

Gibbes Museum of Art in Charleston, SC, Presents Exhibition Focused on Women Artist and Photography

The Gibbes Museum of Art in Charleston, SC, is presenting two new exhibits including: *Breaking Down Barriers: 300 Years of Women in Art* and *Camera Works: Masters in Photography*, both on view through Jan. 8, 2012.

Breaking Down Barriers: 300 Years of Women in Art, on view in the Main Gallery, will examine the challenges faced by women artists over the past 300 years. *Camera Works: Masters in Photography*, on view in the Rotunda Galleries, features twentieth-century masters of photography selected from the Gibbes permanent collection and local private collections.

"These exhibitions demonstrate the wide-ranging and versatile aspects of the museum's 150-year-old collection," stated Angela D. Mack, Executive Director.



Henriette Charlotte Chastaigner (Mrs. Nathaniel Broughton), 1711, by Henrietta de Beaulieu Dering Johnston (ca. 1674 – 1729). Pastel on paper, 14 2/5 x 11 3/5 inches. Gift of Victor A. Morawetz. Image courtesy Gibbes Museum of Art.

Drawn from the museum's permanent collection, *Breaking Down Barriers: 300 Years of Women in Art* highlights a number of extraordinary women working in a variety of media and artistic styles. The exhibition pays tribute to those women who defied convention and paved the way for women to achieve success as professional artists.

In the 1700s, women faced considerable obstacles to becoming professional artists, primarily caused by social pressures and the lack of access to formal artistic training. Henrietta Johnston moved to Charleston (then known as Charles Town) in 1708 when the Church of England's Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts appointed her husband, Gideon Johnston, Commissary for South Carolina. The Johnston family faced considerable financial hardships upon arriving in Charleston, and to help support her family, Henrietta created and sold pastel portraits. Henrietta Johnston is considered to be the first female professional artist in America and the Gibbes Museum of Art houses the largest public collection of her work. Five (5) pastel portraits by Henrietta Johnston are included in the exhibition.



Designs, *Wrightsville Beach*, 1968, by Minnie Evans (American, 1892-1987) Collage with oil, crayon, and pencil on canvas, 22 1/4 x 26 3/8 inches. Museum purchase with funds provided by the National Endowment for the Arts Living Artist Fund. Image courtesy Gibbes Museum of Art.

Women artists from the Charleston Renaissance period are also well represented in the exhibition. During this period of time between the two World Wars, Charleston experienced a resurgence in all aspects of cultural life including literature, music, historic preservation, and the visual arts. Among the leaders of the Charleston Renaissance were artists Alice Ravenel Huger Smith, Elizabeth O'Neill Verner, and Anna Heyward Taylor, all of whom created numerous works depicting the historic architecture and beautiful landscape of Charleston and the surrounding Lowcountry region.

The exhibition also recognizes the impressive cadre of female artists working in the region today from sweetgrass basket maker Mary Jackson to classically trained, realist painter, Jill Hooper, *Breaking Down Barriers: 300 Years of Women in Art* honors the achievements of past generations while acknowledging the creativity of professional female artists working in the 21st century.

Breaking Down Barriers: 300 Years of Women in Art is sponsored by Blue-Cross BlueShield of South Carolina, The Women's Council of the Carolina Art Association, and *Where* magazine. In the early 20th century, New York-based artist and gallerist Alfred Stieglitz launched a photo journal, *Camera Work*, to promote the then-novel idea that photography could be an art form rather than simply a documentary medium or a lesser substitute for painting. The exhibition *Camera Works: Masters in Photography* features images captured by Stieglitz and his collaborator Clarence White, as well as Berenice Abbott, Alfred Eisenstaedt, Margaret Bourke-White, and other renowned 20th century American artists who embraced and explored the creative possibilities of early photography.

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Sailing Ship, New Year's Greetings, 1934, by Margaret Bourke-White (American, 1904-1971), Gelatin silver print on postcard. Gift of Mr. Robert W. Marks. Image courtesy Gibbes Museum of Art.

Through careful composition, post-production manipulation, shedding light on new subjects, revealing the beauty of the everyday, or capturing striking patterns in unexpected places, the artists in this early circle of innovators pioneered styles and techniques that bravely exposed the potential of their chosen medium. These photographers figured out how to make a camera work.

Writer Robert Marks, a Charleston native, collected works of this era and donated many of these pieces to the Gibbes in the 1970s. Much like Stieglitz's initial push to move photography beyond the traditional, this donation expanded the Gibbes' photograph collection beyond historical portraits, adding true art shots and catalyzing the museum's enthusiasm for collecting photography. *Camera Works: Masters in Photography* showcases many of the photographs that Marks and others gave to the museum, as well as photographs of the period borrowed from

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private collectors.

Camera Works: Masters in Photography is sponsored by *Charleston Gateway* magazine.

The Gibbes is offering many related programs in conjunction with these two exhibits. Contact the Museum for further information.

