

Shain Gallery in Charlotte, NC, Features Works by Henry Barnes and Yury Darashkevich

Shain Gallery in Charlotte, NC, will present an exhibit of new works by Henry Barnes and Yury Darashkevich, on view from Feb. 11 - 28, 2011. An opening reception will take place on Friday, Feb. 11, from 6-9pm.

A native Georgian, Henry Barnes attended Young Harris College and Huntington College on basketball scholarships. Following graduation he served in the US Navy and pursued several career interests including music before realizing his passion as a painter.



work by Henry Barnes

Barnes' principle art studies include six intensive years with Constantin and Roman Chatov, Russian artists trained in Classical Modernism, who in turn trained with the New York Art League and Robert Brackman. It was in the Chatov Studio that Barnes developed his unique color palette and achieved his masterful understanding and use of light. Barnes studied with New York artist Daniel Greene, as well as Yves Brayer, a noted French artist, while painting in Paris.

Barnes paints landscapes, architectural, figurative and still-life with equal skill. European vistas dominate his landscapes, drawing from his travels to Ireland, Spain and Italy. His success in translating light into various times of day or night is always a source of interest. Barnes' unique palette is warm and cool at the same time contributing to the sense of enchanting serenity and that "all's right with the world"

feeling that his paintings capture.

Yury Darashkevich was born in Belarus in 1962. Following his passion, he attended and graduated from Belarusian State Academy of the Arts in 1985. Upon graduation he began a career in the illustration and graphic design field, painting in his spare time. After several very successful solo shows, Yury started to devote his attention to art in the early 90's. Shortly after making this career change, he and his family moved to Toronto Canada.

Darashkevich's works are about visual perception and the ways in which the face or body or sometimes even a simple cup responds to the color, line, texture or pattern. The "Thing" or "Subject" by itself, surrounded by "Great Nothing" is his passion. He tries to establish a very private dialog between the viewer and the



work by Yury Darashkevich

subject matter of his paintings. He creates a simple and sincere conversation without any unnecessary details.

Located in beautiful Myers Park, Shain Gallery has been on the forefront of the North Carolina art scene since 1998. The gallery represents many leading national and regional artists, and recently won the "Best of the Best Award" for best Charlotte gallery.

For further information check our NC Commercial Gallery listings, call the gallery at 704/334-7744 or visit (www.shaingallery.com).

Providence Gallery in Charlotte, NC, Features Works by Lesley Powell, Angela Smith and SOPHIA

Providence Gallery in Charlotte, NC is pleased to announce the opening of its newest show celebrating the still life. The work of three women, Lesley Powell, Angela Smith and SOPHIA will be featured in this exhibit, which will be on view from Feb. 1 - 28, 2011.

Compositions will range from traditional subject matter including florals and fruit to interior vignettes.

Angela Smith's paintings capture the viewer's imagination through the artist's vivid use of translucent color and strong, textural brush strokes. Working from photographs, Smith uses delineated lines to draw the eye across the canvas and emphasize every detail of her paintings.

For fellow artist Lesley Powell, interior scenes are a favorite subject. Powell often

finds inspiration in the rooms of her own home and other favorite spots, anywhere she senses a true feeling of intimacy she can share with others on canvas. A versatile artist, this show will also include examples of her traditional still life works featuring fruit and fine china groupings.

SOPHIA has garnered a loyal following for her lush, color-laden paintings of flowers, candy and the ephemeral. The Greek and French artist brings a Mediterranean effervescence to her joyful tabletop renderings, which are reminiscent of Chagall. Her romantic whimsical works truly celebrate love of life.

For further information check our NC Commercial Gallery listings, call the gallery at 704/333-4535 or visit (www.providencegallery.net).

City of North Charleston Features Works by Goose Creek Artists Guild

The City of North Charleston will present an exhibit of works by members of the Goose Creek Artists Guild, on view in the North Charleston City Gallery located in the Charleston Area Convention Center in North Charleston, SC, from Feb. 1 - 28, 2011. A reception will be held on Thursday, Feb. 3, from 5-7pm.

The Goose Creek Artists Guild, founded in 1982, will present their Annual Judged Art Show with ribbons placed, including Best of Show. Two-dimensional

works featuring a variety of subjects in oil, watercolor, acrylic, drawing, pastel, and mixed media will be on display. Participating artists include Willis Sanders, Trish Emery, Muriel Lanciault, Sherri Bardsley, Pamela Smith, Olga Bixby, and Tony Young.

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings, contact the North Charleston Cultural Arts Department at 843/740-5854 or visit (www.northcharleston.org).

