

# Sumter (SC) County Gallery of Art

continued from Page 16

Guild that will be on display in the exhibition.

Karen Watson, Director of the Sumter County Gallery of Art notes that the *Sumter Artists' Guild Exhibition* is the most popular and well-attended exhibition the gallery presents. Last year's exhibition was attended by over 150 people and the same is expected for the upcoming show. The high quality work by new and long time Guild artists results in a fresh and diverse *Sumter Artists' Guild Exhibition* - a treat for art lovers in Sumter and surrounding areas. The Guild show is a "judged" show, not a juried show, so every piece of artwork entered will be displayed. Visitors are encouraged to vote for their favorite pieces of art when they visit, for the popular Peoples' Choice Award, which will be announced the last day of the exhibition so all who visit have a chance to vote. The *Sumter Artists' Guild Exhibition* also provides a great opportunity to purchase high-quality art at reasonable prices.

We are excited to have as the 2019 judge Columbia mixed media artist, Eileen Blyth. Originally from Charleston, Blyth has always thought of herself as a painter - even though she initially started classes to be a dental hygienist. She earned her BA degree from the College of Charleston where she studied under William Halsey. Halsey's use of color, texture and humor influenced how she approached her work. Blyth is a go-with-the flow kind of artist with a desire to create eye-catching art with the resources around her. She sees the creative potential in objects most people overlook.

At an early age, it was evident that Blyth had an unmistakable talent. As one of eight children, she was provided with lots of inspiration for her art. The support from her parents also motivated her to continue to do what she loved in life; her father would proudly take her drawings to work. Little did she know her skill and passion for art would bloom into a successful career. Blyth spent her days in school with paintbrushes in hand and spread beautiful color across canvas. She soon became attracted to sculpture. It began with an obsession for old, abandoned tires on the side of the road, and developed into mixed media installations with found objects and materials such as glass. Her work has captured the attention of many galleries in the Carolinas and overseas in places like Toyko and Germany. Blyth had a solo exhibition at the Sumter



Work by Johua Hatfield, Best of Show

County Gallery of Art in 2007. Her studio is located at Stormwater Studios in Columbia, SC.

Blyth's Artist Statement is as follows: "There are times when I have an idea in my head of how a painting or sculpture will go. Most always, as I work, a completely different thing happens, as if the paint or object had a plan of its own. Somewhere between building a structure or making and erasing marks there is a shift. It is that moment of knowing, of seeing that shape or line, of finding the composition that is the exciting thing for me."

The *Sumter Artists' Guild Exhibition* - more than any other - is a true a community effort. It would not be possible to showcase local talent without the generous support of Judy Tyl, in loving memory of Charles "Chuck" Tyl, FTC, The Heart of Sumter Neighborhood Association and Black River Electric Cooperative. This is the fourth year that the Heart of Sumter Neighborhood Association (HSNA) has sponsored the Guild show and the gallery is excited about this partnership. Flowers courtesy of Azalea Garden Club & 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.com](http://www.sumtergallery.com)).

www **theartistindex** .com

connecting  
**ARTISTS &  
ART LOVERS**  
in the Carolinas...  
and beyond

since 2005

## Groewood Gallery in Asheville, NC, Offers Works by Neil Carroll

Groewood Gallery in Asheville, NC, will present *Street to Studio: Graffiti Inspired Art & Fine Furniture by Neil Carroll*, on view from July 13 through Aug. 18, 2019. A reception will be held on July 13, from 2-5pm.

Carroll is a graduate of the Cleveland Institute of Art - where he studied painting and printmaking - and the Haywood Community College Professional Crafts Program in Wood. Skilled in many disciplines, Carroll has been a working artist his entire adult life. He was a landscape designer on Hilton Head Island, SC, before moving to Western North Carolina in 2002. During this time, he started painting more and showing his work. He wanted to have a creative outlet that he could make a living from, so he began honing his skills as a furniture maker.



Work by Neil Carroll, photo by Ashley Van Matre

5 years ago. He has some large mural pieces in the Asheville's River Arts District, including a rabbit spray-painted on the building that houses 12 Bones Smokehouse. When asked about the draw of street art, Carroll says he's attracted to the layering, wonderful surfaces, color, and "the unfettered creativity that is produced without any need or hope that the piece is anything but temporary. It helps kill the limitation of hesitation. It's had, and continues to have, a tremendous impact on the rest of my art practice."

In *Street to Studio*, Carroll will showcase fine furniture, paintings and drawings (both large and small-scale) that have been heavily influenced by his graffiti art. His furniture offerings will include finely crafted tables, chests, and cabinets - handmade from domestic hardwoods and exotics. Carroll says his wood is sourced from all over, including lumber yards and specialty shops as well as dumpsters and old buildings.

"No matter what kind of work I'm producing, I like the big box of crayons. I pick and choose wood types and combinations that fill my design needs. I don't have any kind of agenda as to my materials other than how they will affect the visual impact of the piece. I pick wood for color and texture, with a small amount of consideration for the technical aspects."

Established in 1992, Groewood Gallery is nationally recognized for its dedication to fine American art and craft. Located in

continued on Page 18

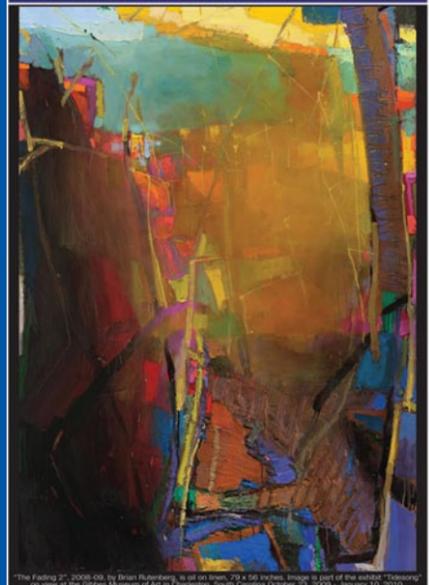
Carolina Arts, July 2019 - Page 17

 **Carolina Arts is now on  
Twitter!**

  
  
Sign up to follow  
Tom's Tweets, click below!

  
[twitter.com/carolinaarts](https://twitter.com/carolinaarts)

FREE Vol. 13, No. 10 October 2019  
**CAROLINA ARTS**  
A PUBLICATION COVERING THE VISUAL ARTS IN THE CAROLINAS



Visit  
**Carolina Arts**  
on Facebook

Go to this [link](#) and  
"like" us!



Work by Neil Carroll, photo by Tim Barnwell

Carroll first became inspired by graffiti and street art by one of his painting teachers, Moe Brooker, while attending the Cleveland Institute of Art back in the late 70s and early 80s. Brooker was from Philadelphia - where graffiti originated in the late 1960s - and his paintings were heavily influenced by the street culture at the time. As a student, Carroll made several trips to New York City, where the underground art form had spread. "At this time, the subways were completely covered," he said. "This was the time of Keith Haring and Jean-Michel Basquiat. I loved it!"

Carroll started doing legal graffiti about