

Lark & Key Gallery

continued from Page 27

Lark & Key, located in Charlotte's historic South End neighborhood, offers thoughtfully curated artwork, pottery and jewelry from local, regional and national artists.

For further information check our NC Commercial Gallery listings, call the gallery at 704/334-4616 or visit (www.larkandkey.com).

Upstairs Artspace in Tryon, NC, Offers Several New Exhibitions

The Upstairs Artspace in Tryon, NC, is presenting several new exhibits on view through Mar. 13, 2015. They include: *The Nina Simone Project: Celebrating Black History Month and Tryon's High Priestess of Soul*, where Valeria Watson Doost (Asheville, NC) reimagines Simone's Tryon upbringing with the installation *Reparations for Nina*; *Sights Unforeseen* presents paintings and three-dimensional pieces by Linda Larsen (Asheville, NC) reflecting on the Middle Passage and prisons; and *Mood Indigo*, features headdresses inspired by Nina Simone, created by Leigh Magar (Charleston, SC).

Valeria Watson Doost explores the impact that Simone - artist, civil rights activist, and Tryon's most famous daughter - had on her community with an installation reimagining the interior of the Tryon home where the jazz giant grew up. Watson calls the work *Reparations for Nina*, saying she wants to repay a debt she, as a female artist, owes to Simone, and hopes it will be a bridge to reconciliation after the controversies that have surrounded Simone's life and work.

"Home is where I am giving Nina the gift of reparations, for her disappointments and her grief," Watson Doost said, "and to Tryon for its disappointments and resentments, that all may come together in peace, justice, joy, abundance, and progress."

Charleston, SC, artist Leigh Magar also celebrates Simone's legacy with a display of headdresses and accessories inspired by Simone. Her exhibit, *Madame Magar: The Mood Indigo Collection*, features turbans and other items created using sewing remnants from indigo-dyed dresses and hats "to capture the aura of Nina's one-of-a-kind, strength and style," Magar said. The artist also will perform a Nina Simone birthday dance to Nina Simone songs on Feb. 21, the late musician's birthday.

The Upstairs also presents *Sights Unforeseen* by Asheville, NC, artist Linda Larsen. Her exhibit contains two bodies of work - paintings contemplating slavery and the Middle Passage, and a series of hauntingly beautiful sculptures exploring the



"Now I Know My ABCs" by Linda Larsen

American prison system and the disproportionately large population of black inmates. Larsen says that, as a white painter, she was uncomfortable addressing aspects of the African-American experience, but she hopes her work will open a conversation about race.

The Upstairs Artspace is a non-profit art gallery whose mission is to develop an understanding and appreciation of contemporary art and craft forms through exhibits, programs and educational activities that enrich the cultural life of the region. The Nina Simone Project is funded in part by a grant from the Polk County Community Foundation's Community Matters free-event program.

The gallery's mission also is supported by a 2015 grant from the Polk County Community Foundation, and additional funding from the North Carolina Council of the Arts and UA members.

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, call the gallery at 828/859-2828, or visit (www.upstairsartspace.org).

Burke Arts Council in Morganton, NC, Features Works by Rose Tripoli Mueller and John McKah

The Burke Arts Council in Morganton, NC, is presenting an exhibit of works by Valdese, NC, ceramic artist and Southern Highland Craft Guild Member, Rose Tripoli Mueller and Asheville, NC, landscape painter John McKah, on view in the Burke County Jail House Gallery, through Feb. 27, 2015.

"I see myself as part of the American tradition of landscape painting," says John McKah. "My family heritage is grounded in the southeast; one of my great-grandfathers was a cabinet maker who moved in 1842 from Germany to settle in central Georgia. My grandfather, John S. Kah, took up photography very early, listing it as his occupation in 1890 when he was a young man in Macon, GA. He established his own commercial photography studios in old Cedar Key, FL, later in Bradenton, Tampa, Jacksonville, (in Florida) Durham, NC, and in Vermont, moving seasonally. His work can be found in historic archives in North Carolina, Georgia, and Florida".

McKah has a Bachelor of Fine Arts graduate degree from Ringling College of Art & Design in Sarasota, FL, and has had a freelance/private studio since 1984. His work is in private and corporate collections in the southeast, and internationally. He teaches from his studio and in nationally known schools including the Fine Arts League of the Carolinas, Penland School of Crafts, John C. Campbell Folk School, and Arrowmont School.

"My work is hand-built and sculptural," says Rose Tripoli Mueller. "I am not locked into any particular method, and that freedom allows the material (mostly clay) to dictate where the work goes. It is always an exciting and interesting process, because I can sense that the image is already in the clay and, at the proper time, it is revealed."

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, call the Council at 828/433-7282 or visit (www.burkearts.org).

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 2015 issue and Mar. 24 for the April 2015 issue. After that, it's too late unless your exhibit runs into the next month. Don't be late - send your info well before the deadline.

David M. Kessler Fine Art



Lafayette Bleu, 30x30 Acrylic on Canvas

Residential and Corporate Commissions
"Loosen-Up" Abstract Painting Workshops
"Loosen-Up" Watercolor Painting Workshops

Email: david@davidmkessler.com

Phone: 336-418-3038

www.davidmkessler.com



Winter Sun on Crooked Creek

oil on canvas

40 x 30 inches

WILLIAM JAMESON WORKSHOPS 2015

"Problem Solving," Saluda, NC

February 19-21

Charleston Artists Guild, Charleston, SC

March 9-13

"Spring on the Blue Ridge," Saluda, NC

May 14-16

"Abaco Islands"

September 19-23

"Fall on the Blue Ridge," Saluda, NC

October 19-23

"Workshop: For Your Painting Group!"

Dates you choose

I can conduct a workshop planned especially for your location! Please contact us for planning and organizing a workshop in your area for your art organization or guild.

Detailed info is available at www.williamjameson.com or call 828.749.3101.