

Ella Walton Richardson Fine Art

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the person sees my work it always brings a smile to their face. Also, I receive lovely letters saying my work often takes them back to their warm childhood memories. These comments please me and let me know what I am doing and the feeling I want to get across is working."

"My work seems to be ever-evolving, but I am still drawn to and fascinated by strong African American figures," adds Chadwick. "Where my recent works have taken me, is as the role of a storyteller. Whether a lone figure in my patterned background or a family scene, I now try to include a bit of history or a touch of something else hidden in the painting to hopefully make the viewer take a moment to discover what is happening in the work that may not be noticed at first glance," said Chadwick. "From perhaps at first unseen snakes to West African symbols, images are scattered throughout my paintings to better help tell the story of those captured in my paintings."

After graduating from the Art Institute of Pittsburgh in 1976, Chadwick's career took off and has taken many artistic turns through the years. Landing his first job as an illustrator while still in school, he worked for a national glassware company illustrating for corporations such as McDonalds, Burger King, Hallmark Cards and Twentieth Century Fox.

Upon moving to Washington, DC, in 1978, he first freelanced as a magazine illustrator until 1984 when he decided to form his own firm, Chadwick Design Incorporated. First specializing in theatrical graphics, Chadwick also illustrated for national ad agencies along with National Geographic, The Washington Post, PBS, Kennedy Center, New York Times Book Review, Special Olympics and The Shakespeare Library, just to name a few. Chadwick received numerous awards from *Communication Arts Magazine*, and the Art Directors Club of New York and of Washington, DC. Able to illustrate in various mediums, Chadwick increasingly enjoyed the richness of oil paints. First using them as washes combined with pencil in illustrations, he later began using strictly traditional oils on canvas or panel.

"For 35 years I illustrated but followed the trends and picked up techniques that were in fashion. Five years ago, I was struggling with abstracts and balancing them with realistic portraits. After painting out a painting I wasn't happy with, I thought I'd combine both techniques. It happened fast with little thought and when completed I was a bit taken with the outcome," said Chadwick. "It was my intention from the beginning to make all my subjects be strong and positive. Everyone has a story and has to overcome troubles in their lives. The people I paint have come through to the other side and are stronger for it."

"I once saw a wonderful waitress in Lynchburg named Charisse. I asked her during lunch if I could come back and pho-



Work by Kevin Chadwick

tograph her. She was excited and agreed. Hours later I pulled up in my car with a folded moving blanket and she posed for me on the sidewalk. She became *The Quilter*. I have taken photos in airports, bus stops and even photos of people sitting on their front porch. I explain that I'm an artist looking for images and nine times out of 10 they say 'okay.'"

"As I build my paintings, I use various reference material. Maybe an overall photo from the 40s, a 50s apron, a background from a 19th century painting and a piece of fabric from today. If I had to pick a time frame it would be 1940s - 50s. I combine all reference inspiration photos in photoshop to get the scale right to the canvas and then do a rough charcoal transfer of the basic shapes of where the figures are. I then let the patterns take over and have them flow around the painting. I have a rough idea of the outcome in my head, but I'm always surprised in the end with where it ends up," says Chadwick.

"It is interesting for me to see early works. Comparing them to what I'm doing, now I'm happy to say I see growth and exploration," he said. "I want to paint people who are American with strength and dignity."

Chadwick now works out of the historic city of Lynchburg, VA, painting full time. His figurative works can be found in the collections of the Caring Institute, Washington, DC; World Mercy Fund, Bad Homburg, Germany; The Shakespeare Birthplace Trust, Stratford-upon-Avon, England; Doyle Hotel Collection, Dublin, Ireland; and in private collections both here in the States and in Europe. Chadwick primarily focuses on painting African American figures. He has been represented by Ella Richardson Fine Art for the last five years.

For further information check our SC Commercial Gallery listings, call the gallery at 843/722-3660 or visit (www.ellarichardson.com).

Art League of Hilton Head on Hilton Head Island, SC, Features Works by Judy Blahut

The Art League of Hilton Head on Hilton Head Island, SC, will present *Masked, Hiding Behind Plain Sight*, an exhibit of paintings and sculptures by Judy Blahut, on view at Art League Gallery, Nov. 3 - 28, 2020. A reception will be held on Nov. 4, from 5-7pm. Blahut will lead a gallery walk on Nov. 11 at 11am, and hold a demo of her work on Nov. 25 at 11am. Please RSVP to (galleries@artleaguhhi.org) in order to attend any of these events as spots are limited to facilitate social distancing.

Blahut's work, reminiscent of kaleidoscopic images, is largely abstract and inspired by nature. This collection of acrylic paintings, charcoal drawings and sculptures aims to explore the space between the observable and the hidden in the form of an object. Blahut deconstructs natural objects such as plants and shells and reassembles them in a new way, thereby creating a new



Work by Judy Blahut

relationship between the object and the viewer. "It's an exploration of life interrupted yet forever connected," she says.

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Welcoming New Members!

The Pastel Society of South Carolina, Inc.
"PSSC" is a not-for-profit organization whose objectives are:

- To promote public awareness of the pastel as a fine art medium.
- To provide educational programs for its members and other interested parties and opportunities for them to exhibit their work.
- To unite pastel artists in order to bring about recognition of their work.



Barrier Island #1

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The Storm Gathers



January 2021 is Museum Mile Month!

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- The Charleston Museum
- Children's Museum of the Lowcountry
Must be with a child (10 and under) to be admitted
- Gibbes Museum of Art
- Joseph Manigault House
- Museum at Market Hall
- The Powder Magazine
- Old Slave Mart Museum
- South Carolina Historical Society Museum
- Heyward-Washington House
- Nathaniel Russell House Museum
- The Old Exchange and Provost Dungeon
- Edmondston-Alston House

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