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Coastal Discovery Museum on Hilton Head Island, SC, Offers Exhibit Focused on Oysters with Photos by Lewis Hine

The Coastal Discovery Museum on Hilton Head Island, SC, is presenting *Oysters: Past, Present, and Future*, including photographs by Lewis Hine, on view in the Hilton Head Regional Healthcare Gallery, through Sept. 8, 2016.

Oysters are more than a local delicacy. Yes, we enjoy roasting them over a fire and sharing with friends in the winter months and the more adventurous eat them raw on the half-shell. However, these bivalves provide more than sustenance. They have been used by human inhabitants to build shell rings, to pave roadways and give form to structures. For a century they have provided a living for coastal people. Ecologically, they are a keystone species that plays a critical role in maintaining the health of our waterways and our living organisms. Historic photographs, artifacts, mariculture and conservation tools, and artistic representations tell the story of the amazing oyster at the Coastal Discovery Museum. Included in the exhibition are over a dozen photographs from the Library of Congress' National Child Labor Committee (NCLC) collection that were taken by Lewis Hine between 1908 and 1913. The NCLC was founded in 1904 and chartered by Congress in 1907 with the mission of promoting the rights, dignity, well-being and education of children and vouth as they relate to work and working. Shortly after its founding in 1912, the Children's Bureau received the photographic prints from the National Child Labor Committee. This collection of photographs depicts the conditions for immigrant, migrant workers who came to the Lowcountry seasonally to work in oyster



Work by Lewis Hine

factories and canneries.

Lewis Hine, a New York City schoolteacher and sociologist was so strongly opposed to child labor that he quit his



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teaching job and began to take powerful photographs of exploitative child labor for the National Child Labor Committee. He believed that child labor was in many cases child slavery, and that it condemned them to a future of illiteracy, poverty, and dependence. Although he also photographed in coal mines and factories, many of his photos represented child labor in the seafood industry.

In Hine's photographs, you can see the conditions of labor, their living conditions, and the age of the children employed.

"There is work that profits children, and there is work that brings profit only to employers. The object of employing children is not to train them, but to get high profits from their work," said Lewis Hine in 1908.

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings, call the Museum at 843/689-6767 ext. 224 or visit (www.coastaldiscovery.org).

You can contact us by calling 843/693-1306 or by e-mail at - info@carolinaarts.com but do it before the 24th of the month prior to our next issue.

Also don't forget about our two blogs: <u>Carolina Arts Unleashed</u> <u>Carolina Arts News</u>

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Page 10 - Carolina Arts, August 2016

Table of Contents