

Arts Council of Fayetteville...

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Colombia.

As a result, Colombian activists continue to advocate for change, often linking with activists across the globe to help increase public awareness and pressure big businesses and the US and Colombian governments to adjust their socio-economic policies to respect the rights of the most marginalized. These same communities are among the most affected by the decades-long internal armed conflict, and by the stagnation of the construction of stable and lasting peace.

"I was first introduced to the efforts of the nationwide humanitarian organization Witness for Peace Southeast through the work of my daughter-in-law, colleague and fellow delegate Chelsey Dyer, an anthropology PhD candidate at Vanderbilt University," said Slade.

"In July 2017, as part of a volunteer peace delegation with the Witness for Peace organization, I had the opportunity to visit Colombia, South America," added Salde. "During my ten-day stay I witnessed first hand a very personal and revealing account of how conditions under an oppressive government have created violence, displacement and economic insecurity, particularly for Afro-Colombian and Indigenous people in the communities of Cali, Buenaventura and Bogota."

"Despite these insecurities and vulnerabilities, I was very impressed with the strength, determination and dignity of the people that I met, ate and stayed with. During my visit and upon my return home from this emotional journey, I asked myself



Work by Donna Slade

how can I help make a difference? How can the power of art initiate a dialogue with the world? How can my art become a voice for these people and make the invisible, visible?"

"The strength of these people became the driver that dictated my artistic direction for the next year," continues Slade. "I hope the paintings in this exhibition tell the stories of these citizen's hardships, highlight the strength and dignity of Colombian activists and community leaders as well as their vulnerability as they work for social justice. Through the power of art, I hope to initiate a dialogue with the viewer that will encourage others to recognize the interconnectedness of struggle for racial justice across the globe."

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, call the Council at 910/323-1776 or visit (<https://www.theartsCouncil.com/>).

Sunset River Gallery in Calabash, NC, Offers Works by Connie Winters, Cristiana Rioli, and Bob Moffett

Sunset River Gallery in Calabash, NC, is presenting *Moments of Serenity*, an exhibition featuring works in oil by Connie Winters, acrylic collages by Cristiana Rioli and turned wood vessels, bowls and platters by Bob Moffett, on view through Oct. 21, 2022.

Connie Winters is a dedicated advocate of impressionist art. Her style closely resembles the original impressionists of the late 19th and early 20th centuries. She is known for her bucolic landscapes, reflective water views and florals. Her paintings hang in many notable private and corporate collections, including John Randolph Hearst, Jr., the Coca-Cola collection, the Duke Mansion in Charlotte and the permanent collections of Erskine College, Presbyterian College and Wingate College.

Originally from Italy, Cristiana Rioli has found her voice in non-objective painting inspired by urban landscapes, marine scenes, and piles of objects. Her style consists of combining mixed media techniques in acrylic, soft and oil pastel, and collage bits on texturized surfaces.



Work by Christina Rioli

Bob Moffett is a professional woodturner who specializes in turning offset platters, bowls, boxes, and miniature ornaments. He often incorporates surface treatments such as texturing, spiraling, chatter, beading and woodburning. He teaches classes in woodturning at the John C. Campbell Folk School in the mountains of North Carolina as well as at the Center for Creative Woodworking in Reidsville, NC.

The gallery's new artistic director, Samantha Spalti said, "These three artists



Work by Bob Moffett

complement each other beautifully, and I love how the show is coming together. I'm excited to see how our gallery visitors enjoy it."

Located in coastal Brunswick County, Sunset River Gallery caters to both area visitors and a growing local community of full-time residents seeking fine art for their homes and businesses. Featuring work by approximately 150 North and South Carolina artists, the gallery is well known in the area for its collection of oil paintings, watermedia, pastels, photography, hand-blown glass, fused glass, pottery and clay sculptures, turned and carved wood, unique home décor items and artisan jewelry.

There are two onsite kilns and five wheels used by the gallery's pottery students. Art classes and workshops are currently being offered on a limited basis. Call the gallery for details. A new 20th Century Art installation features rare and valuable fine and modern art, primarily impressionist and abstract.

The gallery is located on Beach Drive SW, in Calabash, NC 28467.

For further information, call 910/575-5999 or visit the website at (<https://sunsetrivermarketplace.com/>). Daily updates are available on the gallery's Facebook and Instagram pages. For info on the FrameCenter, located within the gallery, call framer Louis Aliotta directly at 910/368-7351.

Barton College in Wilson, NC, Features Works by Ben Bridgers

Barton College in Wilson, NC, is presenting *Solivagant*, featuring wall paintings by NC artist, Ben Bridgers, on view in the Barton Art Galleries, located in the Case Art Building, through Oct. 9, 2022.

