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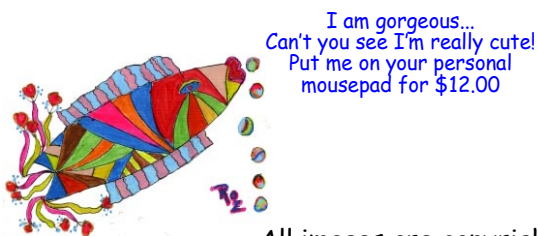
"Soon, I get to Go to School. I will follow All the Rules. ABC, 123, I will learn what They Teach to Me."

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Rosalyn Karamer Monat-Haller

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College of Charleston in Charleston, SC, Features Works by F. Scott Hess

The College of Charleston in Charleston, SC, will present the exhibit, *The Paternal Suit: Heirlooms from the F. Scott Hess Family Foundation*, on view at The Halsey Institute of Contemporary Art at the College of Charleston School of the Arts, from Aug. 24 through Oct. 6, 2012.

The Halsey Institute of Contemporary Art organized a major traveling exhibition created by contemporary Los Angeles artist F. Scott Hess. The exhibition will travel nationally after its inaugural presentation at the Halsey Institute, including stops in Mobile, AL, Sumter, SC and Long Beach, CA.

Entitled, *The Paternal Suit: Heirlooms from the F. Scott Hess Family Foundation*, the exhibition consists of over 100 paintings, prints, and objects assembled by Hess and presented as legitimate historical artifacts, supported by photographs, documents, and historical ephemera. Each object and artwork bears an artist's name and detailed provenance and has been executed in the style of the century from which it supposedly originates. Sculpture, ceramics, furniture, toys, newspaper clippings, historic photographs, guns, and costumes advance the story.

Hess does not claim authorship for the majority of works on display. Instead, he ascribes to them fictional artists, referring to himself as the Director of the "F. Scott Hess Family Foundation."

A 200-page catalogue, written by Bella Menteur, PhD, accompanies the exhibit that chronicles 400 years of F. Scott Hess' paternal ancestry in America. A film by Susan Carney and Shirin Bazleh, will include interviews with Hess at his home in Los Angeles, CA, insight into his creative process, still images of works in the exhibition, and an overview of the fascinating history of his paternal side.

Where does personal story end and national history begin? Wherein lies the truth of the stories our fathers tell us, and how

does the dishonesty and falseness of familial history impact the moral underpinnings of a society? F. Scott Hess explores these questions in this multimedia exhibition of the artist's paternal ancestry that spans four centuries.



The Paternal Suit consists of over 100 paintings, prints, and objects selected from the collection of the F. Scott Hess Family Foundation. Allegedly spanning four hundred years of American culture and creativity, the work of these artists and craftsmen range from the most famous exemplars of their era to the unknown, unheralded, and unbelievable. Sculpture, ceramics, furniture, toys, newspaper clippings, historic photographs, guns, and costumes advance the tale of F. Scott Hess' paternal ancestors and their struggles to carve out a life on the American continent.

Energized by a desire to reanimate the lives of past family members, Hess has relentlessly pursued his goals, amassing an unparalleled collection of ancestral artifacts in a period of only five years. Psychologically driven by his own personal history of a missing father, Hess' cutting-edge genea-

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logical research into his heritage lead to the discovery of a moving and deeply personal morality play; an American historical journey whose plausibility is built upon gross exaggeration, and an examination of the truths and fictions that comprise 'history.' Ultimately, says Hess, "*The Paternal Suit* shows not who I am, but who we are."

The exhibition follows Hess's ancestral lineage from 17th century England to the Puritan settlements of South Carolina and Georgia, where family members became key players in the War Between the States (1860-65). Through the prism of his ancestry, Hess examines the impact of false history and deception within each generation and throughout society as a whole, and questions the authority of these perceived "truths." The ultimate subtext for the installation, which traces the trajectory of the Iverson, Patton, Nolan, and Hess family lines, is the seven-year old artist's abandonment by his own father after a parental divorce.

F. Scott Hess, born 1955 in Baltimore, MD, began to draw intensely at the age of seven. He grew up in a small Wisconsin town, and received a Bachelor of Science in Art from the University of Wisconsin-Madison (1977). Attracted by the dark tone, intense psychological content, and the level of technical skill displayed by artists in Prague and Vienna, Hess moved to the Austrian capital in 1978, attending the Vienna Academy of Fine Arts for five-and-a-half years. He learned Old Master painting techniques, studied paint chemistry, drew thousands of figure drawings from life, and completed a year-long course at the Anatomy Institute. In 1979 Hess had his first solo exhibition in

Vienna, quickly followed by exhibitions in Austria, Germany and France.

In 1981 Hess received one of Austria's most prestigious awards for artists, the Theodor Koerner Award. In 1984 Hess moved to his current home of Los Angeles and in 1985 had his first American solo exhibition. Hess has exhibited in over one hundred group and solo exhibitions, including venues in Europe, Asia, and the Middle East. His work is included in the public collections of the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Orange County Museum of Art, Oakland Museum, San Jose Museum of Art, and the Smithsonian Institute, among others.

In 1990 Hess received a Western States Art Federation award, and in 1991 a J. Paul Getty Fellowship and a National Endowment for the Arts Visual Arts Fellowship. Hess is represented by Hirschl and Adler Modern in New York and Koplin Del Rio Gallery in Los Angeles. He is currently on the MFA faculty at the Laguna College of Art and Design.

Hess will give a gallery talk on Saturday, Aug. 25, at 2pm.

The Halsey Institute of Contemporary Art is committed to providing a direct experience with works of art in all media within an environment that fosters creativity, individuality, innovation and education. In addition to producing exhibitions, lectures, film series, publications, and a comprehensive website, the Halsey serves as an extension of the undergraduate curricula at the College and as a cultural resource for the region.

For further info check our SC Institutional Gallery listings, call 843/953-4422 or visit (www.halsey.cofc.edu).

Charleston Artist Guild in Charleston, SC, Offers Works by Cecelia Campbell

The Charleston Artist Guild in Charleston, SC, will present the exhibit, *Summertime*, featuring works by Cecelia Campbell, on view in the Charleston Artist Guild Gallery, from Aug. 1 - 31,

2012. A reception will be held on Aug. 3, from 5-8pm.

The "Summertime Series" pays homage to the natural beauty and unique life-

continued on Page 9