

Annual Charlotte Fine Art & Craft Show

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ing environment for art lovers. At the door, admission is \$8; 3-day return weekend pass is \$10; 12 & under free. Advanced discounted tickets can be purchased at (www.TicketLeap.com).



Work by Tim Sullivan

The show takes place in the Charlotte Convention Center, Hall C, located at 501 S. College Street in Charlotte. There is plenty of parking next door at LAZ Parking or adjacent to the Convention Center at Nascar

Museum, plus many street side parking lots throughout uptown Charlotte.

Hot Works flagship show, the Orchard Lake Fine Art Show® held in West Bloomfield, MI, has been voted in the top 100 art shows in the country the last five years in a row! That is the same quality of art we bring to Charlotte. There is something for everyone at this event. Enjoy the sounds of various musicians; live art demonstrations allow the patrons to see how some of the art work is made in wood carvings, paintings and clay wheel throwing. The kids can create refrigerator-quality masterpieces in the kid's art section and the rest enjoy the time selecting that perfect art work for their living room, bedroom, kitchen, office, holiday gifts, and even outdoors in the garden! Clearly this event is different, from the indoor setting to the quality and variety of fine art. Hot Works also presents the Boca Raton Fine Art Show™ in Boca Raton, FL; and the Estero Fine Art Show™ in Estero, FL.

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, call 248/685-3748; e-mail at (Info@HotWorks.org) or visit (www.HotWorks.org).

Columbia Museum of Art in Columbia, SC, Offers Unsurpassed Collection of Hudson River School Paintings

The Columbia Museum of Art in Columbia, SC, will present the exhibit, *Nature and the Grand American Vision: Masterpieces of the Hudson River School Painters*, on view from Nov. 17 through Apr. 1, 2012.

Forty-five magnificent paintings from the rich collection of the New-York Historical Society will be on view at the Columbia Museum of Art in a major traveling exhibition *Nature and the Grand American Vision: Masterpieces of the Hudson River School Painters*. Though individual works are very seldom loaned, these iconic works of 19th-century landscape painting are traveling on a national tour for the first time and are circulating to four museums around the country as part of the Historical Society's traveling exhibitions program Sharing a National Treasure. The Columbia Museum of Art is the only stop in the Southeast.

"The Museum is delighted to bring this extraordinary exhibition to Columbia, giving visitors from around the Southeast the opportunity to see incredibly beautiful works by highly skilled painters of the 19th century," Karen Brosius, Columbia Museum of Art executive director, said. "We are so grateful to the New-York Historical Society for sharing this superb collection for the first time and to the Blanchard Family for their leadership gift." The presentation in Columbia is made possible by the Blanchard Family.

The Hudson River School emerged during the second quarter of the 19th century in New York City. There, a loosely knit group of artists and writers forged the first American landscape vision and literary voice. That American vision—still widely influential today—was grounded in a view of the natural world as a source of spiritual renewal and an expression of national identity. This vision was first expressed through the magnificent scenery of the Hudson River Valley region, including the Catskills, which was accessible to writers, artists and sightseers via traffic on the great river that gave the school its name.

"For apart from the skillfulness and dreaminess of so many of the pictures, the fact that several of them have not been on public display in half a century makes the exhibition even more remarkable." - *The New York Times*

The exhibition tells this story in four grand thematic sections. Within these broad groupings, the paintings show how American artists embodied powerful ideas about nature, culture and history.

The "American Grand Tour" features

paintings of the Catskill, Adirondack, and White Mountain regions celebrated for their scenic beauty and historic sites, as well as views of Lake George, Niagara Falls and the New England countryside. These were the destinations that most powerfully attracted both artists and travelers. The "American Grand Tour" also includes paintings that memorialize the Hudson River itself as the gateway to the touring destinations and primary sketching grounds for American landscape painters.

"American Artists A-Field" includes works by Hudson River School artists who after 1850 sought inspiration further from home. The paintings of Frederic Edwin Church, Albert Bierstadt, Thomas Hill and Martin Johnson Heade show how these globe-trotting painters embraced the role of artist-explorer and thrilled audiences with images of the landscape wonders of such far-flung places as the American frontier, Yosemite Valley and South America.

"Dreams of Arcadia: Americans in Italy" features wonderful paintings by Thomas Cole, Jasper F. Cropsey, Sanford R. Gifford, and others celebrating Italy as the center of the Old World and the principal destination for Americans on the European Grand Tour. Viewed as the storehouse of Western culture, Italy was a living laboratory of the past, with its cities, galleries, and countryside offering a survey of the artistic heritage from antiquity, as well as a striking contrast to the wilderness vistas of North America portrayed by these same artists.

In the final section of the exhibition, "Grand Landscape Narratives," all of these ideas converge in Thomas Cole's five-painting series *The Course of Empire* (c. 1834-36), imagining the rise of a great civilization from an unspoiled landscape, and the ultimate decay of that civilization into ruins. These celebrated paintings explore the tension between Americans' deep veneration of the wilderness and their equally ardent celebration of progress.

Nature and the Grand American Vision allows audiences to enjoy and study superb examples of the Historical Society's unsurpassed collection of Hudson River School paintings while the galleries of the N-YHS are closed for a transformative \$65 million renovation project.

"Our mission for the Sharing a National Treasure program is to ensure that audiences throughout the United States have access to the great artworks and priceless artifacts of the New-York Historical

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Two Hours at the Beach by Susan Lenz

This unique art quilt will be expanded into a window installation at the Tapps Center for the Arts Opening November 3rd, 2011 during Columbia's Main Street "First Thursday"

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