

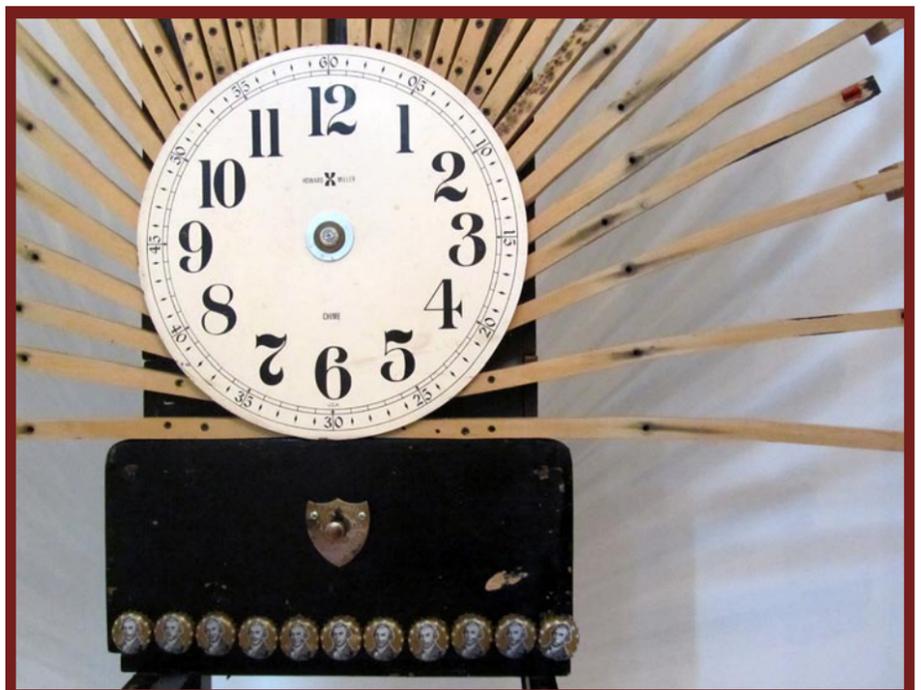
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Time Signatures (back detail), by Susan Lenz

Susan Lenz

is participating in

701 CCA Columbia Open Studios



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in her new "home" studio at



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City Art Gallery in Columbia, SC, Offers Works by Michael Fowler

City Art Gallery in Columbia, SC, will present the exhibit, *Recent Landscapes in Oil*, featuring a solo exhibit of the painting of Michael Fowler, on view from Apr. 26 through June 30, 2012. A reception will be held as part of *Artista Vista's* Art Night on Apr. 26, from 5-9pm. During this reception, Cindi Saad will be at City Art with her uniquely designed handmade jewelry and the Unbound Dance Company will perform at 8pm.

Art enthusiast, Sister Wendy Beckett, says that each of us is touched at some point by the "silent beauty of the natural world." She calls this experience sacred, since we are at once responding to something greater than we are, yet something that is an intimate part of us.



Work by Michael Fowler

Michael Fowler says, "My artistic response in contemplating nature is to capture something of landscape's pleasantness. In my case, it is the landscape's often unexpected harmonies of color and shape. Usually between my encounters with nature and my work with paint, something I never before realized about the landscape becomes clear. Often the act of painting, and then contemplating the product, consists of insights and feelings which can have no verbal explanation.



Work by Michael Fowler

My artistic experiences with paint (and hopefully your experiences as you pause to view and contemplate) remind us that seeing comes before words. Art reaches beyond the verbal and gives form to the emotional. As John Berge said, "Art is an organized response to what nature allows us to glimpse occasionally."

Fowler's work is included in museums' exhibits and corporate and private collections including Wake Forest University Baptist Medical Center in Winston-Salem, NC; Fredericksburg, VA; Eastern Kentucky University; the Medical College of Georgia Cancer Center, the McColl Center for Visual Art in the Hearst Tower in Charlotte, NC; Trinity Arts Conference at the University of Dallas, Dallas, TX, and in Nashville, TN, Lincoln, NE, Kansas City, MO, Sacramento, CA and St Paul, MN.

Fowler is an Associate Professor of Design and Mary Durban Toole Chair in

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Art at the University of South Carolina Aiken, Aiken, SC. He has a Master of Fine Arts in Painting and Drawing from the University of Nebraska/Lincoln, NE, and a Doctor of Education in Higher Education Leadership from the University of Memphis, TN.

Previously he designed and directed

design of environmental graphics and way-finding master plans for clients in healthcare, hospitality, sports, retail and exhibit venues.

For further information check our SC Commercial Gallery listings, contact Wendy Wells, Gallery Director at 803/252-3613 or visit (www.cityartonline.com).

Vista Studios in Columbia, SC, Features Works by Bonnie Goldberg and Kirkland Smith

Vista Studios in Columbia, SC, will present the exhibit, *Women Creating Women*, a show by women, about women, featuring works by Bonnie Goldberg and Kirkland Smith, on view in Gallery 80808, from Apr. 12 - 17, 2012. A reception will be held on Apr. 12, from 5-9pm and on Apr. 15, at 3pm featuring Cassie Premo Steele reading from her new book of poetry about mothering and creativity, *The Pomegranate Papers*.

Columbia artists Bonnie Goldberg and Kirkland Smith have been painting together for over 16 years in a weekly sketch group called About Face, which meets at the Columbia Museum of Art. Together, with other artists, they work from figurative models. In this show, Goldberg and Smith celebrate the women they love to paint as a way to celebrate all women, everywhere.

Goldberg and Smith both agree that working from live models is the best thing they do for their art. This discipline has helped each artist in their personal growth and both enjoy the connection they feel with the model. And yet each artist approaches the subject differently. Goldberg paints the model from the inside out, while Smith paints from the outside in.

"My work as a painter takes me to the figure as it moves in space. The gesture is important to me and taking out the detail and trying to capture the spirit of the movement in the smallest lines are what I

try to achieve as I draw and feel what the pose is about," say Goldberg.

"My figure work is the embodiment of who I am as an artist," says Goldberg. "I connect to the lines and shapes of the pose, the gesture of the model, and find the essence of the person who is posing. As I work and find the gesture, I try to keep the details to a minimum. I believe it is important to engage the viewer in a work of art and I see it as collaboration between the model, the artist, and the viewer. We, as artists and as lovers of art, understand that art is what teaches us what is important in life and defines those moments that we all have when beauty becomes reality."

Goldberg is a self-taught artist who has studied with many notable painters including Alex Powers, Katherine Chang Liu, Glenn Bradshaw, Ernest Velardi, Don Andrews, Sigmund Abeles, and Carole Barnes. Her work is in private collections in the United States, Canada, and France.

"In all of my work, the subject is the light, and how it falls across the form," says Smith. "I am endlessly fascinated with the figure and how the muscles move under the skin and around the skeletal bones. With my paint, I follow the light as it curves around the body and disappears into the shadows. I try to capture the model as I see her-and the characteristics that make her unlike anyone else."

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