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FIBER ART & ANTIQUE PRINTS

701 Center for Contemporary Art in Columbia, SC, Features Works by Kent Ambler of Greenville, SC

701 Center for Contemporary Art in Columbia, SC, will present *Kent Ambler: Into the Wood*, on view from Mar. 12 through Apr. 26, 2020. An Artist Talk is planned for Mar. 12, at 6:30pm, with a reception to follow from 7-8:30pm. Admission: Free; \$5 suggested donation.

This solo exhibition by Greenville, SC, artist Kent Ambler, will present woodcuts, related sculptures, and an architectural installation of woodblocks.

Ambler is one of South Carolina's most prolific and successful woodcut artists. His work impresses art professionals and more casual art lovers alike. Ambler's surroundings provide his subjects, whether they are birds, dogs and goats; trees, mountains and neighborhoods; ice cream, or beer and bananas. His approach is intuitive and aesthetic rather than conceptual. The exhibition will be Ambler's largest solo exhibition to date, with his largest-ever three-dimensional component. The show will present three dozen woodcut prints, 20 woodcut-collage house sculptures, and an installation of a shed-sized house structure built from old, carved wood blocks.

"My work is autobiographical," Ambler says. "It is derived from my life and surroundings, my observations. It usually starts with an observation or a quick sketch. While the imagery in my art is generally subject- or object-oriented, the visual appearance of each piece is of most importance to me. I try not to overthink or over-plan my work. I generally do my best work when my brain is 'turned off', so to speak. I am inspired by the simplicity of idea and image addressed by genuine folk artists."

Hammond, IN, native Ambler (b. 1970) has been a full-time artist since 1997. He has had dozens of exhibitions,



Work by Kent Ambler

including solo shows in Alabama, North Carolina, South Carolina, Massachusetts, Maryland, Tennessee, New York, Michigan and Virginia, as well as Taiwan. Ambler is represented by eight galleries throughout the country and sells his work at high-end art fairs throughout the Southeast and beyond. He received a BFA from Indiana's Ball State University in 1992 and did graduate studies at Clemson University in 2001-2002.

"Kent is an interesting case as an artist who is deeply respected by his peers for the quality and breadth of his work, and at the same time appeals to a very wide audience," said 701 CCA board chair Wim Roefs, who curated the exhibition. "The everyday nature of his subject matter certainly helps with this appeal since it provides easy entry points into the work. But at the same time, Ambler often presents an interesting take and surprising angle, the latter literally and figuratively. And there's a good bit of humor in the work, too, both in the imagery and in his use of text. The work possesses a lot of

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energy and movement, and shows mastery of the woodcut medium - giving the work a raw quality, too."

701 CCA's mission is to promote the understanding, appreciation and enjoyment of contemporary art, and the role of art and artists in the community. With a gallery and live-work space for an Artist-in-Residence program, the Center provides artists with resources to develop, create and exhibit visual arts in conjunction with performing, literary and media arts. 701 CCA also offers year-round cultural programming, including contemporary art exhibitions and events that are free and open to the public.

For further information check our



Works by Kent Ambler

SC Institutional Gallery listings, contact Allison Cicero Moore, Executive Director by calling 803/319-9949 or visit (www.701cca.org).

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