

continuing education includes studies with Dr. Orrin Pilkey, Professor Emeritus of Geology, Duke University, which are ongoing, as well as an apprenticeship with master batik artist Fred Andrade and graduate courses at Arrowmont School of Arts and Crafts. Her exhibition *Low-country* at the Sumter County Gallery of Art show will feature batiks and small oil paintings of the South Carolina coast.

Fraser's swirling, colorful silk batik prints take their inspiration from life—specifically, life observed from 3,000 feet in her grandfather's—now her family's beloved 1946 Ercoupe 415C above the Georgia coast. The experience of flight from a young age showed Fraser the images that would become the foundation of her work. Flying with her brother, Claude Burkhead, over the Georgia barrier islands, Hilton Head, and Bluffton, SC, Fraser pulled out her camera and began shooting the ribbons of earth and water beneath her.

Fraser observes, "Photographing from the open cockpit of my family's vintage plane, wind in my face translates to batiks on silk, distilling the adventure into a moment of visual poetry. From five-story draped sculptures to 14-inch wide Kimono Silks, memories flow like water with layers of wax and dye in the calm of an ancient art form. The expansive interplay of vistas offers intimate meditative prayers for the planet. Flying and photographing threatened regions is my passion."

Fraser offers the following statement, "My life's work is from an aerial perspective, a view of the earth I choose to transcribe onto silk using dyes in the ancient medium of batik. The art comprises a series of narrative landscapes inspired by the terrestrial reaches of the continent, where realms of earth, sea and sky converge. Each area is carefully researched, often by hiking the terrain, exploring the waterways by boat, and painting studies on location. Geology, topography, maps, charts, and satellite images are studied to identify features of visual interest."

"In my art, color is an emotional rather than realistic response, the design often abstracted. The slowness of the medium of batik gives me time to meditate on thoughts feeding into the artwork. The goal is to evoke a sense of place that differentiates locations. The exquisiteness of a fleeting moment is captured on silk with dyes, as I attempt to share with the viewer a moment of visual poetry. A Celebration of the World's Barrier Islands has been my focus as I travel and photograph. Witnessing their vulnerability and noticeable changes from the aerial viewpoint brings subtle environmental messages through the individual batiks," adds Fraser.

Virginia Scotchie is a ceramic artist and head of ceramics at the University of South Carolina in Columbia, SC. She holds a BFA in ceramics from UNC-Chapel Hill and in 1985 completed her Master of Fine Arts at Alfred University in New York.

Scotchie's work is in sculptural ceramics. The forms she creates are abstracted from everyday objects that allow the viewer to interpret their own connection and personal history to her work. Forms are created on the pottery wheel and assembled when leather hard. Each form is surfaced with a textured glaze using stains and oxides for vibrant color. The forms—bulbous, pointed, cylindrical, squat—are at times light and whimsical, or heavy and forboding. The exhibition in Sumter will feature recent work by Scotchie and USC ceramics instructor Bri Kinard, as well as additional work by several graduate and former students, including: Sylvia Addy, Jamie Berry, Jeremy Bickford, Nick Brutto, Carl Craighead, Jordan Fakoury, Leehee Falek, Marcella Kuykendall, Jane Lafferty, Ellie Rose, Earl Smith, Brittant Sparks and Alex Stasko.

Scotchie takes a "hands on" approach to teaching and is known to include her students' work alongside her own in exhibitions.

Scotchie exhibits her work extensively



Work by Virginia Scotchie

throughout the United States and abroad, and has received numerous awards including the Sydney Meyer Fund International Ceramics Premiere Award from the Sheparton Museum in Victoria, Australia. She has lectured internationally on her work and been an Artist in Residence in Taiwan, Italy, Australia and the Netherlands.

Public commissions include the Trinity Building in downtown Charlotte, NC, next to the Mint Museum of Art. Her clay forms reside in many public and private collections and reviews about her work appear in prestigious ceramic publications.

Scotchie offers the following statement, "The idea of taking from one object and connecting it to another through the dissection of parts and pieces is a foundation of my recent work in ceramic sculpture. Combined with this is my interest in the relation of whole forms to that of fragments. Exploration in the studio is and on-going visual investigation of man-made and natural objects. Usually these consist of small things; ordinary in many ways, but possessing an odd quirkiness that pulls me to them. In some cases I do not know the object's particular purpose, function or where it may have originated. I feel this lack of knowledge allows me to see the object in a clearer light."

"My work is eccentric with materials as it is open to different influences of time place and readily available sources. I have worked with the discarded cable reels of a corporate cable company while holding a job with them as a technician, and have pillaged old pallets for the hardwood found under layers of soot and dirt as a graduate student with easy access to a surplus yard. I have always been fascinated by how a material can be transformed within the natural restrictions of that material and have recently begun to juxtapose different materials together while being mindful of the differences in characterization of sometimes opposing materials."

"What started as a simple clean place to store projects that were finished became a way to exhibit art as I see it; a progression of creation dependent upon each individual piece, separate and together as a whole, to bring a viewer to a higher understanding of the artist and the artist's working habits," adds Scotchie. "This wall of shelves that includes many of my current pieces is the closest I can bring an audience into my studio, and into my way of working, while maintaining a professional setting. The obvious choice of transforming a place into my studio would result in too many liabilities due to the messiness of my work spaces."