"*Solivagant*, the title of the exhibit, means to wander alone - a fitting description of the artistic process and a word that also speaks to the beauty and mystery of the paintings by Bridgers," explains Maureen O'Neill, director of exhibitions and educational programming for the Barton Art Galleries and assistant professor of art at Barton College.

"The rich layered surfaces of oil paint, the echoes of brushed lines that draw the eye in and around the canvases bring the viewer on a journey. To experience a Ben Bridgers painting is to wander through marvelous, invented worlds of forms and abstracted characters on painted stages. Bridgers' works combine traditional oil painting techniques with imagery that reflects an observant eye. He is a collector of details from pop culture - music, city graphics, art history icons, skateboard parks - imagery that is collected and later drawn upon as part of his personal painted choreography. These large canvases with the artist's private wanderings are intimate and true, painted with a masterful hand."

After receiving a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Painting from Barton College in 1995, Bridgers traveled abroad to begin graduate work at The University of Georgia's campus in Cortona, Italy. He went on to earn a Master of Fine Arts degree in Painting and Drawing from the University of Georgia's Lamar Dodd School of Art in Athens, GA, in 1999.

Bridgers taught studio courses at the University of Georgia from 1996-2002, including a 2001 term at the University's Studies Abroad Program in Cortona, Italy. From 2002-2004, Bridgers taught as a Visiting Professor of Art at the University of Wyoming in Laramie and later taught and led the Painting and Drawing curriculum at the University of Redlands in Redlands, CA, where he earned tenure as an Associate Professor of Art.

Bridgers has maintained an active studio



Work by Ben Bridgers

practice during the past 30 years and has exhibited his work in galleries and museums across the United States. Bridgers' work is held in public and private collections throughout the United States, Italy, and Japan.

Currently, Bridgers works in his home studio in Durham, NC, and serves as the Manager of Park Collection and Exhibitions at the North Carolina Museum of Art.

"My painting practice involves time; and the realization that this curious alchemy - paint on brush, paint on canvas, paint on paint - continues to hold me, anchored to this process," noted Bridgers. "In the studio where my head spins and my heart beats, I root around in ideas and images from my own experience. The themes include mind wanderings, sensations noticed, feelings remembered - transitory events that have shaken my sense of home - revealing loss, love, and obsession. My work looks to both representation and non-representation, for a middle ground that is imagined and observed, felt, and touched, dripped, and formed. The dark wells in my paintings are held open by the hopeful threads from painting to painting, each one revealing a new world to help make the next and so on. The process, as Philip Guston said, '... seems like an impossibility, with only a sign now and then of its own light.'"

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, call Maureen O'Neill at 252/399-6476 or e-mail to (mo-neill@barton.edu).

Franklin G. Burroughs - Simeon B. Chapin Art Museum in Myrtle Beach, SC, Offers 3 New Exhibitions

Franklin G. Burroughs - Simeon B. Chapin Art Museum in Myrtle Beach, SC, will present three new exhibits including: *Natalie Daise The Greens In My Garden*, on view from Oct. 4 - Dec. 31, 2022; *Jonathan Green: Embracing Gullah Spirit*, on view from Oct. 13 - Dec. 31, 2022; and *A Quarter Past: Highlights From Our Collection*, on view from Oct. 27 - Feb. 25, 2023.

A professional storyteller and self-taught artist from Georgetown, SC, Natalie Daise explores the continuum of storytelling through art-making in her exhibition, *Natalie Daise The Greens In My Garden*. She uses various media, surfaces and natural and found materials, allowing her hand and eye to move a story into a place deeper than, perhaps, sound might convey - an exploration that reveals what may be hidden behind words. Daise remarks, "The process of playing with and discovering what my hands and the materials will do is my spiritual practice and, as such, rises from an intensely personal place." Much of her work explores the rich traditions of the African-American and Gullah-Geechee communities that nurture her creativity, as well as the process by which creative action shapes these communities. *Natalie Daise: The Greens in My Garden* features recent paintings comprised of striking oil-and-metal-leaf portraits of both family members and friends, adorned with sweetgrass-woven jewelry, traditional African-patterned clothing and bright halos, all teeming with the symbolic roots of her Gullah upbringing - collard greens and garden flowers.

Best known as "Ms. Natalie" on Nick Jr.'s award-winning television program,



Work by Natalie Daise

Gullah Gullah Island, Daise has developed and facilitated interactive learning experiences for educators, students and others for more than 30 years. She earned a BA degree from Vermont College in 1992 and a MA in Creativity Studies in 2014. Awards and nominations include the 1996 South Carolina Order of the Palmetto, the state's highest honor, and the 1997 State of South Carolina Folk Heritage Award, given for lifetime achievement and excellence in folk art that has enriched the lives of the people in their community and state, as well as a 2017 Merit Award for her painting, *Free Your Mind - Redux*, in Lake City, SC's ARTFields competition.

Regarded as one of the most important

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