The deadline each month to submit articles, photos and ads is the 24th of the month prior to the next issue. This would be Feb. 24th for the Mar. 2011 issue and Mar. 24 for the Apr. 2011 issue. After that, it's too late unless your exhibit runs into the next month.

A Few Words From Down Under Reflecting on Paintings

by Judith McGrath

The old saying, "A painting is a window on the world", refers to the illusion of reality in art. However, when we look through a window, we not only see what is beyond the glass, we also see a reflection of ourselves. The painted 'window' does the same.

Before artists signed their paintings, many placed an example of their work, or an image of themselves, in the picture. Some were unobtrusive, others rather flagrant. For example Masaccio painted himself as an apostle in his fresco *The Tribute Money* (1427), Piero della Francesca sleeps by Christ's sepulchre in his great fresco *The Resurrection* (1463), and Raphael is seen as one of Euclid's pupils in his fresco *The School of Athens* (1510). But the winner in the humility stakes has to be Michelangelo who painted a grotesque self-portrait on the flayed skin of a martyr in his *The Last Judgement* for the Sistine Chapel.

Placing images of their own work in a painting was another way an artist could put himself in the picture. A pen and ink drawing, *Artist and Model Reflected in a Mirror* (1937) by Matisse, puts the artist in his studio but as a self-portrait it reveals only one facet of Henri, that of the artist. Matisse painted many images of the interior of his studio including his own artworks. These paintings of his paintings are probably more accurate reflections of the man than any mirror image self-portrait.

In Edouard Manet's *Portrait of Emile Zola* (1868) a sketch of the artist's Olympia is pinned on the wall behind the novelist. And if that was too subtle, a pamphlet written by Zola, entitled MANET, is in plain view on the desk.

Despite his use of warm colours, the darkest windows of all are those by the American artist Edward Hopper. Whether on the inside looking out or on the outside looking in, the only mood reflected is loneliness. His oft-reproduced image,

Nighthawks (1942) is a perfect example. On a dark night we look through the large windows of a corner coffee shop. Four figures are arranged around the counter in warm light yet each is isolated from the other. There is no entry, so the viewer remains outside on the deserted street. This is a window on a world of alienation, a reflection of life in the city.

All forms of visual art, from Hollywood films to a child's drawing, mirrors some facet of reality and presents us with a different way of seeing ourselves. The Surrealist artist, Rene Magritte, tried to smash the idea of a 'window on the world' approach to art with his *La Clef Des Champs* (Free to Go Anywhere). His painting depicts a serene landscape seen through a broken window while



Las Meninas by Velazquez

Slightly less humble is the self-portrait of Velazquez in his *Las Meninas*, painted in 1656. Not only does it serve as his signature, it also places him in excellent company! The work includes the Spanish Infanta Marguerita, along with her entourage of duenna, damsels, dwarfs and a dog visiting the artist's studio. The King and Queen's presence is suggested by their reflection in a mirror on the wall to the right of the artist. True, Velazquez was a favourite in the court of Philip IV (who often visited the studio to watch the artist paint) and held many posts beyond that of Court Painter but to place servant and master together in this manner says much about the artist's ego.

If artists can put themselves among the mighty, they can also place the high born in the company of fools. Paintings and lithographs, by Honore Daumier of 19th Century France, were often scathing comments and caricatures of the highest in society including lawyers, politicians and the Bourgeoisie. As a Social Realist, his art served as a window onto a dark political world.

the shards of glass on the floor retain pieces of the view.

I've often wondered if the artist was trying to escape from, or get back to, reality.



Nighthawks by Edward Hopper

Judith McGrath lives in Kalamunda, Western Australia, 25 minutes east of Perth. She received a BA in Fine Art and History from the University of Western Australia. McGrath lectured in Art History and Visual Literacy at various colleges around the Perth area, and was an art reviewer for *The Sunday Times* and *The Western Review* both published in the Perth area. McGrath is currently a freelance writer and reviewer for various art magazines in Australia. She also coordinated the web site Art Seen in Western Australia found at (<http://www.artseen-inwa.com>).

if ART Gallery in Columbia, SC, Features Works by Janet Orselli

if ART Gallery in Columbia, SC, is presenting the exhibit, *Janet Orselli: The New York Exhibition*, on view through Feb. 13, 2011.

Just back from her second solo exhibition at the prominent O.K. Harris gallery in New York City, Columbia native Janet Orselli will be showing a selection of her

New York show at if ART Gallery.

In the exhibition's found object constructions, Orselli, who lives in North Carolina, combines clogs, roller skates, shoes, shoe forms and a mouse trap on wheels with seemingly unrelated found objects such as a rusty toy car, an egg

continued on Page 7