

Shain Gallery in Charlotte, NC, Features Works by Jane Schmidt, Craig Mooney, Connie Winters, and Christy Kinard

Shain Gallery in Charlotte, NC, will present an exhibit of wonderful new paintings by Jane Schmidt, Craig Mooney, Connie Winters, and Christy Kinard, on view through Feb. 29, 2012. A reception will be held on Feb. 10, from 6-9pm for Jane Schmidt and Craig Mooney. A separate reception for Connie Winters and Christy Kinard will be held on Feb. 24, 2012 from 6-9pm.

Inspired by abstract expressionists, Jane Schmidt uses the subject of landscape to explore the edge between abstraction and representation with an emphasis on the expressive use of color. Using decisive brush marks, Schmidt commingles vibrant colors to create a visual experience for every viewer.



Work by Craig Mooney

Craig Mooney makes paintings of dramatic moments and heightened emotionality that are known for being expansive and expressive. Though a representational painter, the artist incorporates a myriad of abstract qualities throughout his paintings. In his figurative work, Mooney romanticizes his subjects and presents them in an atmospheric lens that is best described as dreamlike. His paintings appear to be capturing a moment suspended in time. While his work feels familiar, it is not specific. Rather it is, on a very basic level, symbolism of what could have been, has been or will be.

Connie Winters has emerged as a strong

influence on the art scene in the Southeastern United States. Citing the work of classic French Impressionists as an ongoing source of inspiration in her own artwork, Winters naturally gravitates to France as the location for her landscapes. Her approach to the canvas is that of active observer, intent on recording the interplay of color and light as it unfolds in each scene. Through her energetic interpretations of nature and local color, Winters uses the canvas to convey her own enthusiasm to the viewer.



Work by Christy Kinard

Christy Kinard's excitement for art has been developing since her early childhood in Georgia. Her mixed media collages of acrylic paint, torn papers and stencils are sometimes painted on wood boxes created by her father, Bob Kinard, or other found objects such as door panels. Kinard's oeuvre includes various themes of animals and bugs, vegetables, flowers, and still life works. She draws inspiration from children and allegorical adages.

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. Shain Gallery is again *Charlotte Magazine's* Best of the Best for 2011.

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

local artists working in a wide range of media, including pastels, oils, acrylic, wood, fiber, copper, mixed media, and glass mosaic.



Work by Greg Barnes

Featured artists include: Tina Alberni, Greg Barnes, Cher Cosper, Annette Cosentine, Miriam Durkin, Louise Farley, Vicki Hanson-Burkhart, Paul Hastings, Teresa Hollmeyer, Mindy Jacobs, Holt McLean, Carol Mueller, Bev Nagy, Susan Nuttall, and Michelle Rivera.

For further information check our NC Commercial Gallery listings, call the gallery at 980/202-2435 or visit (www.cielcharlotte.com).

The deadline each month to submit articles, photos and ads is the 24th of the month prior to the next issue. This will be Feb. 24th for the March 2012 issue and Mar. 24 for the April 2012 issue. After that, it's too late unless your exhibit runs into the next month. But, don't wait until the deadline to send your info. If you do that you'll be behind many others who sent their info in early.



Richard Fennell, Interior with Chair and Green Drapery, oil on canvas, 48"x40"

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Richard Fennell

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Providence Gallery in Charlotte, NC, Offers Works by Travis Bruce Black

Providence Gallery in Charlotte, NC, will present the exhibit, *Little Bird: Compositions*, featuring works by Travis Bruce Black, on view from Feb. 3 - 29, 2012. A reception will be held on Feb. 3, from 6-9pm.

The exhibition features the painter's popular "Chirps" series, vivid small bird figuratives created in watercolor and pencils on paper and mounted on wood.

Black's "Chirps", depict colorful bird figuratives in the foreground, while in the background, the artist freely explores the give and take between the elements of line, shape and color. The painter likens these works to "explosions, color gradients, unfilled line drawings and a rich chaos coming together as a recognizable creature."