Scotchie will give an artist talk along with Bri Kinard and some of the students on a date to be announced.

As with all of the gallery's exhibitions, this beautiful show would not be possible without our community partners: The Glenmore and May Sharp Trust, Covenant Place and FTC. Flowers courtesy of Carolyn Bishop-Mcleod, Azalea Garden Club

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& the Council of Garden Clubs of Sumter. For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings, call the

gallery at 803/775-0543 or visit (www.sumtergallery.org).

Upstairs Artspace in Tryon, NC, Features Two New Exhibitions

Upstairs Artspace in Tryon, NC, will present two new exhibitions including: *Landscapes Abstracted: Artists Redefine Landscape*, curated by Dale McEntire, including himself and five other artists and *Shedding Light: Art Lamps by Clark Ellefson*, on view from Mar. 18 through Apr. 28, 2017. A Walk & Talk will be offered on Mar. 18, by the artists at 5pm with the reception beginning at 6pm.

Noted painter (and sculptor) Dale McEntire will curate his own and the work of 5 additional artists whose varied style create intriguing perspectives and interpretation of the landscape. McEntire's own painting style has become quite abstract; but still rooted in the imagery and his connection to nature. He sees the natural world as a vibrant and important part of what it means to be human, and the work explores new ways of interpreting this relationship. The visual language of painting may allow an artist to journey into interpreting the landscape into an image that is no longer a reflection of the external world as well as expressing their internal response.

Eric Benjamin's work is based on the landscape and is a loose representation of nature both real and imagined. With nature as a jump-off point, his goal is to make a good painting that is intimate, strong, emotional and positive. He earned his BFA from Clemson University then received his certification in education from Converse College. His work has been exhibited in shows at the Art Bomb, Open Studios with the Metropolitan Arts Council, the Greenville County Museum of Art, the Pickens County Museum Juried Professional Show, the Anderson Art Show, Center Stage Gallery, Upstairs Gallery and the Artist Guild of Atlanta's Juried Show. He was awarded the Gallery Choice award at the Artist Guild Gallery of Greenville in 2012, 3rd People's Choice in the Artist of the Upstate show 2013 and 3rd place in the Artist of the Upstate show 2014.



Work by Cindy Walton

William Henry Price grew up exploring the creeks and fields near Bethlehem, PA. He received an MFA degree from Rutgers, Mason Gross School of Art, and a BFA from Boston University. BU provided a classical training in figurative painting, but while there he was also greatly influenced by Phillip Guston. Price's paintings, often intricately detailed, express his lifelong enthusiasm for nature and mythology. "I'm painting inside the visible world, where everything is vibrant and alive."

Keith Spencer believes that an artist's style emerges from doing the work itself, rather than trying to "think" it up and then execute it. Two things that characterize his work a love of color, and because he works "fast and focused", a certain energy is apparent in the finished piece. The work in the exhibit *Landscapes Abstracted* is a continuation of exploring the landscape,



Works by Clark Ellefson

in that method and through those eyes. While these works are abstracted from nature, they are still subjective at heart. His landscapes are frequently done in the alla prima tradition (one sitting) and will often include the mountainous area where he now lives, as well as the lowcountry surrounding Charleston. Spencer is an oil painter currently living in Tryon. He grew up in Louisville, KY, and received degrees in Art and Biology from Berry College in Rome, GA.

Lynne Tanner of Rutherfordton, NC, describes two of the series of paintings in the show as specific landscapes she has in her mind. (A meadow above a house that she owned in upstate NY.) She has been painting this scene for two or three years and the image has become more and more abstracted. "I look for and expand shapes and lines within the scene, going back into the painting over and over until an imaginary landscape has evolved."

Cindy Walton captures action, energy and quiet musings of nature in her paintings. Through writings and bold marks traveling in and out of the layers of oil and cold wax, the Asheville, NC, artist layers surfaces with paint to create depth and texture. As the layers are built Cindy incises the surface with sharp-edged tools and large sticks of oil paint. The warmth and effervescence of the Florida coast and the quiet energy of mountainous Western North Carolina are both strongly evident in her work, in imagery as well as in coloration. As a result, her paintings are transformative interpretations rather than literal renderings. "I seek to project authentic intimate interpretations of the world as I encounter it—coast and mountains, past and present."

Walton, a committed artist from childhood, and a native of St. Petersburg, FL, moved to Asheville in 1988. She earned a BA in art from Salem College, and returned to UNCA for her BFA.

In 1974, Clark Ellefson received his BOA degree from the University of South Carolina with emphasis in Sculpture, Ceramics and Film. Through his study of several diverse mediums, Ellefson's fascination and skill with the functional as well as the artistic eventually converged into one-of-a-kind furniture design. His lighting reflects a sensual mix of primitive and modern influences. These lamps, made by hand of paper, steel, glass and wood are at once unique, exotic and modern and should not be missed.

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, call the gallery at 828/859-2828 or visit (www.upstairsartspace.org).

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