

Charleston Artist Guild

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and involve the imagination of the viewer. The bold use of color and texture demonstrate his study of and passion for abstract expressionism from the early Europeans to the contemporary New York artists. He works in acrylic, oil and mixed media in a variety of sizes and substrates, appealing to different preferences.

Ferguson's art can be found in several South Carolina galleries including the Charleston Artist Guild Gallery, Society of Bluffton Artist Gallery and All About Art Gallery, Bluffton, SC, in private collections, public spaces and regularly supporting charity fundraisers.

The CAG was founded well over half a century ago by a small group of artists who wanted to network with other artists, reach out to the community with impactful volunteer projects and display their own work. Today the CAG has emerged as a vital non-profit organization of more than 600 members who enrich the community in countless ways with limitless beauty and inspiration.

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings or call Steve Jacobs at 843-722-2454 or visit (www.charlestonartistguild.com).



Work by Richard Ferguson

[charlestonartistguild.com](http://www.charlestonartistguild.com)

Corrigan Gallery llc in Charleston, SC, Features Works by Kristina Montvidas Kutkas

Corrigan Gallery llc in Charleston, SC, is presenting *Architecture*, featuring works by Kristina Montvidas Kutkas, on view through June 30, 2021.

This exhibition explores the architecture of Charleston through painted photo-linen canvases.

Detroit-born artist, Kristina Montvidas Kutkas, went East to Philadelphia for her art schooling. She attended The University of the Arts for two years before becoming disillusioned by the "painting is dead" movement. Just down Broad Street was PAFA, Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, where the annual student exhibit made a lasting impression.

Changing schools was fruitful. The Academy provided private studios, all day life drawing, critiques, American Art History Lectures and a rich environment for creative endeavors. At the end of three years, Kutkas was awarded the Schiedt Traveling Scholarship and she went abroad to Italy, Yugoslavia, Greece, Egypt, and Paris. Much of her early work shows the Egyptian influence.

Kutkas furthered her education by pursuing a Master of Arts degree at the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque. The school was known for photography and photo art history. Kutkas studied darkroom basics and Professor Bob Ellis taught her how to print on photo linen. Kutkas combined her oil painting with the photo linens to produce heightened compositions. One of these photo linens was accepted into the University's art collection.

Kutkas relocated to Charleston where she had friends and family. She wrote art reviews for the *Post and Courier* and *Carolina Arts* and worked as an assistant director for local galleries. Kutkas continued to paint and found Charleston's Federal architecture endlessly interesting and full of possibilities for dynamic compositions.

Most of Kutkas' work is in private



Work by Kristina Montvidas Kutkas

collections with the exception of drawings and monotypes in Kaunas, Lithuania and haikus in Japan

The Corrigan Gallery llc is celebrating its 15th Anniversary of representing local artists creating nontraditional work - Manning Williams, Corrie McCallum, John Hull, Mary Walker, Kristi Ryba, Daphne vom Baur, Nancy Langston, Max Miller, Karin Olah, John Moore, Gordon Nicholson, Paul Mardikian, Susan Perkins, Lese Corrigan, Midge Peery, Arthur McDonald, Sue Simons Wallace, Bill Buggel, William Meisburger and Valerie Isaacs. It expanded to include the artists of the Charleston Renaissance with the estates of Elizabeth O'Neill Verner and Alfred Hutty and second market works of merit such as Matisse, Wolf Kahn and William Halsey. Located in the heart of the downtown historic district of Charleston's French Quarter.

For further information check our SC Commercial Gallery listings, call the gallery at 843/722-9868 or visit ([corrigangallery.com](http://www.corrigangallery.com)).

City of North Charleston, SC, Features Works by Christopher Murphy & Julia Colleo Gallagher

The City of North Charleston's Cultural Arts Department is pleased to announce that concurrent solo exhibitions of paintings by local artists Christopher Murphy and Julia Coello Gallagher will be on display at Park Circle Gallery, from June 2 - 26, 2021. A

free reception will be held at the gallery on June 4, from 5-7pm. The public is invited to attend.

In his exhibit, *Careful Chaos*, Christopher Murphy presents a collection of bold

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and colorful abstract mixed media paintings that go beyond pure design to explore contemporary culture and the collective human experience. In each composition Murphy builds up layers of paint, then gouges and sands the surface exposing parts of the under-painting to reveal previous versions of the work. He also incorporates found objects and random images which reflect his everyday experiences.

"Painting for me is a process of discovery. The gestures, marks, and scribbles found throughout these works remind me that the practice of creating art transcends the materials," Murphy explains. "The act of painting itself gives me a great sense of fulfillment. Once completed the paintings become a source of enlightenment for me. By revealing the process in the painting, it is my hope the viewer can follow the same path and share a similar experience."

Murphy received his BFA from the Columbus College of Art and Design in Columbus, OH, and his MFA from Georgia Southern University in Statesboro, GA. A recognized artist, he has participated in numerous solo and group exhibitions across the Southeast. He is also known for his involvement in the arts community through charity events and teaching at notable institutions such as Redux Contemporary Art Center and the Citadel in Charleston, SC.



Work by Julia Colleo Gallagher

Julia Coello Gallagher's exhibit, *Free Form Wanderings*, features a series of abstract expressionist paintings in acrylic and mixed media. Gallagher layers color and texture with experimentations in form to create intriguing abstract expressionist works. "Abstract-Expressionism dwarfs the



Work by Christopher Murphy

capacity of words to capture the inherent nature of my subjects," she explains. "Each work is created by allowing thinking and rationality to be suspended and subordinated to emotional expressivity."

Originally from Spain and Venezuela, Gallagher earned degrees in Visual Arts and Interior Design in Caracas, Venezuela, then moved to the United States where she earned an additional BFA in Interior Design from the New York Institute of Technology in New York, NY. After abandoning her art practice and dedicating many years to Interior Design, she returned to painting, creating works heavily influenced by German and American Abstract-Expressionism. Intrigue, experimentation, and constantly looking for a different perspective are what motivate her creative process and fuel her passion to continue to return to her canvas. Gallagher is currently an Associate Artist at Art on the Square Gallery in Summerville, SC.

The Park Circle Gallery is located on Jenkins Avenue in North Charleston, in what was formerly known as the Olde Village Community Building.

For more info check our SC Institutional Gallery listings, call 843/637-3565 or visit the Arts & Culture section of the City's website at (www.northcharleston.org).

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