

Bijou Gallery in Spartanburg, SC

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Miller Hopkins, Linda Page Hudgins, Sara Setzer and Doris Turner.

The Bijou Gallery is housed in a historic downtown space on Main Street. Doris Turner, a longtime member of Southern Exposure, was especially intrigued by the history of the gallery setting. "I decided to focus on my people paintings for the Bijou show. Some are older and some have just been done," the artist says, adding that she became intrigued by the idea of the Bijou building's past. "In earlier life it housed a silent movie theatre. I couldn't stop until I created the old theatre out of a cardboard box that will have my computer inside running one of Buster Keaton's silent movies. So I will have a peep show also in the exhibition."

Alice Kay McMillan, a new member of the group who teaches studio classes at Wofford College and the University of South Carolina Upstate, points to her love of teaching as the impetus for her art. "My work tends to relate to something that I need to learn in order to teach something new," she says, pointing to the 30 watercolors she created to illustrate a picture book and hand-drawn pop-up books as examples. "In the past few weeks I've just been drawing from life as much as possible. This feels like going back to the foundations of drawing." She will be exhibiting polyester plate lithographs from a narrative group about a trip to Washington, DC, along with mixed media illustrations of horses and pop-up books.

Cynthia Link, a Gaffney, SC, resident, was also drawn to the combination of old and new works. Her older works, many combining ceramic and copper, combine art with personal history. One work, a large fish swimming with a lily pad and flower above it, was created in remembrance of her son's childhood fish pond. "For years he had these huge fish in a small pond," she says. "All the fish had names, with the largest and most beautiful named Gertrude." That pond was torn down to build a garage, and though Link thinks the garage is quite nice, she often thinks back to the little pond. Another older work, *Hannah's Birds*, consists of wall pocket birds made using a wooden bowl that her mother-in-law, Hannah, brought with her when she emigrated from Russia. Link's new works, all with nature themes, feature a series of cylindrical vases with cat, flower and bird images in the garden.

Sixteen years ago, Linda Page Hud-

gins, who had taught art and English in China, returned home to retire from teaching and turn her attention to art. "I started just painting and found delight with the results and a sense of dialogue with the work in progress," she says of the colorful abstracts she creates. "As I continued to live and work in this country, the painting evolved and something drew me to begin an interaction with accidental marks appearing on a canvas placed to protect a wall and then to crumpled canvas that had been carelessly stored. It was and is a bit mesmerizing as I work and observe the results." Hudgins suggests this evolution might reflect the acceptance that events in her life that have been rewarding have come about from "unwelcome accidents."

Amy Goldstein-Rice will exhibit her signature ceramic sculptures of domestic cats and dogs, including what she calls "a collation of tabletop sculptures with a narrative edge." Her earthenware clay sculptures incorporate hand built and wheel thrown forms, with the sculpting of the features done entirely by hand. "Surface decoration is achieved when textural marks are infused with layering of engobes, slips, underglazes and glaze," she says of her emotionally expressive and approachable human and animal clay figures. Different brush sizes are used to achieve the varied surface treatments, and each piece is uniquely handmade, one at a time.

Southern Exposure was established in 1978 by a group of artists from Upstate South Carolina. They shared a commitment to artistic and professional development through creating, exhibiting and sharing art. Among them they represented a cross-section of art disciplines: ceramics, collage, drawing, jewelry, mixed-media, painting, photography, printmaking, sculpture, stained glass and textiles.

"Since the exhibit will be open for an entire month, including during the Dickens of a Christmas event, it is our hope that everyone will have an opportunity to view these dynamic works of art," Sara Setzer says. "And we know that the exhibit is timed perfectly for a little Christmas shopping. The gift of local art is important to the entire community."

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings, contact Doris Turner by e-mail at (doristurnerturner@gmail.com) or call 864/583-2897.

Brookgreen Gardens in Murrells Inlet, SC, Features Two Holiday Exhibitions

Brookgreen Gardens in Murrells Inlet, SC, is presenting two new indoor exhibits offering a bright beginning to the holiday season. The exhibitions will be on view through Jan. 3, 2016.

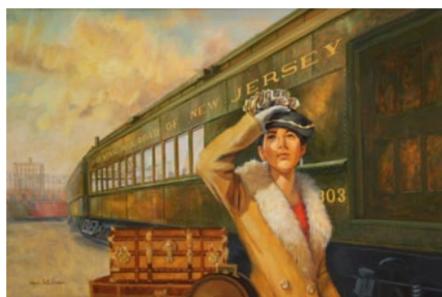
Holiday Memories: Trains, Trees, and Treasures, builds upon its previous show-stopping displays of electric model trains (both Lionel and American Flyer), period Christmas trees, and other nostalgia from holiday celebrations of the Twentieth Century. The exhibit is free with garden admission.

Featured in the exhibit are paintings of scenes of children, Christmas, and toy trains by Angela Trotta Thomas. Her Rockwell-like paintings have earned her the title of "The Train Lady".

For children, a new "Thomas the Train and Friends" display is featured in the front of the gallery and, for adults, the "Front Street Georgetown" outdoor train display has expanded to include the historic Town Clock and other structures.

Representing the "Treasures" in the title will be a Tiffany-inspired store window featuring beautiful costume jewelry on loan from the collection of Sherri Duncan.

Peace on Earth is the exhibit theme presented by our horticultural department and its displays represent tranquil and natural settings from around the world.



Work by Angela Trotta Thomas

You will be delighted at every turn from the beautiful evergreen forest area and an antique sleigh with a home-made quilt and to Moravian glass stars and crystal icicles. Look closely for the natural mandalas and find inspiration in the creative and unusual ways to incorporate stumpery in your garden. You may even find a nature-based Saint Nicholas and without a doubt you will find fresh ideas for holiday decorating at your home.

Brookgreen Gardens, a National Historic Landmark, is located south of Myrtle Beach, SC, between Murrells Inlet and Pawleys Island.

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings, call the Gardens at 843/235-6000 or visit (www.brookgreen.org).

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