

Sumter County Gallery of Art

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taking locations around the world. Fox is a signature member of the American Watercolor Society and six state and regional watercolor societies. His work has been featured in *Watercolor Artist Magazine*, *The Art of Watercolor*, and many more. He produces instructional DVDs and he regularly teaches watercolor workshops nationally and internationally. He maintains a studio at Artspace in downtown Raleigh, NC.

This year's Winner of the Best of Show award is *Enchi* by Ashley Arakas, an enigmatic, dreamlike portrait of a woman. Second Place Winner is *Towing The Line* by Russell Jewel, and Third Place went to Gail Cunningham, for *Day Dreaming*.

Karen Watson, director of the Sumter County Gallery of Art states that, "The South Carolina Watermedia Society show is one of the most popular shows the gallery presents each year; we have been presenting it for over thirty years. This show has a wonderful selection of diverse work by artists, with a little something for everybody. The variety of imagery and subject matter is stunning; from mixed media abstract works to more traditional representational work including landscapes, figural, and still life compositions. The South Carolina Watermedia Society Show showcases the incredible talent of South Carolina artists."



Work by Ashley Arakas, SCWS Best of Show

The Sumter Artists' Guild is one of the most active, vibrant Artists' Guilds in the state. President Laura Cardello – a multi-talented artist, works to expand the Guild's artistic presence in Sumter in a variety of creative ways. She is supported by a group of hardworking officers, Vicki Hagner, Jennifer Franklin, Erin Duffie, and Lisa Melton.

SCGA director Watson notes, "This year's *Sumter Artists' Guild Winners* exhibition

Haywood County Arts in Waynesville, NC, Features Traveling Exhibition

Haywood County Arts in Waynesville, NC, will present *Affrilachian Traveling Studio* exhibit, on view from Jan. 17 through Feb. 29, 2020.

The *Affrilachian Traveling Studio* exhibit is designed to invite dialogue about the presence and experience of people of color in this region. The exhibition will feature African American artists and selected work which celebrates the land and/or the lived experiences of Western North Carolina and the Appalachian region.

Marie T. Cochran, founding curator of the *Affrilachian Artist Project* will present the work of six artists representing a diverse array of media and styles from folk art to



Work by Joshua Hatfield, SAG Best of Show

is particularly exciting because the work for the *2019 Sumter Artists' Guild Show* was so strong. For the first time, the juror suggested and the gallery awarded a Best of Show award, adding an additional artist to the *Winners' Show*. The exhibition includes a broad range of styles and media with an emphasis on representational and mixed media. Accomplished watercolorist Joshua Hatfield won Best of Show with his intricate mixed media, *Forest Worm*. Jenna Brown won first place with her Polaroid transfer *Stay Out Of The Forest*, Halimah Shah won second place with her ceramic piece *Tiny Crack* and perennial winner Denise L. Greer took third place with her mixed media collage, *Tempest*. Honorable Mentions included, Curtis Phillips, Mark Duffie and Geneviève Rath. Our Peoples' Choice Winner was Cindy Scott's nostalgic painting *Flowers For Sale* which resonated with many visitors. Two artists, Joshua Hatfield and Denise L. Greer both entered and won awards in the *SC Watermedia Society Exhibition*, so they will have pieces in BOTH exhibitions. This speaks to the high quality of artistic talent in Sumter.

This popular show would not be possible without our community sponsors: Synovus, Covenant Place Continuing Care Community and the Sumter Artists' Guild, which does the fabulous reception. Flowers are courtesy of Poinsett-Bland Garden Club & the Council of Garden Clubs of Sumter.

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings, call Karen Watson, Executive Director, at 803/775-0543 or e-mail to (scgadirector@gmail.com).

contemporary. Cochran is featured in the book *Southern Women*, produced by the editors of *Garden & Gun* magazine. Her artwork is included in the exhibition *Appalachia NOW* at the Asheville Art Museum.

The artists with works featured in this exhibit are: LaKeisha Blount, Kela Hunt, Rahkie Mateen, Trey Miles, Ann Woodford and the late Victoria Casey-McDonald. The artists themselves represent a range of ages. Some are local residents and others are alumni of Western Carolina University.

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, call the gallery at 828/452-0593 or visit (www.haywoodarts.org).

Transylvania Community Arts Council in Brevard, NC, Features Annual *Faces of Freedom* Exhibition

The Transylvania Community Arts Council and Nicola Karesh have partnered again for the 6th annual *Faces of Freedom* expressive art exhibition, on view from Jan. 13 - 31, 2020. A reception will be held on Jan. 17, from 4:30-6:30pm. The invitational show features minority and other underrepresented artists in Transylvania County.

Community engagement powerhouse, Nicola Karesh is an author, public speaker, activist, and owner of Morning Glory Inspirations. She organizes impactful community programs that are creative, memo-

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Artist Diane Falkenhagen's Texas studio — destroyed by flooding during Hurricane Ike, 2008

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