**ENO Gallery in Hillsborough, NC, Features Works by Robert Johnson**

ENO Gallery in Hillsborough, NC, is presenting *Real & Surreal*, featuring realistic botanical sketches and surreal landscape paintings by Robert Johnson, on view through Apr. 20, 2014.

Johnson is a visual storyteller whose interest in man’s connection to the natural world is reflected in his evocative and often surreal work. He began painting abstract works and studied with Mark Rothko in 1967. He then went on to earn a Masters of Fine Arts at Mills College in California.

While residing on the west coast Johnson’s inspiration turned more toward nature. Over 40 years ago he moved to the mountains of North Carolina, where the beauty of the natural environment surrounding him strongly influenced his work.

Johnson is the recipient of a fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Southern Arts Federation. His work has been exhibited in numerous museums, including the North Carolina Museum of Art, The Morris Museum of Art in Georgia, The Chrysler Art Museum in Virginia, and the Asheville Art Museum.

**North Carolina State University in Raleigh, NC, Offers Japanese Art from the Permanent Collection**

North Carolina State University in Raleigh, NC, is presenting *Remnants of the Floating World*, featuring kimonos, textiles, ceramics, and 19th century woodblock images from feudal Japan’s pleasure and entertainment districts, on view in the historic NC State Chancellor’s Residence (the future Gregg Museum of Art & Design), through May 23, 2014.

Zen priest, Asai Ryōi, in his 1661 book, Ukiyo-monogatari (*Tales of the Floating World*), described a sensation of “…living only for the moment, sitting on the moon, the snow, the cherry blossoms and the maple leaves, singing songs, diverting oneself in just letting oneself drift, buoyant and carefree, like a gourd floating along in a river current …” *Remnants of the Floating World* draws upon the treasures of the Gregg’s permanent collection to explore a world of courtesans in elegant kimonos, warrior-heroes on military ventures, sinister ghosts and witches, theatrical performances and scenes of leisure.

During this exhibition the Gregg will offer several exciting programs, including:

On Wednesday, Mar. 5, 12-1:30pm - *Film Ukiyo-e*. *Five Women*, by Kenji Miroguchi, screens at the historic Chancellor’s Residence. A samurai challenges an artist to a duel, but the artist counterchallenges with a contest of painting!

On Wednesday, Mar. 19, 17pm, at the NC State Crafts Center (lower level; Thomp-son Hall, 210 Jensen Drive, Raleigh), Tokyo native and North Carolina Living Treasure Hiroshi Sueyoshi discusses the influence of Japanese aesthetics on his famous sculptural ceramics. Co-sponsored with the Crafts Center.

For more information, visit www.galleryc.net.

**NC Museum of Natural Sciences in Raleigh, NC, Features Works by Keith Norval and Anna Podris**

The NC Museum of Natural Sciences in Raleigh, NC, will present *Distant Relatives*, featuring works by Keith Norval and Anna Podris, on view in the Nature Art Gallery, from Mar. 7 - Mar. 26, 2014. A reception will be held on Mar. 7, from 6-8pm.

As one of the most prominent married art couples in the area, Keith Norval and Anna Podris will bring their individual visions of unique explorations of paint in their newest exhibition.

For this exhibit, the two artists decided to explore different subject matter. Norval focused on dinosaurs painted with oil on canvas – large and small – with thick paint, bright color and plenty of attitude. “I wanted to make the work really car-toony, bright and loud to emphasize the size and scale of the dinos,” Norval commented.

“In order to get the right amount of detail on these paintings, that involves wax colors fixed with heat, or any process in which colors are burned in, Podris has found herself attracted to the unpredictable qualities of the medium. Ab-stract passages mix with fine detailed line work. “I found myself rereckoning works to get the right amount of detail on these paintings.”

To prepare for the show, the artists spent hours at the Museum, perusing their selec-tion of real-life references for the show. “I filled up one entire sketchbook with sketches just for this show,” said Norval. “I had to burn half of the sketches because it was just too overwhelming – dealing with that much information.”

The Nature Art Gallery is located on the top floor of the Museum Store, main building.

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings or call the gallery at 919-707-9854.