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Cabarrus Arts Council in Concord

continued from Page 27

that feature irregular grain patterns, knots, burls or voids. His work is included in the White House Collection of American Crafts.

William Jameson of Saluda, NC, incorporates heavy applications of paint and strong, energetic brushstrokes in his introspective oil landscapes. His goal is to explore the subject matter in detail, and, in the process, go past the surface of the individual elements in the landscape to reveal the mystery and power of nature.

Jean LeCluyse of Chapel Hill, NC, honed observation and drawing skills during several years as a scientific illustrator. She creates richly detailed narrative drawings as well as mixed media pieces that may include acrylic, colored pencil, collaged elements and graphite over randomly textured surfaces.

Debbie Littledeer of Burnsville, NC, is a printmaker known for serigraphs of landscapes and whimsical animals. She creates pictures of the mountains that surround her and fantasies that dance through her head.

Jason Lydic of Hendersonville, NC, parlayed a birthday gift from his wife – a trip to a blacksmith shop to learn welding and forging skills – into a career as an artist. He is a former zookeeper who uses his knowledge of the natural world to make realistic animal sculptures.

Roger Martin of Albemarle, NC, has sculpted animals in one form or another for 35 years. The majority of his work is sculpted in clay then cast in bronze. His goal is to capture the essence or personality of the subject while at the same time creating an accurate anatomical replica of the species.

Dottie Moore of Rock Hill, SC, is a studio quilt artist whose work has been exhibited, collected and published throughout the world. She refers to her quilts as “visual conversations with fabric and thread to explore the mysteries of earth and sky.” She has participated in both the American Craft Council shows and in The Smithsonian Craft Show.

Luna Lee Ray of Chapel Hill, NC, cre-



Works by Anatoly Tsiris

ates mixed media artworks containing imagery that is informed by her experience of the natural world. She loves layering and texture and all the creative possibilities of combining painting, drawing, and collage.

Susannah Ravenswing of Germantown, NC, has crafted richly detailed one-of-a-kind jewelry for more than 30 years. Her pieces, many of which are inspired by her rambles through the woods, include rare gems, fossils, gold and silver.

Nathan Rose of Belmont, NC, is a furniture maker who is greatly influenced by fine pieces and techniques from the past, including mortise and tenon joinery, surface embellishments, fine finishes, and traditional design element.

Anatoly Tsiris of Charlotte, NC, is a craftsman and artist who creates large vessels for home décor, interior design and decorative art. His pieces, which are crafted exclusively of local woods, tend to have primarily organic shapes.

The Galleries are located in the Historic Cabarrus County Courthouse, in downtown Concord. The Galleries will be closed Saturday, Aug. 30, and Monday, Sept. 1, for Labor Day. There are activities for children, including the “I Spy” scavenger hunt and “Art Boxes” in conjunction with the exhibition. Admission and activities are free.

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, call the Council at 704/920-2787 or visit (www.CabarrusArtsCouncil.org).

of the human experience on this planet, the universal is always the most intimate. My artwork is not quite in my control. I am pulling beings out of the realm of misty archetypes and spirits and giving them form. I can't claim what I make, I can only be honored that they come through me. I learn from my sculptures. I investigate empathy within myself, and honor the intricacies of the lives of people all around me. My sculptures teach me to see the complexities of every human life.”

Working with clay, wood, and bronze, Michaelson loves the materials she works with and is always exploring what can be done with them. Describing her process as non-linear, her sculptures grow through adding and subtracting. Never shying away from utilizing additional materials or found objects, she has even chopped up a sculpture and used epoxy to put it back together differently. “I love to be fluid, and never know what a piece will be like until it is happening.”



Work by Maria Michaelson

Having spent years traveling in West Africa, India, Central and South America, Europe and Australia, Michaelson draws from traveling openly, trying to understand what it is like to live in different paradigms, with different beliefs. It is through all her experiences, with all the people she has come in contact with, on all of the continents that she has visited, that brought her to this finding. “There is something that holds us all together. It is in the material world and the spiritual world, and my work is about the threads that are human and real at our core.” It is about living and experiencing everything human until it is familiar.

