

Sunset River Marketplace

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NC, was recently selected as the juror for the 2016 Western Federation of Watercolor Societies. His works are mostly interpretive statements that personify his intuitive sense of color and design, ranging from abstract expressionism to traditional.

Also a popular workshop instructor, Joe DiGiulio from Raleigh, NC, is the executive artist for Jerry's Artarama. His abstract works hang in SAS Institute, Raleigh Duke Hospital and the new PNC Plaza Building in downtown Raleigh.

Watercolor workshop instructor Freeman Beard is best known for his exquisite traditional transparent watercolor landscapes of rural Carolina scenes. He is a signature member of the Watercolor Society of North Carolina.

Pat Smelkoff, who offers wax resistant watercolor batik workshops through Sunset River Marketplace, is an artist, designer, and travel teacher. She has studied Zhostovo stroke work under master artist Boris Grafov in Russia and has designed projects for Paint Works, Painting and the Decorative Painter, which is the official publication of the Society of Decorative Painters.

Clay artist Jane Truesdale, who has been with Sunset River Marketplace since the gallery opened, teaches pottery and is well known for her hand-built pieces. A native of the Adirondacks in upstate NY, Truesdale is driven by nature and it shows in her work.

Jamie Futura teaches both hand-building and throwing pottery on the wheel. She has worked in various media including bronze casting, woodcarving, welding and silversmithing. She is known for her whimsical pieces that come to life with expression and color. Futura was featured on Cecil Chandler's *Carolina & Company Live* on WPDE NewsChannel 15.

Oil painter Ruth Cox is renowned throughout northeastern South Carolina for her large residential trompe l'oeil images and large scale public murals. She is a member of Waccamaw Arts & Craft Guild and Seacoast Artist Guild of South Carolina. The prolific artist is also the founder of Plein Air Landscape Society (PALS), a local plein air painting group. She is a signature member of International Plein Air Painters group and has earned numerous prestigious honors and awards.

Ginny Lassiter, who instructs the gallery's evening Paint & Party classes, graduated from East Carolina University in Greenville, NC, with a major in art with an emphasis in Interior Design. A workshop with Sterling Edwards several years ago provided the impetus she needed to switch to painting abstracts. "It really opened my eyes to shapes and textures," she says. "I love the whole process of painting ab-



Jane Staszak at work

stracts."

Jane Staszak studied at the University of the Arts in Philadelphia, PA. Upon moving to the Carolinas, she opened Side Doors Studio on Main Street in North Myrtle Beach, SC, where she taught drawing, pastels, watercolor and portraiture. She is a leading force in the Art Matters painting group at the gallery.

Terry Sellers Harrison has had a long fascination with the human figure, which led to her 2003 commission by the University of North Carolina at Wilmington to paint the portrait of Vice Chancellor Dr. Robert Tyndall, the former Dean of Education. Her watercolors contain color harmonies and a luminosity rarely seen in contemporary art. She is a member of Portrait Society of America and in 2012 was selected to paint the official image for Wilmington's 2012 NC Azalea Festival.

Since opening in 2002, Sunset River Marketplace has been an active supporter of performing, literary and visual arts in the area. The 10,000 square-foot gallery features work by over 200 North and South Carolina artists. Its on-site pottery studio has two kilns and three wheels for use by students. Ongoing oil, pastel and watercolor classes are also provided, in addition to workshops by nationally known artists. The gallery's complimentary Coffee With the Authors programs feature presentations by local and regional authors. A Paint & Party series provides a fun after-work experience for those with no previous art background. The gallery's framing department offers full-service, on-site custom frame design for artwork, family heirlooms and other memorabilia.

For further information about the exhibition, art classes, onsite framing or any other gallery events, call 910/575-5999 or visit (www.sunsetrivermarketplace.com). The gallery's Facebook page, which is updated daily (www.facebook.com/sunsetrivermarketplace), also lists special events, new artists and other happenings.

NC Wesleyan College in Rocky Mount, NC, Features Works by Pat Nole and Willie Thorne

WOOD is the name of this season's opening two person exhibit showing Pat Nole's paintings on scrap wood and Willie Thorne's colorful wood cutout reliefs on view Aug. 14 through Sept. 27, 2015, at NC Wesleyan College's Dunn Center Mims Gallery in Rocky Mount, NC.

Pat Noles paints on weathered scrap wood to establish a visual contrast that connects real time of his raw material to our cultural memory. His painted subjects are pulled from a lexicon of nostalgic imagery harkening back to the 1950s. A graduate of Barton College, Noles owns and is chief artist for his graphic design company. He is also current Chair of the Franklin County Arts Council Board.

Self-taught Rocky Mount artist Willie Thorne will be exhibiting his wonderfully crafted and painted wood wall reliefs. Topical subjects from the news, inspirational patriotic and religious themes, commissioned portraits of friends and family as well as cartoon subjects have continued to be favorite subjects for Thorne.

Never settling for standing still as an



Work by Willie Thorne

artist, Thorne has become a peerless craftsman, both in challenging subjects as well as wood craft and invention. He is a graduate of Rocky Mount schools and after a hitch

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in the Army went to work at Firestone in Wilson, NC. Inspired to woodworking by his father, Thorne began making his painted wood cut outs about 25 years ago with his first being a portrait of his daughter which is included in this exhibit. His religious themed "The Passion" was recently acquired for the permanent collection of the Four Sisters Gallery which is dedicated to the self-taught art of the Coastal Plain.

In support of the cultural mission and quality entertainment of the Dunn Center, the Mims Gallery annually produces a series of art exhibits by nationally recognized and local professionals from various and diverse populations. All Gallery events are free to the public and bring music and art together for reception parties where visitors and art collectors can talk with visiting artists one on one.

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, call the gallery at 252/985-5268 or visit (www.ncwc.edu/Arts/Mims/).



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