

City of Charleston, SC

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legal and advocacy nonprofit organization dedicated to assisting African American farmers, land owners and communities in the Black Belt region in efforts to retain and increase landownership; to create sustainable, land-based cooperatives and entrepreneurial businesses; and to ensure intergenerational and community wealth.

Acres of Ancestry Initiative/Black Agrarian Fund is a multidisciplinary, cooperative ecosystem rooted in Black ecological traditions and textile arts to regenerate custodial land ownership, ecological stewardship, and food and fiber economies in the South.

Supported by the Acres of Ancestry Initiative/Black Agrarian Fund, the Return of the Bees Collective is a supportive and active community, whose mission is to raise visibility of and educate the public about the vast spectrum of African American textile art and artists. Return of the Bees Hive Members work out of their own homes or small studios. They strive to gain strength, share knowledge, and support each other's projects. They take part at least twice a year in a traditional quilting bee gathering, usually at their

group shows.

Due to the ongoing situation related to COVID-19 in South Carolina, City Gallery guests are asked to reserve free tickets for timed admission into the gallery in advance of their visit. Tickets can be reserved online at (www.charleston-sc.gov/citygallery) or by calling the gallery at 843/958-6484 during normal business hours. Covid safety protocols, including social distancing and masks, are encouraged for all visitors. Masks are required for any unvaccinated guests.

City Gallery, located at Joe Riley Waterfront Park, is owned by the City of Charleston and operated by the City of Charleston Office of Cultural Affairs, presenting an annual program of exhibitions and events featuring the finest contemporary art from local, regional, national and international artists, with a focus on the Lowcountry. City Gallery is located on Prioleau Street in downtown Charleston.

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings, call 843/958-6484 or visit (www.charleston-sc.gov/citygallery).

City of North Charleston, SC, Features Works by Renée Fleuranges-Valdes and Pascale Sexton Bilgis

The City of North Charleston's Cultural Arts Department is pleased to announce that concurrent solo exhibitions of fiber works by Renée Fleuranges-Valdes and mixed media works by Pascale Sexton Bilgis will be on display at Park Circle Gallery, in North Charleston, SC, from Jan. 5 - 30, 2022. A reception will be held on Jan. 7, from 5-7pm.

Finding JOY! – Fiber works by Renée Fleuranges-Valdes, features works by nationally exhibiting quilter and textile artist Renée Fleuranges-Valdes, who brings her energetic and exuberant nature to her fiber art, showcasing black femininity. The exhibition debuts two of her latest series, *Simple Pleasures* and *Curvy Ladies*, alongside a select few of her other well-known pieces.

Simple Pleasures is all about finding joy in everyday activities, like sitting under a tree with friends, a walk along the riverbank, or even a stroll through the park. Using bright colors, vivid imagery, and intricate quilting to create texture, the artist reminds us that life is too short to forget about the simple things in life that bring us joy and unity.



Work by Renée Fleuranges-Valdes

with fiber in one way or another since she was twelve years old, and her love for fiber art has been a passion for the last twenty years. Best known for her use of bright colored fabrics and intricate quilting designs, her work has been displayed in galleries, juried and invitational exhibitions, and museums across the United States.

Aside from exhibiting her work, Fleuranges-Valdes shares her creative style with others by teaching, lecturing, and judging quilt shows. In 2019, she moved to North Charleston, SC, from her hometown of Mt. Vernon, NY, after retiring from a successful professional career in the software industry.

In her exhibition, *Little Flat People*, local mixed media artist Pascale Sexton Bilgis seamlessly blends two-dimensional and three-dimensional elements to demonstrate the fundamental similarities between people. The artist presents little figures set among pebbles, wood frames, and panels with vibrant abstract expressionist landscapes as backgrounds.

"After two years creating vivid abstract landscapes with ceramic architectural relief, I wanted to keep working with clay and acrylic colors but in a more meaningful way. One day while collecting pebbles on a beach in southern Turkey, I came up with the "Flat Little People" series," Bilgis explains.



Works by Pascale Sexton Bilgis

The fiber pieces in the *Curvy Ladies* series celebrate how women with vision, creativity, and resilience use their passion to advance their chosen agendas and bring joy not only to themselves, but also those who benefit from their success. "In this series I'm celebrating curvy women whose passion has driven them to greatness, despite society's usual attempt to push them to the sidelines," Fleuranges-Valdes explains.

Fleuranges-Valdes has been creating

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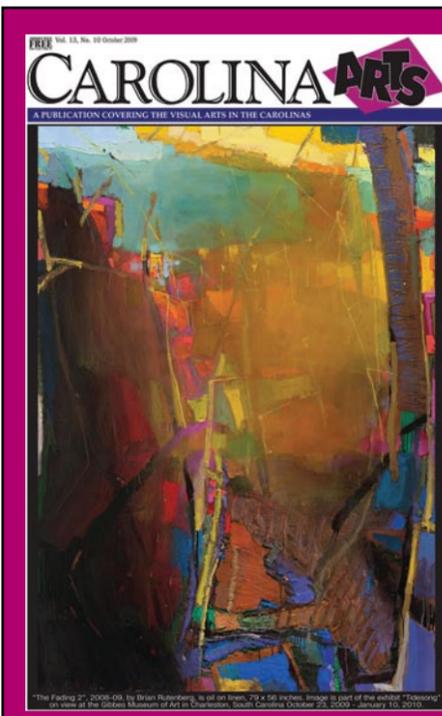
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WELLS GALLERY



MICHAEL REIBEL, *MOODY BLUES IMPRESSIONS*, 60x48, OIL

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