

NC Wesleyan College in Rocky Mount, NC, Offers Works by Japanese Embroidery Guild

North Carolina Wesleyan College in Rocky Mount, NC, will offer an exhibit of works by members of the North Carolina Japanese Embroidery Guild, on view in the Mims Gallery, of the Dunn Center, from Aug. 14 through Sept. 17, 2020. There will be a Closing Party on Sept. 17 starting at 5pm for the 18 participating guild members.

This is the second time the Embroidery Guild has exhibited at the Mims and are back by popular demand for all to see this group of artisans' extraordinary artworks rendered in the detailed thread work of traditional pictorial color and gold.

Traditional Japanese silk embroidery was introduced into Japan from China and Korea during the seventh century by Buddhist monks. Stitched banners of Buddha figures were used in public temples and private shrines. During the Edo period, embroidery became a fashion accessory, rather than a religious one. At first available only to the Imperial Court and the samurai class, embroidered clothing became attainable by a wider range of Japanese society as silk became more available. Although designs changed, professionals continued to produce kimono, obi (sashes) and decorative items into the twentieth century, but, as always, the techniques were passed from master to apprentice and kept secret from the outside

Fearing that these traditional methods of embroidery would be lost, professional Iwao Saito founded Kurenai-Kai, a teaching community that, in addition to training professionals, took on the mission of sharing the techniques with the wider world. When the Embroiderer's Guild of America invited Saito to exhibit his work in the United States in 1980, an enduring connection to the US was created. After



Work by Elizabeth Hipps

10 years of teaching visits, Shuji and Masa Tamura, Master Saito's daughter and son-in-law, moved to the US and established the Japanese Embroidery Center near Atlanta, GA.

The Tamuras produced an English textbook and developed a Phase system of study for teaching traditional Japanese embroidery. As students progress through the Phases, they learn more techniques and refine their skills. Students demonstrate a unique combination of technical skill and aesthetic sensitivity as they progress.

Master Saito said 'the hands are the exit of the spirit' and the pieces on display in the Mims Gallery by the Embroidery Guild are exquisite examples of this sentiment

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, call the Gallery at 252/985-5268 or e-mail to (eadelman@ncwc.edu).

Craven Arts Council & Gallery in New Bern, NC, Offers Annual National Juried Exhibition

The Craven Arts Council & Gallery in New Bern, NC, will present 2020 Bank of the Arts National Juried Exhibition, on view in the Main Gallery at the Bank of the Arts, from Aug. 7 through Sept. 21, 2020.

This signature bi-annual exhibition brings works from artists across the United States to New Bern, showcasing the diversity of techniques, subject, and mediums in the contemporary art world. Craven Arts Council will host an opening reception during the downtown New Bern Artwalk on Aug. 14, from 5-8pm. Awards will be announced during the reception.

This year's Bank of the Arts National Juried Exhibition features 123 pieces from artists across the United States, from New



Work by Felipe Alarcón

Bern, NC, to Vero Beach, FL. Artwork was selected by Brandon Cordrey, Executive Director of VAE Raleigh, from over 621 entries. The exhibition includes paintcontinued on Page 22 Janet B. Sessoms, Fine Art

...evoking personal perceptions of nature



The Rookery Oil on Linen 36 x 24 x 1.5 inches

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*WAA will donate a portion of the purchase price of any art in this show to local food banks to feed those in need due to COVID19.

Membership is open to artists & art lovers alike

2020 Spring Show

Artist & Member

Lori Joy Peterson, Detail

of "Benny's Jam"

Acrylic

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