



Columbia Museum of Art

continued from Page 14

into the intellectual stimulation possible via sophisticated composition, and there is the unadulterated fun of comparing one great artist off of another. This is a show full of artistic richness where one may meditate for hours on why painting continues to fire our imaginations."

This exhibition was organized by the Dixon Gallery and Gardens, Memphis, TN. Founded in 1976 by Hugo and Margaret Dixon, the Dixon Gallery and Gardens is a fine art museum and public garden distinguished by its diverse and innovative programs in the arts and horticulture. The Dixon features a permanent collection of over 2,000 objects, including French and American Impressionist paintings and

significant holdings of German and English porcelain. The museum organizes and presents eight to ten exhibitions every year, the diversity of which appeals to visitors of all ages. The Dixon's 17-acre campus is highly regarded public garden that includes formal spaces, woodland tracts, and cutting gardens. The Dixon is accredited by the American Association Museums and is a member of the American Public Gardens Association and Botanical Gardens Conservation International.

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings, call the Museum at 803/799-2810 or visit (www.columbia-museum.org).

University of South Carolina in Columbia, SC, Features Works by Rebecca Davenport

The University of South Carolina in Columbia, SC, will present *Step Right Up! Sideshows in American Culture*, featuring works by Rebecca Davenport, on view at the McKissick Museum, from Jan. 19 through May 21, 2013. A reception will be held on Jan. 24, from 5:30-7:30pm.

Featuring the work of Beaufort, SC-based visual artist Rebecca Davenport, the exhibition explores the sideshow as a cultural phenomenon during the late 19th century and continuing today. Focusing on several key themes, the exhibition will explore the dynamic nature of sideshow culture, the concept of "the other," and the public perception of showmanship and exploitation.

"Ideas of what defines 'normalcy' are very subjective," says Saddler Taylor, McKissick Museum's Chief Curator of Folklife and Fieldwork. "The history of the sideshow provides an opportunity to explore the complexities involved with defining

what being 'normal' means and why we as human beings are so fascinated with the unfamiliar, the mysterious."

The exhibition features over twenty large format paintings and mixed media works by Davenport, historic photographs, sideshow banners, and classic gaffes like the two-headed baby and feejee mermaid.

Several programs are planned for early

continued on Page 16

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