

# 701 Center for Contemporary Art in Columbia, SC, Features Works by Kristy Bishop and Aldwyth

701 Center for Contemporary Art in Columbia, SC, is presenting *Kristy Bishop: Bound*, on view through Feb. 28, 2016.

*Bound* presents Charleston, SC, artist Kristy Bishop's most recent work. Selecting the corset, and other historical undergarments as her theme she has created a series of life sized textile constructions accompanied by photographs of women wearing them in a contemporary context. Probably no garment has been as debated, criticized, and extolled as the corset. With our present day fashion emphasis on diet and exercise as a way to achieve the perfect body type these constricting items, along with the crinolines and bum rolls also in the exhibition, seem strange and a extreme way to adhere to fashion.

Bishop's creations offer a number of ideas that play off of each other. The exhibition is on one hand a presentation of artistic creations of surprisingly

delicate beauty. It is also a reminder of the artificiality of the social constructs behind changing ideas of ideal beauty and our ways of achieving the perfect silhouette.

701 CCA will also be presenting two large, mural-size collages by the center's current artist in residence, Aldwyth. The artist created the works during her January 2016, residency at 701 CCA. The collage installation subsequently will be open to the public during regular hours until Feb. 28, 2016.

701 Center for Contemporary Art (701 CCA) is a visual art center that promotes understanding, appreciation and enjoyment of contemporary art, the creative process, and the role of art and artists in the community. The center also encourages interaction between visual arts and other art forms.

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings, call the Center at 803/238-2351 or visit ([www.701cca.org](http://www.701cca.org)).

## Columbia City Hall Offers Exhibits from SC State Museum

Selections from the exhibits, *Palmetto Portraits Project* and *South Carolina Palmetto Hands Fine Craft Exhibition* are currently on exhibition in the Gallery at City Hall in Columbia, SC, through Mar. 25, 2016. Both exhibits showcase, photographers, fine craft artists and artisans from across South Carolina.

The *South Carolina Palmetto Hands Fine Craft Exhibition*, is a part of a traveling exhibition which will tour the state through the South Carolina State Museum's 2015/2016 Traveling Exhibitions Program. The Traveling Exhibitions Program gives galleries, museums, and art centers across South Carolina the opportunity to show the exhibit in their facilities, providing additional exposure for the selected artists.

The *Palmetto Portraits Project* was developed to display within the Medical University of South Carolina's educational and clinical buildings, and serves as a reminder to the students, faculty, and staff about who they serve at MUSC and throughout our state. MUSC asked noted and emerging photographers to focus on South Carolinians at work and play in the Lowcountry, Midlands, and the Upstate. While 24 photographers were given full creative independence with their subject matter, over 270 individuals in more than 40 cities and towns across the Palmetto State were photographed as a result of this project.

MUSC asked the South Carolina State

Museum to be involved with the selection process, and serve as a repository for a complete collection of photographs that would be donated to the permanent collection of the museum. The images included in this exhibition reflect the work of photographers from the Columbia area.

The *Palmetto Portraits Project* partners include MUSC, the Halsey Institute of Contemporary Art at the College of Charleston, and the South Carolina State Museum in Columbia.

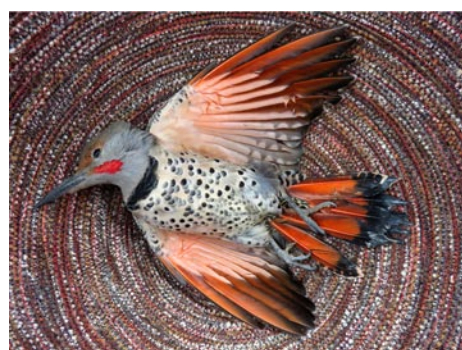
As the state's largest and most comprehensive museum, the South Carolina State Museum offers a unique, entertaining and educational experience to visitors throughout its 225,000 square foot facility located in the heart of downtown Columbia's Congaree Vista. The State Museum is housed in one of its largest artifacts, an 1894 former textile mill listed on the National Registrar of Historic Places. In addition to beautiful meeting spaces throughout the facility, guests can explore outer space in one of the largest planetariums in the Southeast, watch an interactive 4D movie and look through a vintage telescope in a one-of-a-kind observatory. These exciting opportunities are all in addition to the four floors of South Carolina art, cultural history, natural history and science/technology.

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings or call the City Hall at 803/545-3000.

## Anastasia & Friends Gallery Features Works by Susan Lenz

Anastasia & Friends Gallery in Columbia, SC, will present *PLAYA: A Month in Paradise*, exhibition by installation and fiber artist Susan Lenz, on view from Feb. 4 - 27, 2016. A reception will be held on Feb. 4, from 6-9pm, during Columbia's "First Thursday on Main" artwalk. This is the first opportunity for the artist to share work made and inspired by a unique, four-week art residency at PLAYA in the remote, Oregon "Outback".

Lenz left Columbia early on Sunday, Oct. 4, 2015, escaping the floodwaters and devastation that brought much of the city to a stand still. She found herself in the solitary perfection of the high desert, beside a dried lakebed, twenty miles from the nearest WiFi spot, and without reliable cell phone connectivity. The environmental contrast was profound. The inability to keep up-to-date on friends and family back home was momentarily shocking but equally significant. "It was almost like stepping back in time", said Lenz. "To an era when pioneers went west, into the



Work by Susan Lenz

wild, without news from the outside world for days, weeks, even months."

Yet, the accommodations, studio facilities, and two weekly, provided gourmet dinners at PLAYA were hardly reminiscent of the hardships endured by late 19th century explorers to the region. Lenz's spacious cabin included a full kitchen, a Jacuzzi tub, plenty of natural light and a deck that wrapped entirely around the building. "It was amazing, especially at

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night. I loved standing on the deck, looking up at the Milky Way, and knowing that the only man made objects in view were three birdhouses and a single light on the airstrip six miles away. This was indeed Heaven on Earth."

Lenz's provided studio was easily twice the size of her rental studio at Gallery 80808/Vista Studios in Columbia. "It was on the other side of the property. So, daily I walked out onto the parched lakebed, collecting stones, and arranging them in a giant spiral." Lenz's stone spiral became the inspiration for a series of unique art quilts. Her digital images were manipulated and printed on fabric for free-motion machine embroidery.

The natural world at PLAYA includes plenty of wildlife. During Lenz's first week a flicker (a member of the woodpecker family) flew into a window injuring a wing. Despite efforts to save the creature, it died in Lenz's hands the next afternoon. This experience was im-

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