

College of Charleston in Charleston, SC, Features Works by Aggie Zed

The Halsey Institute of Contemporary Art (HICA) at the College of Charleston School of the Arts in Charleston, SC, is proud to present *Aggie Zed: Keeper's Keep*, featuring new works by Virginia-based artist Aggie Zed. The exhibit will be on view from Jan. 21 through Mar. 10, 2012. A reception will be held on Jan. 20, from 5-7pm. A gallery walk-through with the artist will be held within the Halsey's galleries on Saturday, Jan. 21, at 2pm. *Keeper's Keep* will travel nationally after its inaugural presentation at the Halsey Institute.



Aggie Zed, *another heaven*, 2011, ceramic, mixed metals, paint, 8" h x 5.5" w x 3.5" d

The exhibition is comprised of sculpture, installation, paintings, drawings, and sketchbooks that chart Zed's unique working methods in a variety of media. Born in Charleston and raised among farm animals on Sullivan's Island, SC, Zed graduated from the University of South Carolina with a BFA in painting and sculpture. Shortly thereafter, she moved to Richmond and, later, Gordonsville, VA, where she lives and works today.

Zed's studio practice is eclectic and varied. Often starting with images from her sketchbook, she may develop some of these concepts into paintings and others into sculptural tableaux or installations. Her subject matter is nothing less than the sum of human civilization, with an emphasis on man's relationship to the animal kingdom. Human and animal figures collide with furniture or landscapes; rabbits sprout wheels or wings, while horses drown in collapsing scaffolding. Zed's dreamscape narratives probe the inner reaches of the subconscious mind.

Although Zed's work derives much of its meaning from literary associations, her imagery teems with invention and startling leaps of imagination. Her visual poetry conjures a world in which logic and rationality take a comfortable backseat. Human foibles and impulses are placed in the foreground and though she works in different media, her conceptual approach remains consistent throughout.

The paintings are rendered in mixed media on paper. They depict humans and/or animals, often located within a domestic space or farmyard. There may be references to dinosaurs seen from the windows or other anachronistic details. Mirrors, doorways, and framed artwork on the walls become

portals to other realms. Animals play the role of participant observers to the human drama. They are depicted variously as companions, sages, sources of amusement, means of transportation, and foils to daily tasks.

The sculptural and installation works are complex tableaux that illuminate aspects of the human saga. Sculptural works that the artist calls "scrap floats" appear as if in some sort of cosmic procession, enacting scenes that are at once strange yet familiar. The collision of disparate materials and elements in these works mirrors the beauty and fragility of the human condition.

Derived from the title of one of the artist's works, *Keeper's Keep* alludes to British usage of the term "keeper" for "curator," and plays on the double meaning of "keep" as both noun and verb. Zed is a storyteller whose works take us out of our consensual reality and into a world filled with absurdity, ambiguity, and the gifts of artistic imagination.



Aggie Zed, *earful*, pastel, ink, acrylic on paper, 40" h x 26" w

The Halsey Institute of Contemporary Art is a non-collecting contemporary art museum located on the campus of the College of Charleston, on the corner of Calhoun and St. Philip Streets. HICA offers a comprehensive contemporary arts program that is committed to providing a direct experience with art works in various media, in an environment that fosters creativity, innovation, and learning. The Halsey Institute serves as an extension of the undergraduate curricula at the College of Charleston and as a cultural resource for the region by producing exhibitions, lectures and panel discussions, film series, publications, and a comprehensive website. In addition, the Halsey Institute seeks to foster meaningful partnerships with local organizations in order to further the reach of contemporary art within the Charleston community. Admission into the galleries and to most programs is free with the public encouraged to attend.

