

701 Center for Contemporary Art in Columbia, SC, Features Works by Jena Thomas

701 Center for Contemporary Art in Columbia, SC, is presenting *Jena Thomas: Acid Summer*, including paintings in oil on canvas and works on paper including collage, on view through Aug. 15, 2021.

Born in South Florida, Thomas is a South Carolina based artist. Her abstract landscape paintings explore the contemporary context of how mankind alters and views the natural world. Thomas has exhibited nationally, with exhibitions at the Fernando Luis Alvarez Gallery, Boca Raton Museum of Art, The Momentary Museum, Context New York, and Art Palm Beach. Her work has been featured in such publications as *Studio Visit* magazine, *New American Painting* and *Creative Quarterly*.

Thomas is a recipient of the Ruth Katzman Scholarship from the Art Students League of New York, Winner of the 701 Center for Contemporary Art Prize and a finalist for Miami University's Young Painters Competition. Thomas received her Bachelor of Fine Arts from Massachusetts College of Art and Design in Boston, MA, and her Masters of Fine Arts from the University of Miami in Coral Gables, FL. Thomas's work is currently represented by the Fernando Luis Alvarez Gallery in Stamford, CT.



Work by Jena Thomas

buildings and landscapes. These spaces are depicted as enchanting locations and the person within is inherently searching. Constructs such as string lights, fountains, and courtyards further highlight her interest in our urge to elevate the mundane to the spiritual and to find connection and magic in everyday experiences. Whether consciously or subconsciously, the innate drive to "make our mark" on the world motivates the work.

Old found family photographs of people, usually boys, are captured in moments of conquest and triumph while hunting, fishing, and cliff diving, and punctuate the presence of human nature and the need to assert our personhood, a natural and universal instinct as we set out to make a place for ourselves.

701 CCA's mission is to promote understanding, appreciation and enjoyment of contemporary art. 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 SC Institutional Gallery listing, contact Michaela Pilar Brown, Interim Executive Director by calling 803/319-9949 or visit (www.701cca.org).



Work by Jena Thomas

Thomas' most recent work explores the human drive to discover, construct, and challenge the natural world. She is interested in the idea of a snapshot as a means to "keep" part of the world around us. Her subjects emerge from the brush to discover man-made, artificially lit

University of South Carolina in Columbia, SC, Offers Look at Carolina Knives

The University of South Carolina in Columbia, SC, will present *Carolina Knives: The Roots of a Revival*, on view at the McKissick Museum, from Aug. 5 through Dec. 20, 2021. A reception will be held on Aug. 5, from 5:30-8pm.

Showcasing over 100 examples of utilitarian and decorative knives, *Carolina Knives* will feature the work of makers from North and South Carolina.

Since the mid-20th century, custom knifemaking has enjoyed a nationwide renaissance. Outdoor enthusiasts, people who hunt and fish, military personnel, reenactors, and chefs have been inspired to take up making knives for their own and others' use. The Carolinas proved to be fertile ground for a custom knifemaking revival. The South Carolina Association of Knifemakers got its start in August 1980 at the Third Annual Gun & Knife Show in Aiken, SC. The North Carolina Knifemakers Guild was founded in June 1992. Most recently, in 2020, the SC Knifemakers' Guild launched in the Upstate.

Carolina Knives will explore this history as well as present a wealth of blade and handle material types and styles made by accomplished contemporary custom knifemakers from the Carolinas. The exhibit also will feature select American Indian cutting tools and blades forged outside the southeastern United States and in regions



"Medicine Man's Knife" by Time Scholl

of Africa with strong blacksmithing traditions that informed the history of knives in the Carolinas prior to World War II.

In addition to the exhibit, a series of public programs will be offered over the summer and fall of 2021 featuring lectures, demonstrations, and other interactive activities. A complete list of events can be found on their website.

This exhibit and its programming are sponsored by South Carolina Humanities, a state program of the National Endowment for the Humanities; inspiring, engaging and enriching South Carolinians with programs on literature, history, culture, and heritage. They are also supported by the Folklife Partnership grant McKissick receives from the South Carolina Arts Commission.

Established in 1976, we're located at the heart of the historic Horseshoe on the

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University of South Carolina's campus. Our collections date back to 1801 and provide insight into the history of the university and the community, culture, and environment of the American South.

The University of South Carolina's McKissick Museum fosters awareness and appreciation for the diversity of the region's culture, history, and natural environment. The museum fulfills the university's mission by engaging in campus educational and enrichment activities, acting as a repository for relevant collections, and through its graduate museum certifi-

cate program. It accomplishes these aims through original research about southern life, material culture, natural science, and decorative and fine arts, holding exhibitions, issuing publications and offering public programming. It collaborates with the university community and outside constituents in documenting, collecting and interpreting the Southern experience.

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings, call the Museum at 803-777-7251 or visit (https://sc.edu/study/colleges_schools/artsand-sciences/mckissick_museum/).

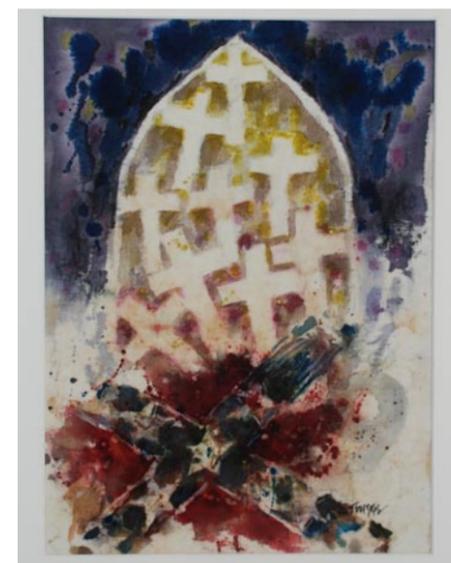
Orangeburg County Fine Arts Center in Orangeburg, SC, Offers Group Exhibition

The Orangeburg County Fine Arts Center in Orangeburg, SC, is presenting *A Fine Hand*, on view in the Lusty Gallery, through Aug. 18, 2021.

A Fine Hand celebrates the talents of regional and national artists, who have connections to South Carolina through their lives and creativity, and all of whom use their hands to fashion exceptionally fine works of art.

Sixteen nationally and internationally recognized artists accepted the Arts Center's invitation to contribute to the most comprehensive exhibition there of hand-made art constructed works using every imaginable media. "Their media are as unique as their pieces: pewter, wheat, plastic, recycled paper, found and recycled materials" according to Vivian Glover, director of community arts and development. "Even clay, fabric, wood and metal are transformed into captivating shapes and contours fabricated through innovative and inspired imaginations, expressing what, in dexterous hands, can become stunning and beautiful."

The wheat weaver, Katherine Caldwell, from Asheville, NC, taking part in her first show, has taken an ancient art and trans-



Work by Leo Twiggs

formed it through her years of collecting and her practiced skills into designs. They speak to communities from the very rural to the very urban. Caldwell learned from the Natural Material Artist Jan Morris then defined her own style and purpose. "It's connecting our past with the present in a

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