

Sumter County Gallery of Art in Sumter Offers Annual Guild Show

The Sumter County Gallery of Art in Sumter, SC, is presenting the annual *Sumter Artists' Guild Exhibition*, on view through Aug. 26, 2022.

Sumter is fortunate to be home to many talented artists working in all mediums. The Sumter Artists Guild was founded in 1966 by some of Sumter's most prominent artists. Its membership includes amateur, professional artists and art enthusiasts. Its mission is "to promote, support and foster interest in art and to create an opportunity for our community of artists to engage in cooperative artistic enterprises and to be further active in supporting a variety of activities associated with art education, art instruction and art appreciation in our community." The Guild has not only succeeded in its mission but surpassed it. The Guild was instrumental in founding the Sumter County Gallery of Art in 1969.

The Sumter Artists' Guild is one of the most active Guilds in the state. Led by a hard-working Board of talented artists, President Laura Cardello, Jennifer Franklin, Treasurer Vicki Hagner, and Lisa Melton. This group has been together for several years and provides much needed continuity to the guild as it continues to add new members.

They are excited to have as the 2022 *Sumter Artists' Guild Exhibition* judge, Kyle C. Coleman. Coleman is an arts administrator, art historian, visual arts educator, graphic designer, and writer. He is from Columbia, SC, and is the son of the late Dr. Collie Coleman and Anne H. Coleman. Coleman currently serves as the Fine Arts Manager for the Lake City ArtFields Collective, where his primary responsibilities are the facilitation of all aspects of the annual ArtFields visual arts competition.

Before accepting his position at ArtFields, Coleman was the Director of Art Education at the Sumter County Gallery of Art. He studied graphic design and art history as an undergraduate at Howard University in Washington, DC, and Alabama A&M University in Huntsville, AL. Coleman earned a Master of Arts degree in Arts Administration from Winthrop University in Rock Hill, SC. He is currently in his third year of a Doctoral program for Learning and Organizational Change at Baylor University, in Waco, TX. Coleman is joyously married to Levata Marie Coleman and father to a son Alex (20) and a daughter Kyle Cristina (4).

New SCGA curator Eric Lachance notes:



Work by Ashley Lareau

"It is my pleasure to helm the installation of the *Sumter Artist Guild Show* for the first time as curator. Though witnessing the talent and skill in submissions is always a bright point, what really excites me is the ability for the greater community to enter our space and see the artistic merits of our neighbors on display. Thank you to the Artists' Guild for another opportunity to display your best to Sumter."

Karen Watson, SCGA director adds: "We look forward to seeing visitors in our space socializing and enjoying a sip of wine. Masks are now optional at the gallery, but strongly encouraged. Come join us and meet many of the exhibiting artists and have conversations about their work. In these inflationary times, with many families watching their budgets, please remember there is no admission to visit the gallery."

The Sumter Artists' Guild exhibition is an excellent opportunity to add to your collection and support local artists by purchasing fine art at reasonable prices. Over the years the number of awards and prize money has increased and deservedly so. In 2014, they added a Peoples' Choice Award to involve the community, and in 2020 we added a Best of Show award. They want to recognize and reward the talent of Sumter's local artists.

All of this would not be possible without the generous support of our sponsors who eagerly stepped up to support the Gallery and our local artists: Jane Collins, Heart of Sumter Neighborhood Association, Black River Electric Cooperative, CRW Insurance and Elmore Hill McCreight Funeral Home and Crematory. Flowers are 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).

Koger Center for the Arts in Columbia, SC, Offers *The Project: A 2021 Call for Art Exhibit*

The Koger Center for the Arts in Columbia, SC, is presenting *The Project: A 2021 Call for Art Exhibit*, on view in the Center's Upstairs Gallery, through Aug. 31, 2022.

The exhibit features works by the 2021 winner, Mary Robinson, as well as works by Honorable Mentions: Christopher Lane, Rebecca Horne, Skip Willits, Arden Cone, and Susanna King.

