

# Waterworks Visual Arts Center

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Work by Scott Burdick

A self-taught artist, Cassandra Gillens' (Beaufort, SC) paintings feature silhouette figures saturated with vivid colors and simplified forms. Born in Massachusetts, her earliest memories are drawing with colored chalks on the sidewalks of Roxbury. As a child, she spent time in South Carolina with family. Upon returning to South Carolina, she became closely connected with the people and culture she loved so much.

Gillens' paintings depict her fondest memories as a child where everyday life becomes a celebration. Her talent portrays a culture filled with warmth, gentle personalities, close families, and all the things that make her beloved land so special.

Gillens' work is collected throughout the United States and Europe. She is part of the permanent collection of the Myrtle Beach Museum in Myrtle Beach, SC and the Harvey Gantt Center in Charlotte, NC. Her work was also featured in the Nicholas Sparks' movie "Nights in Rodanthe."



Work by Susan Lyon

Artist Susan Lyon (King, NC) was inspired to take drawing classes after seeing a television show featuring Georgia O'Keefe. She studied painting at the American Academy of Art in Chicago and was an active member in Chicago's Palette and Chisel Club. It was there that she first began exhibiting her work, and at 23, she was the youngest winner of their prestigious Gold Medal.

Lyon's body of work *Seeing the Figure through Color and Form*, depicts her true love of painting the figure. She draws inspiration from painters such as Zorn, Fechin, Sorolla, and Celia Beaux. Her style is realistic with as much impressionistic color as possible. She likes to combine wide sweeping strokes in the background with small, subtle details in the center of interest. Lyon's technique uses wet paint on wet to start and wet on dry for finishing touches. Many of her ideas come from the everyday objects that surround her as well as people and sites

from her travels to Europe.

Lyon moved to King, NC, with her artist husband Scott Burdick to escape the hectic city life and experience a different part of the country. Surrounded by nature, her studio allows her the space and privacy to grow as an artist.

Painter and mixed media artist Terry Thirion's (Charlotte, NC) abstract body of work intrigues the viewer and invites them to discover the little surprises embedded in each piece. Growing up on the farmlands of Belgium, she spent a lot of time on sites with her father who was a stonemason. She now works from her studio in Charlotte.



Work by Terry Thirion

Thirion graduated from Parmentier School of Design in Brussels, Belgium. She collects reference materials by sketching and photographing on site. Through her work, she expresses a fundamental sentiment of light and joy, represented in bold colors, a sudden curve, or random marks. Her subjects range from the high spirits of drumming circles to the silent play of light on a secluded river's edge, or the intimacy of a single tree in a community park.

Exuberance is balanced by a certain melancholy for the disappearance of older architecture, natural landscapes, and traditional communities. This sensitivity is revealed in her realistic and representational works that are driven by world events and common life experiences. They include the human figure, architectural elements, and found objects in nature.

Thirion states, "Each piece has its own challenges. Sometimes it's a mood I want to convey, sometimes an unwillingness to stick to the norm."

Encaustic artist Felicia van Bork (Davidson, NC) creates artwork that explores origin and evolution of consciousness. Her encaustic portraits featured in her body of work *Portraits Just In Time* use exquisite color and texture, drawn from observation, that result in spirit and energy.



Work by Felicia van Bork

van Bork received her MFA from the Massachusetts College of Art and Design. She studied at the Ontario College of Art and Design; in Florence, Italy; and at Columbia University in New York. She has had residencies at Byrdcliff, the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts, and at the McColl Center for Visual Arts in Charlotte where she is currently an 11-month Affiliate Artist. van Bork has taught art at Davidson College, the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, and Penn State University.

In addition to the professional exhibitions, Waterworks will feature a selection of works in a solo exhibition from this year's Dare to Imagine Award winner,

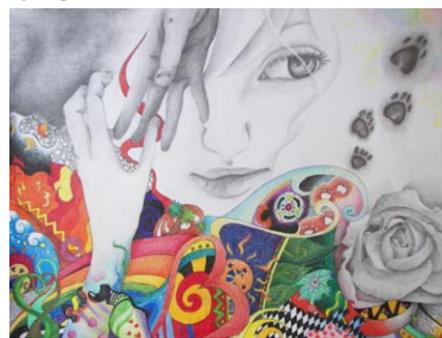
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Courtney Quaintance. Her portfolio was one of nine senior submissions by art specialists from the Rowan-Salisbury High Schools. Now in its eighth year, the Dare to Imagine Award is given in recognition of the importance of art in the life of our community and to a graduating senior whose work most exemplifies the creative potential of the human spirit, heart, and hand. This \$1,000 award is made possible by a gift from Susan and Edward Norvell.



Work by Courtney Quaintance

Quaintance is an art student of Cindy Morgan at West Rowan High School. She plans to take courses at Art Institute of Pittsburgh in Graphic Design and Interactive Media to integrate her artwork with the future of technology.

The Waterworks Visual Arts Center is accredited by the American Association of Museums. Its mission is to provide diverse opportunities in the arts for all people through exhibitions, education, and outreach.

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, call the Center at 704/636-1882 or visit ([www.waterworks.org](http://www.waterworks.org)).

Haven't found the article about your exhibit yet? Did you send it to us? Don't feel left out. Be included. The deadline each month to submit articles, photos and ads is the 24th of the month prior to the next issue. This will be May 24th for the June 2012 issue and June 24 for the July 2012 issue. Don't put it off. Get your info to us - soon.



Mary Lou Sussman, Trace a Path, 2010, Monotype, 34 x 28 inches

Gallery Artists Featuring the work of Mary Lou Sussman

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## SC State Museum in Columbia, SC, Offers Exhibit Dealing with Mental Health & Art

Art by clients of the South Carolina Department of Mental Health can be seen in the upcoming exhibit *Art of Recovery*, on view in the SC State Museum's Education Corridor, from May 3 through June 17, 2012.

The exhibit was put together from competitions open to people receiving services through the department. Winners of the competition, which is judged by Midlands artists, are initiated into the "Order of the Brush."

The Art of Recovery project was started to showcase the talents of people who live with mental illnesses and the role that creative outlets like art can play in the recovery process, according to the Dept. of Mental Health.

"There are wonderful artists across the state who approach art making from



Work by Tomara Moss

various perspectives and experiences," said SC State Museum Curator of Art Paul Matheny. "The art included in this project is no different, and offers a glimpse into another part of the visual culture of South Carolina."

The project also gives the artists the chance not only to exhibit their art, but to sell it as well, though the pieces in the museum's show are not for sale. The partici-

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