

if ART in Columbia, SC

continued from Page 21



Work by Laura Spong

more recent paintings by Spong.

Since the late 1980s, Spong had been a full-time artist, since 1991 keeping a studio at Vista Studios in Columbia, which last year was replaced by the new Stormwater Studios on Huger Street. Especially in the last 15 years of her career, her now considerable reputation grew not just in South Carolina but elsewhere in the Southeast. She managed to receive both critical acclaim and, in her last decade, soaring sales.

Much of Spong's career has been documented in three exhibition catalogues, *Laura Spong at 80: Warming The Chill Wind With Celebration of 2006*; *Laura Spong 2006 – 2011: Age As An Administrative Device of 2011*; and *Laura Spong At 90: Six Decades In Paintings*, all published by if ART Gallery.

For further information check our SC Commercial Gallery listings, call the gallery at 803/238-2351 or visit (<http://ifartgallery.blogspot.com>).

Asheville Gallery of Art in Asheville, NC, Offers Works by Sahar Fakhoury

The Asheville Gallery of Art in Asheville, NC, will present *Simple Moment*, featuring the work of Sahar Fakhoury, whose paintings strike a pleasing balance between the classical and the contemporary styles of depicting the human condition. The show is on view from Aug. 1-31, 2019. A reception will be held on Aug. 2, from 5-8pm.

"I am interested and fascinated by the human figure to record the history of a moment. In this series of new works, I explore the art of portrait with a twist. I infuse the paintings with vivid light and color, but still maintain the likeness and essence of the subjects that I paint. I take my subjects out of the original context, leaving room for the viewer's imagination to interpret where and why the moment took place," says Fakhoury.

The majority of Fakhoury's subjects are people she encounters on the street or by chance. "Sometimes I look for people because I have a certain idea in mind, at other times I see a person who inspires an idea for a painting." She portrays figures in motion or in simple positions. "To me, moving figures represent the instability of our lives. We are always changing directions. We might move to another city or country, change jobs, or experience a sudden change in our health," explains



Work by Sahar Fakhoury

Fakhoury.

Fakhoury has lived in the Asheville area for 29 years. She holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts from UNC Asheville, and has exhibited her work in solo and group shows throughout the United States and abroad. Her work hangs in both public and private collections around the world. She also teaches oil painting in her studio in Asheville's River Arts District.

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listing, call the gallery at 828/251-5796, visit (www.ashevillegallery-of-art.com), or go to the gallery Facebook page.

American Folk Art Gallery in Asheville, NC, Features Group Show for August

American Folk Art Gallery in Asheville, NC, will present *Defining Lines*, featuring a group show by gallery artists, on view from Aug. 1 - 21, 2019. A reception will be held on Aug. 2, from 5-8pm.

Powerful art triggers something in the viewer; it creates a space for us to be absorbed into the scene, opens a way to be

touched by emotion. It can have nothing, or everything to do with what the artist is conveying whilst creating. Creating emotional content successfully is a finely honed skill which often begins with a line. Horizon lines create space and depth; even on a small canvas, a vast landscape can emerge. With a simple vertical line the

continued above on next column to the right

Turtle Island Pottery

Handmade pottery by Maggie & Freeman Jones



www.turtleislandpottery.com

Call 828-337-0992 to view our showroom any day.

Map to showroom @ 2782 Bat Cave Road + Old Fort, NC 28762

illusion of height is conveyed. A bunch of lines: depth. One rounded curvy line—a whole body emerges.

Asheville's American Folk Art Gallery presents shows which explore the ways in which the self-taught artist finds their own voice. This exploration of a most elemental element of all art while showcasing the work of our more contemporary/modernist artists the gallery represents. Chief among those painters are Ellie Ali, Ellen Langford, and Chris Bruno; along with woodblock printmaker Kent Ambler. Several pieces of Shawn Ireland's unique take of modern functional pottery will also be included.

For further information check our



Work by Ellie Ali

NC Commercial Gallery listings or visit (www.amerifolk.com).

Momentum Gallery in Asheville, NC, Offers Three New Exhibitions

Momentum Gallery in Asheville, NC, is presenting three new exhibits including: *Give Me Wood*, a group invitational wood show featuring works by internationally recognized artists; *Mariella Bisson Setting Shapes*, and *Oil Paintings by Paul Sattler and Samantha Keely Smith*, all on view through Aug. 31, 2019.

Give Me Wood is an imaginative and evocative collection of contemporary painting and wood sculpture. Central to the identity and creation of all the extraordinary two- and three-dimensional works in the exhibition is the common material of wood. The participating artists defy logic, explore space (both real and imagined), carve, bend, turn, and otherwise construct some truly amazing and innovative work! Featured artists include: Michael Alm, Garry Knox Bennett, Gil Bruvel, Christian Burchard, Clark Derbes, Tom Eckert, David Ellsworth, Ron Layport, Wendy Maruyama, and Sylvie Rosenthal.

Mariella Bisson deftly delineates the sculptural planes of regional waterfalls and sylvan scenes creating refreshingly contemporary landscape paintings. Her oil-over-collage paintings feature built-up



Work by Gil Bruvel

texture, suggesting the complex surface of stone and tree bark, lichen, and moss. Bisson's paintings demonstrate a strong understanding of formal composition and reflect a sensibility honed from time she's spent immersed in the outdoors. Of note, Bisson is a two-time recipient of the Pollock-Krasner grant and was awarded a New York Foundation for the Arts fellowship in painting.

Dramatic narratives unfold in Paul Sattler's charged and enigmatic oil paintings which reference historic and literary sources. Sattler comments, "A diverse

continued on Page 23