Mary Robinson is a Professor of Art and Head of Printmaking at the University of South Carolina. She received her BFA in Studio Art from the University of Colorado, and MA in Art History from University of Wisconsin, and an MFA in Printmaking from Indiana University. Her work has been exhibited in galleries, museums and art centers throughout the United States as well as Australia, Denmark, England, Germany, Italy, Malaysia, Hong Kong, and South Korea.

Robinson offered the following artist's statement, "I first started working with a pattern of ovals in 2003 when I heard pianist and friend Marina Lomazov play a quick, sweet, fleeting, Chopin etude as a concert encore. Each note existed individually as well as blending with others, and then quickly lost vibration. I began to see a resonance between a musical note and a human life. Through studying Bud-

dhism and practicing yoga for many years, my recognition of the ephemerality of human nature has expanded to encompass all living beings and the interconnectedness among us. Humans are indeed part of, not separate from, nature. I visualize this condition of creation and destruction as a tapestry, with stretches of sustained rhythm as well as moments of ruptures and mends. The driving question in my artmaking is: how can I visually present both the euphoria and horror I experience in the 21st Century as we humans savor, destroy, and attempt to mend life on Earth?"

"Throughout printmaking I draw, carve, etch, print and layer marks to present my experience of being part of a larger life aggregate. I often cut, tear, smother, tangle, weave, glue and stitch the paper and fabric to reflect the ruptures that occur in the aggregate. My concurrent practices of weaving and dyeing fabric with patterns influence (and are influenced by) my printmaking."

The Project: A Call for Art from the Koger Center for the Arts is an annual artistic competition that supports the work of South Carolina visual artists. Each year, one chosen artist will receive a \$500 stipend, gallery space, and staff support

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resulting in a free public display in the Upstairs Gallery of the Koger Center.

The Project began as The 1593 Project: A Call for Art from the Koger Center for the Arts, during the national shelter-in-place situation due to COVID-19 in 2020. Inspired by the theatre closures that London faced during the bubonic plague in the year 1593, The Koger Center's Call for Art was created to support artists as they endured the devastating effect

of the COVID-19 shutdowns. In 2020, we encouraged submissions from South Carolina artists and received a diverse array of artwork reflective of the state's vibrant arts and cultural talent from over 55 entrants.

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings, call the Center at 803/251-2222 or visit (<https://koger-centerforthearts.com/event.php?id=1022>).

701 Center for Contemporary Art in Columbia, SC, Features Works by Adrian Rhodes

701 Center for Contemporary Art in Columbia, SC, is presenting *How to Untie a Tight Knot*, featuring works by Adrian Rhodes, in the Center's Main Gallery, through Sept. 1, 2022.

Adrian Rhodes, The 701 CCA Prize 2020 winner received a six-week, paid residency at 701 CCA; *How to Untie a Tight Knot* is the resulting solo exhibition. The purpose of the 701 CCA Prize is to identify and recognize artists 40 years and younger whose work is exemplary in its originality, shows awareness of artistic developments and is of high artistic merit. The winner was selected by a panel of three art professionals.

Rhodes, 38, is a relative veteran of the 701 CCA Prize, having submitted to all four previous Prize competitions. Also in age and career, Rhodes was the veteran among the three finalists. The printmaker and mixed media installation artist holds both an BFA and MFA from Rock Hill's Winthrop University and has exhibited widely and often throughout the Carolinas and beyond. She was selected for the 2019 and 2021 701 CCA South Carolina Biennial and the recent region-wide exhibition *Coined In The South* at The Mint Museum in Charlotte, NC.

Rhodes' work is about relationships, and the complexity of closeness- the desire to separate from your past and return to it in the same breath. For Rhodes, print becomes



Work by Adrian Rhodes

a method for creating structure. This framework, indulging a desire for order, creates space for disruption. Using prints as modular components allows the work to inherit visual information across a body of work. She is interested in how this repetition of imagery and motif reflects recurring thought patterns and an unwillingness to move on.

Tedious handwork is an anxiety response, reflecting an obsessive desire for

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