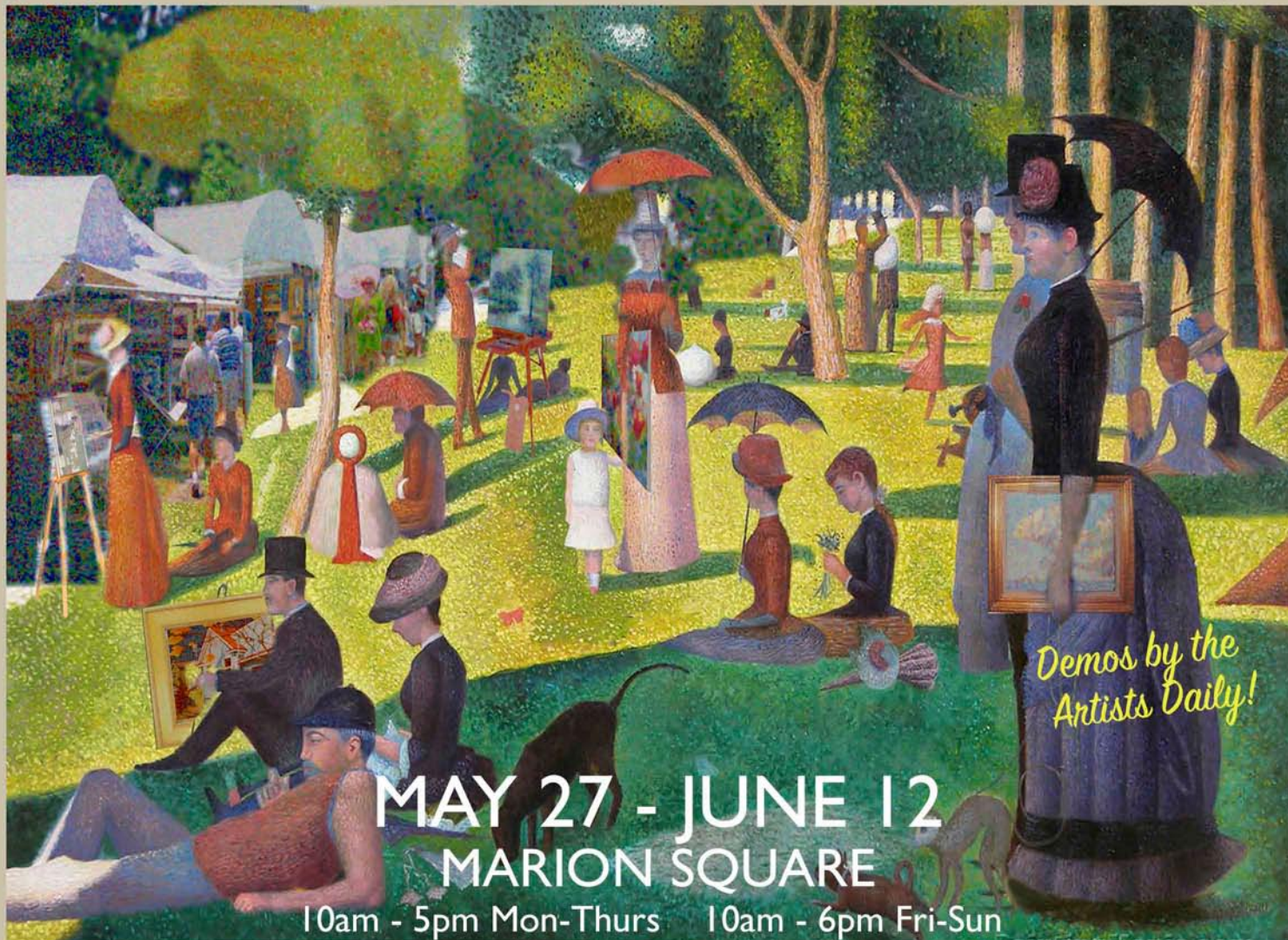


THE 2016 PICCOLO SPOLETO OUTDOOR ART EXHIBITION



FEATURING OVER 80 JURIED FINE ARTISTS ON LOCATION!
with Original Oils, Pastels, Watercolors, Acrylics, Encaustics, Photography & Mixed Media

Sponsored by the City of Charleston Office of Cultural Affairs

Robert Lange Studios

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that Michelle is taking,” said Robert Lange, gallery owner. “We were originally drawn to her work because of the dimension, tension and movement she was able to create by layering several transparent paintings together. Her new body of work pushed her further and includes paintings of up to 15 layers, hanging sculptures, and new subject matter.”

