

# Jerald Melberg Gallery

continued from Page 14

of the esteemed Rhode Island School of Design, and she has written a number of books, including biographies of Willem and Elaine DeKooning and Betty Parsons.

Hall generously left her estate to the Bechtler Museum of Modern Art. The proceeds from acquisitions of her work through the gallery directly fund the museum's educational programs.

Hall was born in Lexington, NC, in 1934 and pursued her academic career at the University of North Carolina, Greensboro, where she studied with the painters John Opper and George Ivy. She received her MA in 1958 and her PhD in 1965, both from New York University, and continued her post-doctoral work at the prestigious Warburg Institute at the University of London with research fellowships from the American Philosophical Society.

In New York, she forged close relationships with leaders in American modern painting, including Elaine and Willem de Kooning, and exhibited alongside Jackson Pollock, Mark Rothko and Robert Motherwell. Hall was represented by Betty Parsons, one of the most important gallerists of the period, and eventually became her close friend and biographer.

Hall's work was reviewed frequently and favorably in the central periodicals of the day, including *ArtNews*, *Art in America*, *The New Yorker*, *Artforum*, *Arts Magazine* and *The New York Times* by the widely respected critics Clement Greenberg, John Russell and Hilton Kramer, among others.

Hall's works are held in the permanent collections of several museums, including the Indianapolis Museum of Art, the Montclair Art Museum, the Seattle Art Museum, the Newark Museum, the Hudson River Museum, the Weatherspoon Art Museum, the Mint Museum (Charlotte, NC) and the Johnson Collection (Spartanburg, SC) as well as in many corporate collections such as Chase Manhattan Bank, Citibank and Prudential.

She was the recipient of many awards, including an Honorary Doctorate of Fine Arts from the University of North Carolina, the Childe Hassam Purchase Award from the American Academy of Arts and Letters and the Athena Medal from the Rhode Island School of Design. In 2016 she was awarded an Alumna of Distinction Award by the College of Visual and Performing Arts at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

Alongside her lifelong devotion to



Work by Lee Hall

making art, Hall also pursued a career in academia beginning in 1958. She taught at the University of New York, Potsdam and then Winthrop College in Rock Hill, SC. She spent almost a decade at Drew University where she left as full professor and Chair of the Art Department. She then served as the Dean of Visual Arts at the State University of New York at Purchase where, in 1975, she left to begin her tenure as President of the prestigious Rhode Island School of Design. There, she served for eight years before becoming the Director of Arts and Communication and Senior Vice President at the Academy for Educational Development in New York City.

Notwithstanding her many accomplishments as an academic, historian, university leader and teacher, throughout all of her life, Hall was first and foremost a painter. She drew great inspiration from her engagements with the landscapes and history of Greece, Rome and her love of the New England countryside. She continuously experimented in drawing, collage, oil and acrylics. Her interests were expansive, deep and informed by her pragmatism, empathy and seductive sense of humor.

Hall's growth as an intellectual and artist was persistent and enduring. As she wrote once, "A painter should live a long time. It takes decades of work, of arduous search and fretting, to know that labels don't matter, and to find what will suffice."

Jerald Melberg Gallery is located on South Sharon Amity Road near the intersection with Providence Road.

For further information check our NC Commercial Gallery listings call the gallery at 704/365-3000 or visit ([www.jeraldmelberg.com](http://www.jeraldmelberg.com)).

*Black: All the Black Keys.*

Paul Stephen Benjamin was born in Chicago, IL, and currently lives in Atlanta, GA. He holds a BA from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and an MFA from Georgia State University. Benjamin's work has been widely exhibited throughout the US including at the Tacoma Art Museum, Tacoma, WA; Zuckerman Museum of Art, Kennesaw, GA; ICA, Richmond, VA; Telfair Museum's Jepson Center for Art, Savannah, GA, The Studio Museum in Harlem, NY; Museum of Contemporary Art of Georgia, Atlanta, High Museum of Art, Atlanta, GA, and upcoming as part of Prospect 5: Yesterday we said tomorrow, New Orleans, LA.

Benjamin is the recipient of numerous

awards and honors, including the Hudgens Prize, Southern Art Prize, State Fellow of Georgia, MOCA GA Working Artist Project, Artadia Award, a Winnie B. Chandler Fellowship, and a Hambidge Fellowship.

The exhibition and programs were made possible with the support of the Herb Jackson and Laura Grosch Gallery Endowment and Davidson College Friends of the Arts.

Visitors must adhere to current college's COVID-19 protocols including wearing a mask indoors and maintaining physical distance from other guests.

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings or visit ([www.davidsoncollegeartgalleries.org](http://www.davidsoncollegeartgalleries.org)).

