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City of Charleston, SC, Features Works by Fer Caggiano

The City of Charleston Office of Cultural Affairs in Charleston, SC, will present *Like A Girl: Dare to Dream*, featuring works by local artist Fer Caggiano, on view at City Gallery, from Mar. 11 through May 2, 2021.

Featuring portraits of more than 35 South Carolinian women, *Like a Girl* brings attention to women who have excelled, each with unique and inspiring stories. In them, girls and other women will see on canvas their potential: they can be strong, smart and beautiful, and ready to make their mark on the world.

The artist will be painting at City Gallery on Mar. 11, 18 and 25. Due to the ongoing situation related to COVID-19 in South Carolina, City Gallery guests must reserve a time slot in advance online or by phone for free, timed admission, with exhibition viewing offered Thursdays through Sundays from noon until 5pm. The last reservation will be offered at 4:40pm. Face masks will be required of all guests and staff.

Fer Caggiano has embarked on a journey to celebrate the heroic achievements of remarkable women who have transcended life's challenges to create a legacy of inspiration. Troubled by seeing girls and women struggle to be respected in a male-dominated world, Caggiano seeks to remove negative connotations associated with acting "like a girl."

"Girls and women must dare to dream

– to be leaders, to be strong in mind, body
and spirit – so that 'like a girl' will instead
mean powerful and highly effective," said
the artist.

Caggiano hopes that the exhibition will foster a dialogue about gender and achievement, and provoke questions like: Can females really be anything they want to be? What obstacles do they encounter that men and boys do not? How can we ensure that future generations of women can become leaders in any industry or



Work by Fer Caggiano of Arianne King Comer

The 35 women featured in these portraits come from different walks of life, but share the common link of reaching the pinnacle of their dreams. A few of the many remarkable women in *Like A Girl: Dare To Dream* include: Allison Arriola, Janet Bates, Karen Lucht, Gabrielle Forgione, Yeakia Johnson, Yvonne Gilbert, Arianne King Comer, Beth Ann Crane, Vicky Johnson, Tia Clark, Paula Dezzutti (Pixie), Kelly Trager, Erin Mansour, Carol Wilhite and Kenya Dunn.

Proceeds from this project will be donated to organizations that support women and girls in reaching their maximum potential, thus extending the project's impact well beyond its exhibition.

Fer (short for Fernanda, and pronounced "fair") Caggiano is a renowned painter whose diverse landscapes, portraits, and still life are highly sought after. Caggiano's works are contemporary and always evolving. She is known for using

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heavy impasto technique, but her creativity also leads to constant exploration and use of bold new approaches. Caggiano's pieces are filled with vibrant movement while simultaneously conveying a sense of peace and joy. Her works not only capture beauty in people and the environment, but they also serve a higher purpose: through her art, Caggiano is helping to create a more sustainable and equitable world.

City Gallery, located at Joe Riley Waterfront Park, is owned by the City of Charleston and operated by the City of Charleston Office of Cultural Affairs, presenting an annual program of exhibitions and events featuring the finest contemporary art from local, regional, national and international artists, with a focus on the Lowcountry. City Gallery provides access to the visual arts for everyone in Charleston, visitors and residents alike, by offering exhibits that are all admission-free. City Gallery is located on Prioleau Street in downtown Charleston.

Reservations are available on the City Gallery website at (www.charleston-sc.



Work by Fer Caggiano of Carol Linville gov/citygallery); guests may also reserve by phoning the gallery at 843/958-6484 during regular business hours.

Charleston Artist Guild in Charleston, SC, Features Works by Michele Levani

Charleston Artist Guild (CAG) in Charleston, SC, will present *The Art of Daydreaming*, an exhibition featuring a collection of works by Michele Levani, on view from Mar. 1 - 31, 2021.

Levani primarily works with water-based mediums. Her greatest joy comes from simply picking up a pencil or a brush and putting on canvas the images and stories in her mind. She states, "I've always had a vivid imagination and a strong need to create so I find myself constantly daydreaming about designing romantic compositions that merge realism with fantasy and translating my ideas on to the canvas. I love being able to share with others what I visualize in my mind's eye, sometimes whimsical, sometimes realistic, but it's always a part of my soul...".



Work by Michele Levani

Levani is able to continue to do what she loves as a "working artist". Her work continued on Page 4

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