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## Karen Burnette Garner

~Artist~

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## College of Charleston - Halsey

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citizens. This exhibition of Israel and Robbins shows how two photographers from different countries approach their subjects in similar, and complimentary ways.”

College of Charleston Political Science Professor Mark Long has written a commissioned essay about the work of Yaakov Israel, and Duke University Professor of Documentary Studies Tom Rankin has written an essay about Kathleen Robbins’ work.



Work by Yaakov Israel

*The Quest for the Man on the White Donkey*, by Yaakov Israel, consists of images taken all over the country of Israel. Inspired by the Orthodox Jewish tradition of the Messiah (the Prophet) who will arrive riding on a white donkey, this 10-year photographic project features portraits and landscapes highlighting Israel’s diversity. This project is the result of Israel’s search for a deeper understanding of his country and an attempt to relay his personal experiences on the Israeli reality with a broader sense of belonging to the global human collective.

*Into the Flatland*, by Kathleen Robbins, is a series of photographs documenting the land, people, and culture of the Mississippi Delta. The artist returned to her ancestral home as an adult in 2001 after completing graduate studies in New Mexico. She and her brother lived on the family farm for nearly two years, breath-

ing life back into properties that had been long dormant.

Yaakov Israel was born in 1974 in Jerusalem, Israel, where he lives and works. He has a BFA from the Department of Photography at the Bezalel Academy of Arts and Design, Jerusalem. Since 2004 he has been teaching photography at art and photography schools and colleges in Israel including the Bezalel Academy.

His work has been the subject of solo and group shows which were exhibited in museums and galleries in Israel and internationally. Solo exhibition venues include: Centro de Arte Alcobendas; Czech Centre, Prague; Impressions Gallery, Bradford, England; Fifty One Fine Art Photography, Antwerp; Margaret Street Gallery, London; La Maison de la Photographie, Toulon; OSLO 8 Gallery, Basel; The Architecture House Gallery, Jaffa; The Open Museum of Photography, Tel-Hai; and the Haifa Museum of Art.

Israel was selected Winner of the PHotoEspaña Descubrimientos PHE12 Award, as one of the three winners of the Conscientious portfolio competition, and a Critical Mass finalist, Top 50 by Photolucida. His photographs are in the collections of The Knesset (Israel’s house of parliament), Haifa Museum of Art, The Open Museum of Photography at Tel-Hai, and Ashdod Art Museum. His first monograph *The Quest for the Man on the White Donkey* was recently published by Schilt Publishing, Amsterdam. Israel is represented by Fifty One Fine Art Photography, Antwerp and Oslo 8 contemporary photography in Basel.

Israel’s exhibition will travel nationally after its debut in Charleston, and is co-sponsored by the Consulate General of Israel with local support from the Yaschik/Arnold Jewish Studies Program at the College of Charleston.

Kathleen Robbins was born in Wash-

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Work by Kathleen Robbins

ington, DC, and raised in the Mississippi Delta. She received her MFA from the University of New Mexico in 2001. Her photographs have been exhibited in galleries and museums including The New Orleans Photo Alliance, The Light Factory Museum of Contemporary Photography & Film, The Weatherspoon Museum, John Michael Kohler Art Center, the Ogden Museum of Southern Art, Addison Gal-

lery of American Art, and The Southeast Museum of Photography.

Robbins’ work has also been featured by *Fraction Magazine*, *Flak Photo*, *Conscientious*, *Humble Arts New York*, NPR’s Picture Show, PDN’s Photo of the Day, *Oxford American*, and *Garden and Gun*. She is represented by the Rebekah Jacob Gallery in Charleston. In 2012, she was part of the Critical Mass top 50 and she was the recipient of the 2011 PhotoNOLA Review Prize. She currently resides in Columbia, SC, with her husband Ben and their son Asher, where she is an associate professor of art, coordinator of the photography program, and affiliate faculty of southern studies at the University of South Carolina.

Her book *Into the Flatland* will be released in spring 2015 by the University of South Carolina Press.

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings, contact the Halsey Institute of Contemporary Art by calling 843/953-4422 or visit ([www.halsey.cofc.edu](http://www.halsey.cofc.edu)).

## City of Charleston Office of Cultural Affairs in Charleston, SC, Features Works of African American Artists

The City of Charleston Office of Cultural Affairs in Charleston, SC, will present *African Diaspora – Convergence and Reclamation*, which will bring together a group of local African American artists, who will display their personal collections and examine their artistic practice through the lens of their cultural heritage. The exhibition, featuring works from Hampton R. Olfus, Jr., James Denmark, Winston Kennedy, Arianne King-Comer, and Adelle Sanders, will be on view at the City Gallery at Waterfront Park, from Sept. 6 through Oct. 5, 2014. A reception will be held on Sept. 6, from 5-7pm. In addition, the public is invited to attend artist lectures by the exhibiting artists and curator

on Sunday, Sept. 28 at 2pm.

According to exhibition artist Winston Kennedy, “In a visual sense, some of [the exhibition artists] integrate the traditional African visual signs, symbols and images and others are able to weave formal issues of modernism of art creativity into the universal statements in our production of Western modernism. Therefore, our creative works range from: abstract to figurative abstraction; from realism to photorealism; from conceptual to other discrete modes of time and performance art. We reflect and reclaim an internal cultural gumbo - our studio production stretches across many modalities.”

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