

Editorial COMMENTARY

by Tom Starland, Editor and Publisher

Your State Art Collection

The Greenville Center for Creative Arts in Greenville, SC, is presenting *Contemporary Conversations*, curated by Eleanor Heartney, featuring select works from the 466-piece SC State Art Collection, under the care of the SC Arts Commission, a SC State arts agency, on view through Jan. 27, 2021.

Did you know South Carolina has a State Art Collection? Have you ever seen an exhibition featuring works from it or even any work from the collection? Well, if you hang around some State of SC government buildings, you probably have, but you probably didn't know what you were looking at. It's perfectly normal for people to pass by art they see in public buildings and never question who created that art or why it's hanging where it is. Most people don't take time to see or smell the roses along their pathway as they travel through life. But here, you have the opportunity to go see a selection of works out of the 466 works in that collection. I don't know how many works, the press release didn't say, or volunteer which artists who are lucky enough to be in the State Collection have works featured in this exhibit. But, at least you'll see the works Eleanor Heartney liked. I can't show you any of the works as my request for a few high res images from the exhibit didn't come to us as of this publishing.

Heartney is a New York-based contemporary art critic and author, who curated this exhibit and seems to be the official historian of the State Art Collection. At least she's the only person I know besides David Houston, a former staff member of the SC Arts Commission who left SC years ago, who seems to have some say about how this Collection is used or pre-

sented. Of course I don't want to leave out Wim Roefs, a gallery owner in Columbia, SC, who has the ear of the Arts Commission, and Jeffrey Day, a former art critic for *The State* newspaper in Columbia, now in California. Heartney, Houston, Roefs, and Day seem to have great influence over Harriett Green, who has been the long time Visual Arts Program Director at the SC Arts Commission. In fact I don't think she has done anything without consulting one or all of them on what she should do.

When I first heard of this *Contemporary Conversations*, exhibition I went to the SC Arts Commission's website to see what's been going on with the collection and didn't find a complete list of works in the collection listed there or mention of anything purchased after 2006. The Arts Commission has been off my radar since our Impeached President, Donald J. Trump has been on the scene. It's hard to keep up with both of them at the same time. Someone at the Commission once compared me to Rush Limbaugh. If that was true the Commission and I would be pals, but we're not. I've got nothing against the people who work at the Arts Commission, but I do with many of their policies and how they carry them out.

So, after not finding much on the website I sent an e-mail to Harriett Green asking why there wasn't a complete list offered on the website and why I didn't see anything after 2006.

Green replied that the Commission wasn't actively collecting after 2006, but she would send me a list of works they have collected after 2006. I wondered what "actively" meant since they have acquired some works.

When I got the list (in a timely fashion) I saw Green was right, less than 20 works

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Redux Contemporary Art Center in Charleston, SC, Features Works by Anne Abueva

Redux Contemporary Art Center in Charleston, SC, is presenting *yellow and blue makes green*, featuring works by Anne Abueva, on view in Gallery 1056, through Jan. 30, 2021.

This marks Abueva's first solo exhibit in Charleston, SC. This collection of work originates from the most basic lessons in art that we all learned as kids: mixing colors. One color leads to the next, and in turn dictates shape, texture and overall composition.

The exhibit reminisces in the simple joy of mixing paint colors. At the same time, the abstracted compositions are unapologetic in asking the viewer to open to new possibilities and accept alternate points of view. Art is a powerful tool in creating bridges and connections between people - something many of us are very in need of as we cope with the pandemic. This show strives to find common ground in the memory of learning yellow and blue makes green, while simultaneously asking for expansion into new points of view.

Abueva's experience with intuitive and expressionist artmaking, combined with over 10 years working in interior design



Works by Anne Abueva

guide her studio practice. Experimentation, playfulness and ruthless editing are all key ingredients in each piece.

Born and raised in Chicago, IL, Abueva moved to Charleston in 2019 and is loving the process of making this place her home.

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings, call the Center at 843/722-0697 or visit (www.reduxstudios.org).

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www.carolinaarts.com



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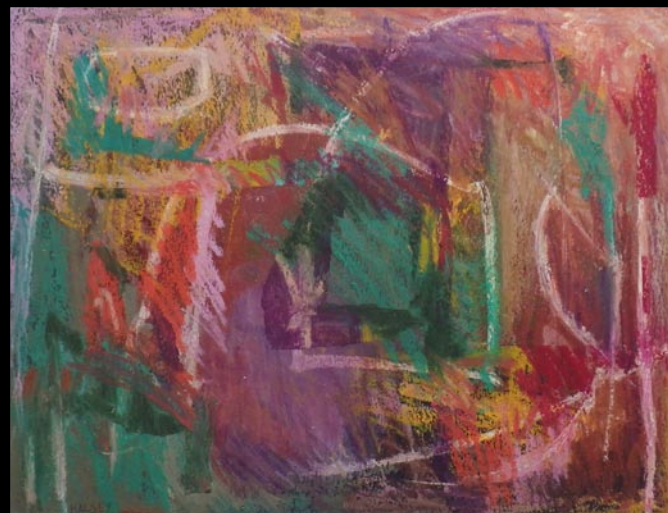
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info@carolinaarts.com

Halsey - McCallum Studio
William Halsey & Corrie McCallum



Growing by William Halsey, 1992
oil pastel and paint stick on paper, 18 x 24 inches

Paintings
Graphics
& Sculpture for
the discerning
collector

Both artists are
recipients
of the
Elizabeth O'Neill
Verner Award



Painting by Corrie McCallum

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