

# Stormwater Studios in Columbia

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Artista Vista. There will also be an Arts Day on Saturday, Apr. 21, from 10am-3pm, with food and beer trucks, music, and visitors are invited to paint Plein Air on the property (there is no fee but please bring your own supplies).

The theme for the show is *Stormwater* and the artists are working through what that means to them.

Stephen Chesley has come full circle, beginning on the rivers and sea islands nearly 40 years ago. Reflecting, he is reminded of the art spirit set long before, "I've just kept on ceaselessly painting in order to learn painting."- Vincent van Gogh. And from Edward Hopper, "If you could say it in words there would be no reason to paint."

Pat Gilmartin has created a figurative ceramic sculpture incorporating references to the new studios and gallery, as well as other new pieces inspired by the natural environment of the site. For her, a brand-new studio feels like "a clean palette, a clean canvas, a fresh start".



Work by Michel McNinch

Heidi Darr-Hope is comfortably lost. Comfortable, because she has faith in the process of art-making which has never failed her, assisting her in understanding life and the unpredictable world in which we live. Last year, Darr-Hope's art screeched to a halt as her life was filled with all things medical. A tumultuous whirlwind raged in her body, leaving in its path a storm-water flood of complications. She is just now stepping out of her personal, confusing stormwater and back into her creative process. Her new works, *Stormwater Incidental Findings*, are her first creative explorations into last year's upheaval and she is slowly unearthing a fresh pathway.

Robert Kennedy is working in pastel again and involving the figure in new ways. From these studies, he is heading to larger painted pieces.

## USC-Lancaster Native American Studies Center in Lancaster, SC, Offers Two New Exhibitions

A coastal tribe believed to be among some of the first indigenous people to be reached by the first Europeans, the Pee Dee were once a sizeable community whose population dwindled due to settlement. Though they have quietly survived by adapting to the settlers' ways of life, the Pee Dee lately have experienced a resurgence in their culture and identity, part of which can be seen in the Center's new exhibit, *Kahes'vkus Tvm Vehidi: Return of the Pee Dee*.

Curated by members of the Pee Dee Indian Tribe, the exhibit will be on view through Feb. 2019.

"*Kahes'vkus Tvm Vehidi: Return of the Pee Dee* is the third exhibit to be created for the Center by a South Carolina tribe or tribal group. "Our goal is that when someone walks into our exhibit, they will be walking into the history of our tribe and come to the realization that we're still here," said Chief Pete Parr. "So many people have said to me, 'the Pee Dee Tribe is extinct.' We want to show that the Pee Dees were here, as far as history can tell, back in 1567 when the Spanish met them."



Work by Laura Spong

Sharon Licata is working on some experimental pieces in Limestone, and because she is able to transition from inside to out in the new space, it is easier for her to work larger. These will be in addition to a continuation of the emotive table top size abstracts in Black Chlorite and Alabaster that she is known for.

Michel McNinch knew that her time watching Hurricane Maria skirt our state would be a perfect reference for the *Stormwater* show. She will present new landscapes with a stormy twist.

A tumultuous year notwithstanding, 92-year-old Columbia artist Laura Spong will present new paintings, created in her home while recovering from health issues. She still has the talent and drive and it shows in the new works. Last year she received the Elizabeth O'Neill Verner Governor's Award for the Arts for Lifetime Achievement, South Carolina's highest award in the arts. The City of Columbia then declared September 5, 2017, "Laura Spong Day." Her work was exhibited at Columbia City Hall in January, and she just closed a solo exhibition at the Sumter County Gallery of Art.

Moving from classical painting to working in assemblage, Kirkland Smith is open to trying something new. She sees *Stormwater* as a metaphor for the floods in our lives that catch us unprepared, taking something from us as they rush past, but leaving something too. Moving to Stormwater Studios is an opportunity to make a fresh start.

Also participating are Eileen Blyth and David Yaghjian.

Also on view from Apr. 19 - May 2, will be the exhibit, *Aberrant Reflections*, a USC BFA show by painter Kara Mitton.

For further information check our SC Commercial Gallery listings, visit (<https://www.facebook.com/StormwaterStudios/>).



"Fish Net" by Chief Pete Parr

In the exhibit, visitors can expect to see traditional, historic items take on a contemporary art form. These items include jewelry made from shells, regalia, a rabbit stick (a throwing stick used to hunt rabbit or other small game), and a blow gun with feather darts. The exhibit also displays gourds and emphasizes the important role they play in Pee Dee culture, from being used as drinking vessels, storage for seeds or other items, and as a device to keep fishing nets afloat.

The exhibit also includes the tribe's history, a map of South Carolina high-

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