to play unique sounds learned from new neighbors on traditional instruments. The inevitable intermingling of musical influences created exciting new sounds – new American music.

Black Creek Arts Council and the surrounding community has been expressly chosen by The Humanities Council SC to host *New Harmonies: Celebrating American Roots Music* as part of the Museum on Main Street project – a national/state/local partnership to bring exhibitions and programs to rural cultural organizations. Through a selection of photographs, recordings, instruments, lyrics and artist profiles, *New Harmonies: Celebrating American Roots Music* will explore the distinct cultural identities of American roots music. The exhibition will examine the progression of American roots music, as rich and eclectic as our country itself. Other musical genres profiled include zydeco, tejano, bluegrass and klezmer.

"We are very pleased to be able to bring *New Harmonies* to our area," said Allison Pederson, Executive Director of Black Creek Arts Council. "It allows us the opportunity to explore this fascinating aspect of our own region's musical history and we hope that it will inspire many to become even more involved in the cultural life of our community."

"Allowing all of our state's residents to have access to the cultural resources of our nation's premiere museum is a priority of The Humanities Council SC", said Randy



Brother Oswald Small

Akers, Executive Director of The Humanities Council of SC. "With this special tour, we are pleased to be working with Black Creek Arts Council and Darlington County to help develop local exhibitions and public programs to compliment the Smithsonian exhibition."

New Harmonies: Celebrating American Roots Music is part of Museum on Main Street, a unique collaboration between the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service (SITES), state humanities councils across the nation, and local host institutions. To learn more about *New Harmonies* and other Museum on Main Street exhibitions, visit (www.museumonmainstreet.org).

Support for Museum on Main Street has been provided by the United States Congress, The Humanities Council of SC and Black Creek Arts Council.

SITES connects millions of Americans with their shared cultural heritage through a wide range of art, science and history exhibitions. State humanities councils, located in each state and US territory, support community-based humanities programs that highlight such topics as local history, literature and cultural traditions. Black Creek Arts Council of Darlington County serves the local community by fostering and promoting the arts in Darlington County. To learn more, visit (www.sites.si.edu) or (www.schumanities.org).

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings, call the Council at 843/332-6234 or visit (www.blackcreekarts.org).

Coker College in Hartsville, SC, Offers Works by Matthew Litteken

Coker College in Hartsville, SC, will present the exhibit, *Under the Color of...*, featuring paintings, drawings, and an installation by Matthew Litteken, on view in the Cecelia Coker Bell Gallery, from Oct. 22 through Nov. 16, 2012. A reception will be held on Oct. 22, from 7-8pm.

Litteken's exhibition at Coker College is all about money. For the paintings and drawings in this show, Litteken extracts and combines design motifs from dollar bills. He usually alters or exaggerates scale, color, and textures and these qualities can vary dramatically from one composition to the next. Sometimes Litteken's references to the dollar are a subdued, background presence that mimics money's presence in life. In others, we see an outrageous explosion of color and fancy, which symbolizes the fantasy of unlimited possibilities.

In addition to bringing a number of works to show, Litteken will paint one of his compositions on a wall just outside the gallery door. Integrating this temporary painting into the structure of the exhibition space is another example of his ironic and witty approach to his subject. Although the question of value can be broadly applied here, Litteken intends that we reflect on the value of things that money buys and the value of art looms large in that consideration. Thus, a potential buyer of Litteken's work might contemplate spending hundreds of dollars on a painting which, while beautifully painted, is still a painting based on a single dollar bill.

How much money is a painting of money worth? What is its value compared to that of a portrait, a landscape, or a Cezanne's painting of card players, which recently sold for



Work by Matthew Litteken

250 million dollars? Litteken's focus on the value of art prompts us to confront our own fantasies about money and how we establish value as individuals and as a society.

Litteken earned his BFA degree from Miami University (of Ohio) in 1995 with concentrations in both painting and ceramics, and his MFA degree from the University of Cincinnati at the School of Design, Architecture, Art, and Planning in 2004, with an emphasis in painting. In 2002, he was one of the artists featured in the exhibition "The Art of the State" at the Susquehanna Art Museum in Harrisburg, PA.

Litteken's paintings have been included in various solo and group shows at such venues as Amy Baber Fine Art in Shreve-

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Join the Seacoast Artists Guild for their

9th Annual Fall Art Show & Sale

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This Season, Fall in Love with the Creative Spirit of Your LOCAL Artists. Not only will you receive an original and inspiring work of art, your purchase will also help support **TRAINING & EDUCATIONAL ART PROGRAMS** at your local schools as well as fund **SCHOLARSHIPS** to be awarded to gifted art students. Seacoast Artists Guild will donate \$25.00 to our Training & Scholarship Fund for every \$100.00 spent to purchase a work of art during our show.

Representing over 80 Artists, our fall show will be held adjacent to the Center Court at

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Meet and mingle with your local artists

For more information about Seacoast Artists Guild go to: www.seacoastartistsguild.com

Logo Competition—Winner to Receive \$500!

The Seacoast Artists Guild is announcing an art competition to update its current logo. Open to all regional artists & art students, the Guild is inviting you to participate in this contest. The Deadline for Entries is November 30, 2012. Go to: www.SeacoastArtistsGuild.com for contest details and instructions for submitting entries.