





## Sumter County Gallery of Arts

continued from Page 17

Academy of Art under Bruce Dorfman, the University of South Carolina and the Atlanta Art Institute. At University of South Carolina she studied under Boyd Saunders, Philip Mullen, and J. Bardin who told Cantrell "don't try to be different for the sake of being different, be good and that will be different enough".

Cantrell has been included in many solo and group exhibitions including a solo exhibition of her silks at the Sumter County Gallery of Art in 2008. Throughout the 1970s and '80s she won many competitive awards in exhibitions including a Best in Show and two Purchase awards. She has enjoyed gallery representation in a variety of places: Verve Gallery, Columbia, SC, The Art Cellar, Banner Elk, NC, The Twisted Laurel Gallery, Spruce Pine, NC, Fish or Cut Bait Gallery, Edisto Island, SC, As well as



Work by Carolita Cantrell

several galleries in Nevis and Europe.
Cantrell offered the following artist statement, "Making art is all I've ever done. Since the age of three when I was given permission to draw instead of nap, continued above on next column to the right

I have been doing it ever since in some form: paint, dye, sculpture, wax, pastel, water color and any other thing I could get my hands on in order to convey an image. I am in love with the creative process, no matter what form it takes and I hope my love for this kind of creative adventure shows in my work. Art for me is like breathing. I cannot imagine not doing it. I've worked in many forms through the years: portraits, three dimensional, published maps, murals, rug design, etc. I have also taught art. My work keeps evolving - it a living thing. When I paint now, I proceed much like the novelist who says he/she starts with an inspiration, but soon the characters take on a life of their own and go another way. The same is with me. Soon after I begin the painting starts telling me where it wants to go and I just get out of the way of letting the work find its own voice and speak for itself."

As with everything the Sumter County Gallery of Art does, this exhibition is a community effort. Special thanks to our continued on Page 19



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