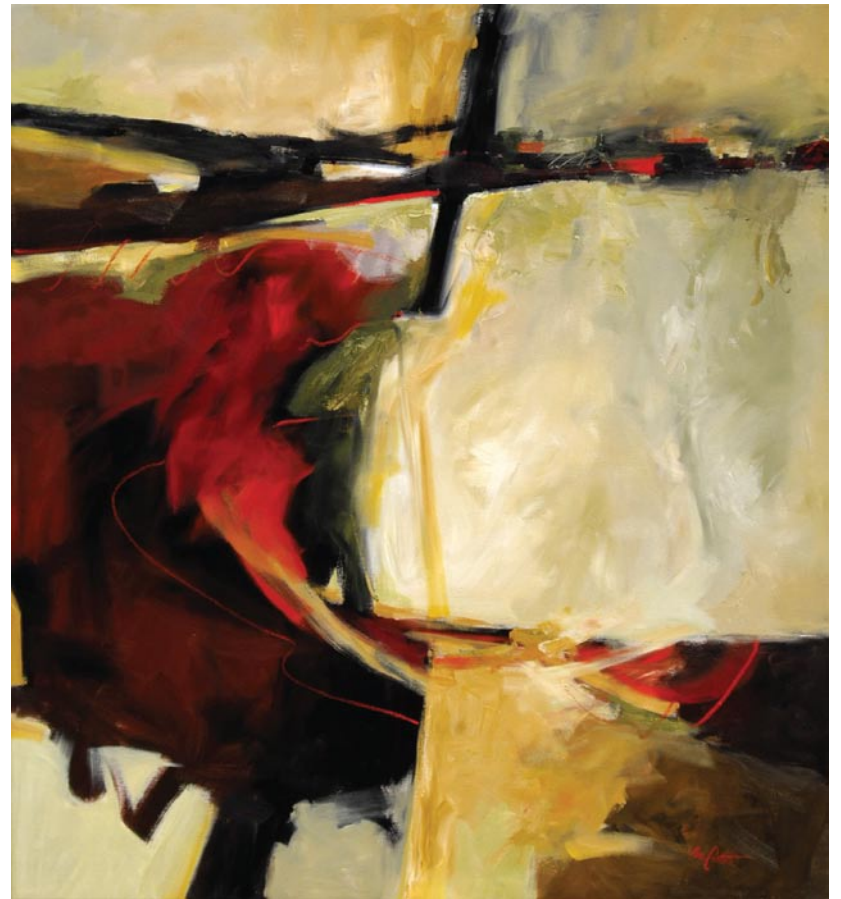
The Halsey Institute of Contemporary Art is administered by the School of the Arts at the College of Charleston and exists to advocate, exhibit and interpret visual art, with an emphasis on contemporary art.

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

color that will arouse your senses.

Sisco was born and raised in Cleveland, OH and migrated to Charleston as a young adult where she attended the College of Charleston and developed her passion for art. Her work is influenced by the pioneers of the modern art movement of the nineteenth century and by today's Pop music. She approaches each new work with a vision of color that is intended to produce a poetic relationship to both the compositions

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Intention
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Eva Carter

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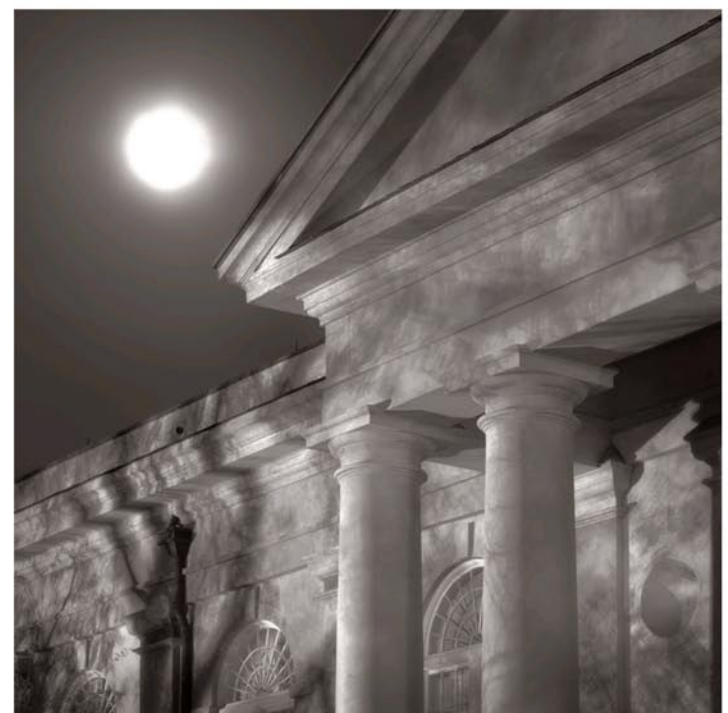
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Charleston Artist Guild in Charleston, SC, Offers Works by Deborah Sisco

The Charleston Artist Guild in Charleston, SC, will present the exhibit, *Breaking Out*, featuring works by Deborah Sisco, on view in the Charleston Artist Guild Gallery, from Jan. 1 - 31, 2012. A reception will be held on Jan. 6, from 5-8pm.

Breaking Out is an exhibit about leaving the ordinary behind. It includes 3-dimensional images bursting out of the canvases, tantalizing colors, textures and compositions. Leave all of your preconceived ideas about art at home and have a love affair with



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