Established as the Carolina Art Association in 1858, the Gibbes Museum of Art opened its doors to the public in 1905. Located in Charleston's historic district, the Gibbes houses a premier collection of

over 10,000 works, principally American with a Charleston or Southern connection, and presents special exhibitions throughout the year. In addition, the museum offers an extensive complement of public programming and educational outreach initiatives that serve the community by stimulating creative expression and improving the region's superb quality of life.

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings, call the Museum at 843/722-2706 or visit (www.gibbesmuseum.org).

College of Charleston Offers Exhibition Focused on the Moon

The College of Charleston will present the exhibit, *From the Moon: Mapping & Exploration*, on view at the new Sciences and Mathematics Building, 2nd floor, in Charleston, SC, on view from Nov. 14 through Mar. 3, 2012. A reception will be held on Nov. 12, from 7-9pm. The College will also present Moon Fest on Saturday, Nov. 12, from 11am – 2pm. A lecture will be given by Dr. Carle Pieters, on Saturday, Nov. 12, at 4pm.

From the Moon: Mapping & Exploration addresses our visual perceptions of the Moon, from Earth and from space, and demonstrates how advances in optical technologies have increased our understanding over time. This is an exhibition exploring our relationship to the Moon through the lens of the sciences. From Galileo's first observations to today's powerful telescopes, this exhibition will include a broad range of man's attempts at mapping and understanding lunar history. A key component will be NASA's documentation of the Apollo lunar landings as well as current research and missions. The centerpiece of the exhibition will be a Moon rock collected during the Apollo 15 mission from June to August 1971.

Co-curators Roger Manley and Mark Sloan have traveled throughout North America and Europe gathering materials for the exhibition from some of the world's oldest and most prestigious observatories. Some of these objects, maps and images have never before been exhibited. The exhibition's Lunar Science Consultant is Dr. Cassandra Runyon, Professor of Planetary Geology at the College of Charleston. The Halsey Institute of Contemporary Art in partnership with the

College of Charleston School of Sciences and Mathematics and the Special Collections Department of the Marlene and Nathan Addlestone Library will present this exhibition with funding from NASA and the National Lunar Science Institute.

Moon Fest activities will be led by Dr. Cassandra Runyon; Cyndi Hall, Program Director for the South Carolina Space Grant Consortium; and Elizabeth Joyner, Site Director for the South Carolina Maritime Foundation and Sanders Clyde Elementary/Middle School. Tours of the exhibition will be available. The exhibition will be housed at the College of Charleston's New Science Center Building and at the Special Collections Department of the Marlene and Nathan Addlestone Library, 3rd Floor, 205 Calhoun Street.

Professor Carle Pieters has been a faculty member at Brown University since 1980, after having worked several years at the Johnson Space Center in Houston and as a Peace Corps volunteer in Sarawak. Her general research efforts include planetary exploration and evolution of planetary surfaces with an emphasis on remote compositional analyses. Dr. Pieters is the Science Manager of the NASA/Keck Reflectance Experiment Laboratory (RELAB), a NASA-supported spectroscopy facility at Brown that operates from 0.3 to 25 mm. She is Principal Investigator for NASA's Moon Mineralogy Mapper (M3) experiment that was launched to the Moon in early 2008 and is Co-Investigator on Dawn, a mission to explore the asteroids Vesta and Ceres.

For further information visit (moon.cofc.edu).

City of North Charleston Gallery Features Works by Juie Rattley III

The City of North Charleston's Cultural Arts Department will present the exhibit, *New Faces and Places*, featuring works by North Carolina artist Juie Rattley III, on view at the North Charleston City Gallery, located in the Charleston Area Convention Center in North Charleston, SC, from Nov. 1-30, 2011.



Work by Juie Rattley III

In this exhibition Rattley presents oil paintings of portraits and landscapes in the tradition of Lucian Freud, Nicolai Fechin, and John Singer Sargent. The exhibition is the artist's first in South Carolina and will

showcase up to 20 works, all of which are inspired by his life.

"I view my work as a tool to create a visual document to freeze time," Rattley explains. "When I am caught in the moment of painting, I use my hands and my paint as a record of my life." This concept is particularly evident in his series of self-portraits.

Hatched from the pain of losing his best friend, Curtis DeAngelo "DD" Lennon, during an apparent home invasion in 2007, Rattley believes the portraits have become his way of coping. "I have always felt that if I created paintings about my life, I would stay true to myself as a painter and would always have something to paint about," he says.

Rattley was born in Lumberton, NC, and raised in a small community outside of Whiteville, NC. He received a BFA at the University of North Carolina at Pembroke and an MFA from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, where he was awarded the Adelaide Fortune Holderness Fellowship and the Maud Gatewood Painting Scholarship. He has exhibited in venues throughout North Carolina and teaches in Guilford County Schools as part of an outreach program sponsored by the Green Hill Center for North Carolina Art. He currently resides in Kernersville, NC.

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings, call the Cultural Arts Department at 843/740-5854 or visit (www.northcharleston.org).

The deadline each month to submit articles, photos and ads is the 24th of the month prior to the next issue. This will be Nov. 24th for the December 2011 issue and Dec. 24 for the January 2012 issue. After that, it's too late unless your exhibit runs into the next month.