Isaac and Sonia Luski left communist Cuba in the 1960s with only four suitcases of belongings. Although they had few possessions, they wanted to bring artwork from their native country. On the way to the airport, they visited Rene Portocarrero's studio and purchased two of his paintings. After a brief stay in Miami, the Luski family settled in Charlotte, NC.

Isaac and his brother, Abraham, started a real estate development business and after taking advantage of Charlotte's rapid growth, the Luski's realized great profits.



Work by Richard Ritter

A trip to Penland School of Crafts in 1967 was the inspiration which began their expansive glass collection. Being fascinated by what they saw, they met renowned glass blowing artists Mark Peiser, Harvey Littleton, and Richard Ritter and became lifelong friends. Most of the artists the Luski support are like family. They appreciate the artists as much as they appreciate the art that they create. “We collect art because we love it. Most of the time, we develop one-on-one relationships with the artists, and we maintain those relationships because there is chemistry,” says Sonia.

For nearly forty-seven years, the Luski have collected artwork from around the world. Every room in their Charlotte home is filled with contemporary, intricate glass pieces as well as paintings and sculpture from renowned artists. The Luski purchase only the art that they love and are among Charlotte's premier arts patrons and philanthropists. Art is their passion and they believe it should be shared with the community. They began contributing works to Foundation For The Carolinas in the 1990s.

In 2011, the Luski gave a significant portion of their mostly glass art collection to Foundation For The Carolinas for its new headquarters in uptown Charlotte. “Glass is healing,” Isaac Luski said. “You look at it and it makes you feel better.” The vision was to create an accessible place for the public to enjoy and be inspired by art. Located in the heart of uptown Charlotte, Foundation For The Carolinas is a non-profit corporation that aims to serve individuals, families, nonprofit groups, and corporations as they make a positive impact on their communities. It is one of the largest community foundations in the Southeast.

Among the pieces in this exhibition, glass artists Gary Beecham, George Bucquet, William Carlson, José Char-diet, Stephen Edwards, Sidney Hutter, Jon Kuhn, John Littleton & Kate Vogel, Richard Ritter, and Michael Taylor are featured. Five of these artists, Beecham, Kuhn, Littleton & Vogel, and Ritter, are North Carolina residents. Each artist has his or her own style.

Gary Beecham's (Spruce Pine, NC) work has been heavily influenced by ancient glass in both form and technique. He has experimented with many ways of manipulating glass involving blowing, fusing, and cutting. He is well known for heavy, thick-walled vessels using colored overlay rods. Some pieces contain textile patterns that are introduced into the glass piece as it is being blown, creating the illusion of glass “fabric” floating in the ves-

continued on Page 29

Waterworks Visual Arts Center in Salisbury, NC, Offers Sculptures & Glass

Waterworks Visual Arts Center in Salisbury, NC, will present *Spaces Within*, featuring works by Maria Michaelson and works from the glass artwork from the collection of Sonia and Isaac Luski, on view from Sept. 13 through Jan. 31, 2015. A reception will be held on Sept. 18, from 6-8pm.

The exhibition explores the human experience through the lens of selfhood. This exhibition showcases clay, wood, and bronze sculptures by international artist Maria Michaelson, and a selection of glass artwork from the collection of Sonia and Isaac Luski, which is on loan from Foundation For The Carolinas.

Born on San Juan Island, Washing-
Page 28 - Carolina Arts, September 2014

ton, Maria Michaelson graduated from California College of the Arts in 2009. Her passions are interwoven in her sculptures and in social exchange. “My works, through the actual process of fabrication, or through the finished sculptures themselves,” Michaelson states, “are meant to build moments of empathy between people.”

To give individuals further insight to her works, she explains, “To be human is to create a fabric of personal truth, love, attachment, curiosities, and subtle memories. We pull each other into our stories and find moments to share what we have learned from this life. In the vast diversity

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