It is the artist's deft use of the elements of line and color that draw the viewer into each composition. The layers of vivid color and intersecting and diverging lines cause the observer to question: What am I really seeing? Is this really a bird? Or, if you look more closely, do the combinations of color and line take you out of the world of realism into a world of rich fantasy and imagination?

Black credits his wife's quilting and childhood memories of growing up in the

Catholic Church and experiencing the beauty of glowing stained glass windows as inspiration for his art. His choice of medium and approach to his artwork is decisive. The combinations of strong lines with fluid watercolor are effectively used by the painter to simultaneously illustrate control and chaos.

Black explains his artistic motives thusly, "To express the fullness and my experience of life I try to work in visual paradoxes like straight lines versus curved lines. I try to show the spectrum of difference between abstraction and naturalistic form to illustrate how layered reality is and to flesh out a more inclusive picture of what 'real' feels like. An overarching theme for my work is how complex creatures are and how every living thing is a little package of total mystery. This thought puts magic in my head."

Black declares his primary goal as an artist is "to create compelling work that brings joy, optimism and mystery to other people's lives: Art that expresses my lust for life and the simple exuberance of being."

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

Ciel Gallery + Mosaic Studio in Charlotte, NC, Offers Group Show

Ciel Gallery + Mosaic Studio in Charlotte, NC, will present the exhibit, *Survey*, an invitational selection of Charlotte artists, on view from Feb. 3 - 25, 2012.

Receptions will be held on Feb. 3 and Feb. 17, from 6-9pm.

Survey will represent the work of 15
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Lark & Key Gallery and Boutique in Charlotte, NC, Offers Works by Angie Renfro and Julie Covington

Lark & Key Gallery and Boutique in Charlotte, NC, will present the exhibit, *New Works*, featuring works by Angie Renfro and Julie Covington, on view from Feb. 1 through Mar. 31, 2012.

Angie Renfro's impressionistic oil paintings capture the quiet, unassuming beauty of everyday objects and landscapes. Her multi-layered technique and paired down compositions take the ordinary and transforms it into something extraordinary.

Drawn to subjects that are often overlooked, Renfro finds beauty in their loneliness. There is a sense of nostalgia in her work that is countered by her contemporary painting style. Her bold strokes are deliberately blurred, hints of bright colors create tension in an otherwise muted palette, and compositions are calm and austere.

Originally from Texas, Renfro currently resides in Chicago. She was named "Artist to Watch" in the October 2006 issue of *Southwest Art Magazine*, featured in the August 2008 and August 2010 editions of *American Art Collector* and was the featured artist in the September 2010

issue of *Southwest Art Magazine*.

Julie Covington began working with clay as a teenager and has long held an interest in living a handmade life. After college she spent several years in Thailand and New Mexico working on a larger scale, gaining experience with indigenous architecture using clay, sand and straw. Drawn to the combination of form and function, slowly sculpting houses out of earthen materials allowed her to continue her exploration of creating objects that are useful as well as beautiful.

Covington's high-fired pots, wheel-thrown and altered, are heavily influenced by her experience with other cultures. The surfaces are decorated with patterns using a wax resist technique, with designs that range from vines to more primitive imagery. She strives to make sweet, yet sturdy one-of-a-kind pots that can survive a rough and tumble life as well as enhance it.

Based in Asheville, NC, Covington is passionate about living a life with as many handcrafted ingredients as possible.

For more info check our NC Commercial Gallery listings, call 704/334-4616 or visit (www.larkandkey.com).

Levine Museum of the New South in Charlotte, NC, Offers Exhibit Focused on Jewish Life in North Carolina

The Levine Museum of the New South in Charlotte, NC, will present, *Down Home: Jewish Life in North Carolina*, an exhibit that chronicles Jewish life in the Tar Heel state from colonial times to the present, on view from Feb. 25 through Sept. 9, 2012.

This traveling exhibit is part of the first major effort to document and present more than 400 years of Jewish life in North Carolina. Produced and organized by the Jewish Heritage Foundation of North Carolina (JHFNC), *Down Home*

continued on Page 9