This new body of work features figures on the 2-15 layers of stacked acrylic panel to push and pull images in and out of focus. Working on layers of semi-transparent acrylic panels, Jader diffuses background layers, enhances depth, and creates a sense of mystery and movement. Expressive marks and shadowing of the figures also reinforce a sense of impermanence.

Michelle said of the new paintings, “This body of work is the beginning of a new direction for me. I continue to be drawn to figures in motion, but I’m trying to further exploit the benefits of not only layering paint on one surface, but layering several transparent paintings together to create more dimension, tension and movement.”

“The work is very personal to me. When I moved to San Francisco 10 years ago, my new world seemed out of focus. Simple everyday actions like walking down a street or passing new co-workers in the halls went by like a blur. It was very lonely at times, and I wanted nothing more than to feel at home in my new city with a circle of great friends. Little by little and step by step, my foggy world came into focus. With time, the streets I traveled started to become familiar and friendships grew around me.”

The beginning of change, much like the beginning of this directional shift in my work, was most definitely, a struggle. But there were also moments when I embraced the changes that were happening around me and within me. This new body of work explores the desire for clarity and connection in an unfocused, new world.”

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Work by Michelle Jader

Jader attended the Academy of Art University in San Francisco where she earned her MFA studying traditional oil painting. Her desire to paint expressively and marry traditional with contemporary styles pushed her to investigate new painting surfaces. For over 5 years she’s been exploring painting motion on several layers of semi-transparent acrylic panels.

Robert Lange Studios has been voted Best Art Gallery in Charleston for the last four years by the *Charleston City Paper* and artist Nathan Durfee has received the award for Best Visual Artist. In addition, the gallery was voted Best Art Gallery 2015 by *Charleston Living Magazine*. Gallery owners Megan and Robert Lange are committed to providing a forum for art based on individuals, subjective style and awareness. This dedication has created a reputation for the gallery of consistently finding new and interesting artists that stand out for their

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City of North Charleston, SC, Features Works by Randy Akers

The City of North Charleston, SC, will present *Land Marks*, featuring paintings by Savannah based artist, Randy Akers, on view in the North Charleston City Gallery, located in the Charleston Area Convention Center, from June 2 - 30, 2016.

In *Land Marks*, Akers presents a collection of 25 site specific and memory based paintings from locations in the Lowcountry. These locations trigger a visceral response for the artist and are always in rough condition: messy, dirty, rusty, and in forms of disrepair. The geography is never perfect and all places have a history. Whether his response to these sites are immediate or banked and thought over at a later time, Akers feels compelled to make a visual, albeit abstracted, record through strong, expressionistic marks and layer upon layer of paint.

“The process is a struggle and can occur over a period of several months, with layers and layers of decisions and paint applications,” Akers explains. “It is never straightforward and full of surprises.” The result is a body of textural, highly colorful works that are often poetic and convey a sense of mystery.

Akers received an MFA from the Savannah College of Art and Design and BFA from the Chouinard Art Institute at the California Institute of the Arts, with additional academic work at Art Center College of Design, California State University Northridge and University of Oregon. His work has been exhibited nationally, including an NEA funded show at the Stables Art Gallery in Taos, NM; the University of New Mexico’s Harwood Foundation; the Los Angeles Institute of Contemporary Art; the Philadelphia Art Museum; the Anchorage Art Museum; the University of Northern Colorado; the Valdosta University Art Museum; the



Work by Randy Akers

Masur Museum of Art, the State University of New York at Geneseo; the Gertrude Herbert Institute of Art; and the LaGrange Art Museum.

Most recently Akers’ work received first place at the 2015 North Carolina Arts Council exhibition *Earthy Abstractions*. He has taught at the School of Visual Arts, the Savannah College of Art and Design, and Cazenovia College. He is represented by Royal Contemporary Gallery in Colorado and creates in his studio on Skidaway Island, GA.

The North Charleston City Gallery is situated in the common areas of the Charleston Area Convention Center, located on Coliseum Drive in North Charleston. Parking and admission are free during regular Convention Center operating hours. The gallery is staffed on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday only. Inquiries regarding the artists or purchase information may be directed to the North Charleston Cultural Arts Department at 843/740-5854.

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings, call 843/740-5854 or visit (www.northcharleston.org).

You can contact us by calling 843/693-1306.

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