## The Arts Center of Kershaw County in Camden, SC, Features Works by Christopher Lane and Nikolai Oskolkov

The Arts Center of Kershaw County in Camden, SC, is presenting *Peacemakers*, featuring works by Christopher Lane and Nikolai Oskolkov, on view in the Bassett Gallery, through Feb. 24, 2022.

Born in Minnesota in 1968, Christopher Lane spent these formative years inspired by regional artists Thomas Hart Benton, Andy Warhol, Georgia O'Keeffe, and Roy Lichtenstein. His early teenage years were spent in Cairo, Egypt where his work was influenced by the great architecture, sculpture, symbolism, hieroglyphs and the expressive colors used in their paintings. During this time period Lane discovered he had dyslexia and furthered his education at the GOW School in South Wales, New York. It was here that he received encouragement and guidance from Fine Arts teacher Bill Parsons.

Upon leaving the GOW School, Lane



Work by Christopher Lane

spent a year living in Paris, France, which fueled his creative instincts further. He returned to the States and pursued an art degree at Eastern New Mexico University.

Lane has now made his home in South Carolina where he continues to use fantastic imagery to turn his life experiences into visual stories that primarily focus on people and their relationships with one another. They often offer historical, political or spiritual narratives as he is passionate about these subjects.

Lane is a storyteller. His work is so intricately detailed that it provides the viewer an opportunity to discover something new each time they view the work.



Work by Nikolai Oskolkov

His work has been shown in galleries across the United States and as far abroad as New South Wales, Australia.

Nikolai Oskolkov, known as NikO, lives and works in Columbia, SC. He has been involved in fine art since early childhood and has made painting a career since high school. He has traveled far and wide from Russia to Canada and the US, and throughout Europe and the Caribbean.

Defining himself as a "visual musical composer," NikO constantly expands his own creative vocabulary through his observation of nature and use of imagination. He also believes that regular practice is the only way of hopefully mastering the lyrical instrument of painting.

NikO sends everyone a message of simple optimism and good humor with a motley palette of dancing satyrs, figures at rest, lush landscapes, and towering clouds!

After earning a BFA degree at the University of South Carolina, NikO concentrated on rustic depictions of the rural American South and its colorful folk musicians. In more recent years, NikO has developed into broader, independent subject matter, spontaneously painting everything from mood landscapes, still life, historical portraits, and mythical allegories.

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings, call Stephanie Keel, Director of Marketing, at 803/425-7676 x302.

## 701 Center for Contemporary Art in Columbia, SC, Offers Works by Southern Prize Winners

701 Center for Contemporary Art in Columbia, SC, is presenting *South Arts Southern Prize & State Fellows 2021*, on view in its Main Gallery, through Mar. 6, 2022. Due to an increase in COVID-19 cases in South Carolina, there will be no opening reception, but 701 CCA hopes to present several events to accompany the exhibition.

An exhibition series that in 2019 originated at 701 Center for Contemporary Art and is rapidly becoming the most important annual show of contemporary art made in the US. *South* is coming to 701 CCA for the second time.

The show will include Charleston, SC, artist Fletcher Williams III, who was the 2021 Southern Prize Finalist, or runner-up, and Florida's Marielle Plaisir, the



Work by Marielle Plaisir

2021 Southern Prize Winner. After 701 CCA, the 2021 exhibition's second stop, the show will travel to North Carolina and Florida.

701 CCA initiated the first Southern Prize exhibition in 2019 in partnership

[continued on Page 18](#)

## Davidson College in Davidson, NC, Offers Works by Paul Stephen Benjamin



Paul Stephen Benjamin, "Sonata in Absolute Black: All the Black Keys", 2021, 36-Channel color video with sound, looped, 84 x 336 inches

Davidson College in Davidson, NC, will present *Paul Stephen Benjamin: Black Form*, on view in the Van Every/Smith Galleries, in the Belk Visual Art Center, through Mar. 27, 2022. A reception will be held on Mar. 10, from 6-8pm, with a Gallery Talk at 7pm. Masks required. Livestream link will also be posted on the event page of our website.

Paul Stephen Benjamin's multimedia exhibition, *Black Form*, continues the artist's exploration of the color black or the sound of black as a conceptual entry

point into conversations about identity, race, and masculinity. His paintings, large-scale blacklight sculptures, and video installations draw inspiration from history, popular culture, and daily, personal meditations.

The exhibition includes Benjamin's largest vinyl text installation to-date, *Black Haiku*, along with blacklight and shattered glass installations, more than 100 works on paper, and a large-scale video installation, *Sonata in Absolute*

*continued above on next column to the right*