Arts Councíl of Beaufort, SC

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lery in Brunswick, in a group show which also featured world-renowned artists such as Alex Baptiste of Savannah, GA, Ernest Butts of Brunswick, GA, and the late Ana Bel Lee of St. Simons Island, GA.

Simpson currently resides in the Beaufort area and plans to donate all of the artist's share of proceeds from the sale of her works to Citizens Opposed to Domestic Abuse (CODA) of the Lowcountry. CODA's mission is to "Provide professional support services to victims of partner abuse and their children in Beaufort, Colleton, Hampton and Jasper counties. They are committed to the belief that safety from violence and freedom from fear are universal rights."

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings, call the Council at 843/379-2787 or visit (www.beaufortcountyarts.com).

The Cabarrus Arts Council in Concord, NC, Features Works by Sonia Handelman Meyer

The Cabarrus Arts Council in Concord, NC, will present the exhibit *Sonia Handelman Meyer*, featuring photographs by Meyer, on view at The Galleries, located in the Historic Cabarrus County Courthouse, from Aug. 17 through Oct. 10, 2015. Meyer, who is 95, plans to attend Collectors Circle on Aug. 19, from 5:30-7pm, and Art Walk on Aug. 28, from 6-9pm. Collectors Circle will provide the opportunity to further explore Meyer's work and the New York Photo League.

The exhibition includes more than 40 photographs which will be spread among the four galleries.



"Tax Booth" by Sonia Handelman Meyer

Meyer captured images at a crucial time in American history. The Great Depression was over and soldiers were returning from victories in World War II, but many people were still hungry, jobless and homeless. As a member of the New York Photo League, Meyer brought awareness to the plight of immigrants, minorities and the poor as the she photographed the city in the 1940s. Her amazing eye and unimposing persona allowed her to take pictures that pull the viewer in and give us a better understanding of the social, political, and personal struggles of the period.

"The way in which Sonia documents such a tumultuous time in American history is quite remarkable," said Rebecca Collins, Cabarrus Arts Council Visual Arts Director and curator of the exhibition. "Her photographs depict subjects in harsh urban environments however, it is the theme of the human condition that resounds with the viewer. The faces of immigrants and children are hauntingly beautiful and poignant - one can relate to their struggles and triumphs even 70 years after they were captured in photographs."



"Teenage Boys, Spanish Harlem" by Sonia Handelman Meyer

classes, workshops, a darkroom and exhibitions. Meyer's connection with the cooperative of photographers began with a beginner's class in 1942 and included what she called "eye-heart-soul opening" workshops.

Meyer and fellow league photographer Morris Huberland took still photographs at the nation's first integrated hospital, Sydenham Hospital in Harlem for a fund-raising film. She photographed an anti-lynching rally in Madison Square Park, a Jehovah's Witness convention at Yankees Stadium, the first publicity photos for The Weavers folk group, on Coney Island and at the Hebrew Immigration Aid Society. Mostly, she photographed people going about living their lives in Spanish Harlem, Greenwich Village and Midtown Manhattan, especially children.



"HIAS Children" by Sonia Handelman Meyer Meyer said that she often snapped one,

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IMAGE: Donna I. Craven (American, 1959–).Large Vase, 2014, stoneware. Gift of Daisy Wade Bridges. t0047.1. Collection of the Mint Museum, Charlotte, NC. Image © Mint Museum of Art, Inc.





"Pushcart" by Sonia Handelman Meyer

The famed New York Photo League was instrumental in bringing fine art photography to the United States, according to Collins. The league offered its members a forum for serious photography, including maybe two, photos and moved on without the subject ever realizing his image had been captured. She used photography as a way to overcome her fear of walking the city streets as a young woman, and she saw things that she might have overlooked had she not held a camera.

After the photo league closed in the early 1950s, Meyer turned her attention to marriage and then a family. Her prints and negatives were packed away in boxes, and her work was not shown again until 1978, when three images were included in the International Center of Photography's exhibition, *This Was the Photo League*.

In 2002 she moved to Charlotte, NC, to be near her son, Joe, and his family. A few years earlier, Joe had shown some of his mother's work to Lili Geer, who was at that time an art history professor at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. Geer assigned a student to work with Meyer on cataloging her work.

In 2007 Carolyn DeMerritt, a photographer whose work has also been shown at *continued on Page 12* Featured Potters 2015

William Baker Kyle Carpenter Jim Connell Josh Copus Donna Craven Will Dickert Judith Duff Kim Ellington Susan Filley Carol Gentithes Terry Gess **Bruce Gholson** Samantha Henneke Nick Joerling Daniel Johnston Kate Johnston

For more information, please contact us at <u>delhomserviceleague@gmail.com</u> or call 704.366.2504. www.facebook.com/PottersMarketInvitational

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