

City of North Charleston, SC, Features Works by Jessica Burke and Michael Ellison

The City of North Charleston's Cultural Arts Department is pleased to present drawings by Jessica Burke of Statesboro, GA, and photographs by Savannah, GA, artist, Michael Ellison, at the North Charleston City Gallery, located in the Charleston Area Convention Center, in North Charleston, SC, from Aug. 1 - 30, 2014.

In *(Re)Play*, Jessica Burke presents a new series of portraits in graphite that functions as a meditation on identity as seen through the influence of iconic figures of popular culture. Each piece features one of the artist's friends, coworkers, or students, dressed in costume, assuming the identity of a fictional character from pop culture that was particularly influential during their formative years.

The characters range from Princess Cinderella and Superman to Darth Vader and Joan Crawford a la Mommie Dearest. Burke's love/hate relationship with popular culture is at the root of this exploration and has served as the inspiration for many of her series.



Work by Jessica Burke

"The media we consumed as children and continue to consume throughout our lives influences how we see ourselves and our place in the world, ultimately selling us our identities," she explains.

"The way we articulate ourselves, specifically our ideal selves, is built out of a framework given to us by popular culture. These drawings can reveal a shared sense of our inner desire to be more than we see in the mirror and closer to what is reflected to us from our television, computer, and movie screens."

Burke earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts from Oklahoma State University in 2000 and a Master of Fine Arts in Drawing and Painting from the University of North Carolina in 2005. Her work has been featured in solo exhibitions throughout the country in venues such as Artspace Gallery (Richmond, VA), the Cannon Gallery (Portland, OR), and the Adirondack Center for the Arts (Blue Mountain Lake,



Work by Michael Ellison

NY). Her work has also been included in a number of group exhibitions such as the ArtVenice Biennale Project (Venice, Italy) and the *Women and Body Exhibition* at the Kepco Museum (Seoul, South Korea).

Burke has participated in artist residencies in Italy, Canada, and in the northwest United States and her work is in both public and private collections throughout the US, the United Kingdom, Japan, Korea, Holland, and Italy. She is currently an Assistant Professor and Director of the Foundations Program in the Betty Foy Sanders Art Department at Georgia Southern University.

In his exhibition *Every Day Sightings*, Michael Ellison shares a collection of color photographs that are part of an ongoing project of the same name. The photographs highlight both familiar and off-the-beaten-path sights, signs, and scenes of Savannah, Georgia. Ellison's fresh and direct approach to capturing the often overlooked components of his surroundings relies on the simplest elements of lighting, composition, and treatment of the subject.

"These images document the world as I see it in all of its quirkiness," Ellison says. "One of my goals is to challenge the viewer to appreciate the details in life by presenting the image of the world in a straightforward manner."

Ellison has held an interest in the visual arts since his childhood, growing up in post-war Charlotte, NC. He purchased his first 35mm camera during a combat tour in Vietnam. Following his service in the Marines, he enrolled in the photography program at Randolph Community College in Asheboro, NC, and later received a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration from Montreat College in Charlotte, NC. His photographs have been featured in solo and group exhibitions throughout Savannah and the surrounding area, as well as in a number of juried exhibitions throughout the United States.

Ellison's work is also included in the permanent collection at the Telfair/Jepson Art Museum in Savannah, GA.

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings, call the North Charleston Cultural Arts Department at 843/740-5854 or visit (www.northcharleston.org).

Redux Contemporary Art Center in Charleston, SC, Features Works by Kate Nartker and Katey Crews

Redux Contemporary Art Center in Charleston, SC, will present *Tease It Out*, featuring an exhibit of works by Kate Nartker and Katey Crews, on view from Aug. 8 through Sept. 27, 2014. A reception and artist talk will be held on Aug. 8, from 6:30-8:30pm.

Through weavings, videos, and sculptural works, artists Kate Nartker and Katey Crews use similar media to explore personal and patriotic narratives, respectively. Nartker reworks old family video into clips, stills, and weavings; Crews creates laboriously woven works and sculptural objects, featuring historic imagery, from presidential to propaganda. "Nostalgia is a profound filter on our

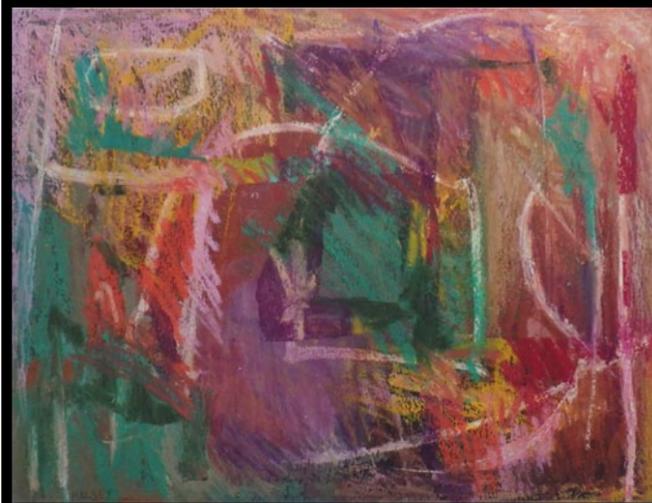


"Timekeeper," silk organza and light box, by Kate Nartker

memories and images of the past. It is a manipulation of history, and a distillation of our emotional responses to a wide

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Halsey - McCallum Studio William Halsey & Corrie McCallum



Growing by William Halsey, 1992
oil pastel and paint stick on paper, 18 x 24 inches

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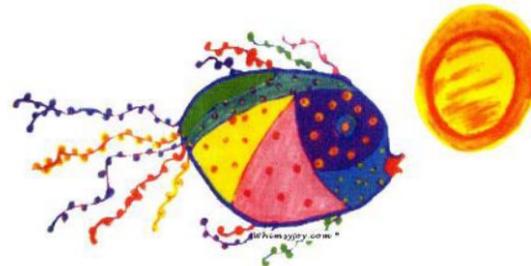
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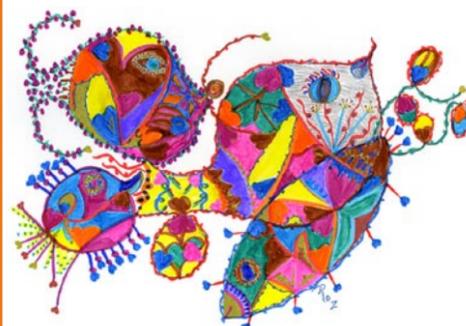
"I am the Sun, High in the Sky.
I move along really High"...

"The Fish is Swimming
Fast After Me.
Everyone watches as
He tries to Catch Me.
But I am Fast and then I set.
He keeps trying
but we never Met."

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