

701 Center for Contemporary Art

continued from Page 21

Endowment for the Arts. Mauclet studied at the University of Paris, France; the State University of New York at Buffalo, where he received an MFA; and New York City's Cooper Union School of Art and Architecture. Gallimard studied at Paris' Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Arts Décoratifs and received an MFA from Concordia University in Montreal, Canada.

The TINYisPOWERFUL collective believes that art and tiny businesses are nimble, adaptable and profitable for the people. The collective argues that belonging means celebrating many histories and cultures and together becoming all we can be. 701 CCA's mission is to promote un-

derstanding, appreciation and enjoyment of contemporary art. With a gallery and live-work space for an Artist-in-Residence program, the Center provides artists with resources to develop, create and exhibit visual arts in conjunction with performing, literary and media arts. 701 CCA also offers year-round cultural programming, including contemporary art exhibitions and events that are free and open to the public.

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings, contact Michaela Pilar Brown, 701 CCA Executive Director, by e-mail to (director@701cca.org) or call 803/319-9949.

University of South Carolina in Columbia, SC, Features MFA Thesis Exhibitions

The University of South Carolina in Columbia, SC, is presenting MFA Thesis Exhibitions, featuring works by Tori Lent, Nakisa Abdollahbeigi, Lauren Kennedy, and Nick Brutto, on view at the McMaster Gallery, through Apr. 22, 2022.

Annually, the School of Visual Art and Design at USC presents thesis exhibitions at McMaster Gallery that encompass work by MFA candidates who have completed their final year of the Studio Art MFA program.

Join us as we celebrate the work of our 2022 exhibiting artists including:

On view through Apr. 1 - *Tori Lent: Meanderings*.

"My work explores the effect of conversation through ceramic art and performance. The layers of color, texture, and form emphasize how all things change through growth, interaction, and time," says Lent.

"For this exhibition, I have reached out to the viewer so they may interact with the work and leave their stories behind. The interaction adds to the continuation of growth through community and storytelling."

"Each piece is a part of the whole body of work; through the interaction with the viewer, the exhibition will change each day to recreate the arc of growth we all experience throughout our lives," adds Lent.

Tori Lent grew up in the rural farming town of Afton, NY. The valley she grew up in relies heavily on family and community to function daily. Even in today's world, cellular service, and the internet are spotty and hard to get in some areas, making word of mouth and storytelling a prominent way to communicate.

Growing up in a culture of storytelling inspires Lent to listen and appreciate the many stories she hears from strangers and close friends. She has worked in many three-dimensional materials over the years, working first in steel and bronze and then falling in love with ceramics in her undergrad. She interned at C&P Studios in Afton for one summer, inspiring her to continue to study ceramics here at UofSC.

On view from Apr. 4 - 8 - *Nakisa Abdollahbeigi: Carry On*.



Work by Lauren Kennedy

"When I look back at my arrival to the US nearly four years ago, I remember feeling a sense of displacement because immigration to a new country seemed like entering an unknown world. I became pretty much disconnected from my family, which was the most challenging part for me. My new feelings of isolation and displacement were even more accentuated by my lack of ability to relate to the American culture and language," said Abdollahbeigi.

"After some time, I found making art is a way to maintain the connection with my background. Through this process, I found myself in a role of a storyteller who always



Work by Tori Lent

loves using pictures to communicate with her audience. My stories use pictures based on a combination of artworks that even though, on the surface, seem to be showing ordinary people in their daily life, reflect on deep feelings that an immigrant develops because of living far away from her homeland. Each image will describe the emotions, intentions, and motivations that I have personally experienced during the process of immigration."

"I will discuss distinct qualities through symbolic visual language to demonstrate how the theme of our dreams, needs, and senses like homesickness, isolation, and missing our loved ones are universal. These interactions and elements are all motivated by my personal experiences, emotions that have developed after immigrations, and my exposure to a new culture and environment. These emotions constitute the central theme in my artworks, primarily derived from my personal feelings associated with a sense of displacement, being an outsider, and living in isolation. My work is a constant attempt to inspire people to learn how to relate to feelings that immigrants experience and to gain a deeper understanding of what these people lose and gain through this change in their lives. Breaking down walls and building bridges between the immigrants and the native residents is the main goal that I hope to address in this project," adds Abdollahbeigi.

Nakisa Abdollahbeigi is an Iranian-born visual artist. Her work is deeply connected with her own personal and cultural experiences in her homeland country, Iran. Her work aims to probe these experiences by integrating historical motifs with imagery taken from popular culture and contemporary media. She uses elements of the relationship between individual stories and collective memory. In her practice, Abdollahbeigi explores the possibilities of representing Iranian art and culture using inspirations from her personal background.

On view from Apr. 11 - 15, 2022 - *Lauren Kennedy: Consequences of Our Actions: Fragility of the Body*.

"I have loved and been fascinated by the human body my entire life. In the end, however, it has betrayed me time and time again. I watched my mother go through cancer and her body fail her. I feel my own body fail because of previous injuries or conditions that I have. I struggle with the idea of the fact that our bodies that are meant to sustain and protect us inevitably fail us, and that failure is painful. Pain and entropy are part

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of the human experience, but why? That is what I explore using plaster, once used to heal bones, and making books. I demonstrate my frustration and questioning of the human experience through performance and tearing these books apart, hoping that I will come to terms with the ideas of pain and entropy," says Kennedy.

Lauren Kennedy works and resides in Columbia, SC. She creates sculptural work using folded paper books and coats them in plaster before utilizing performance art to crush them and tear them apart, unveiling words underneath that are her own personal ramblings about the struggles of pain and entropy.

On view from Apr. 18 - 22 - *Nick Brutto: Us*. "This body of work examines topics in relation to three shared attributes of human nature: the mind, body, and soul. The experiences accumulated throughout life create an individual whose mind, body, and soul are unique. Careful examination of my own perspective allows me to address these ever-changing attributes in relation to concepts of connectivity, collaboration, and identity. Through the incorporation of collaborative pieces, this body of work also offers the viewer the opportunity to examine their own perspective and display it through participation. Encouraging the viewer to examine their own perspective as well as my own turns the conversation away from you and I towards *Us*, said Brutto.

Nick Brutto is an MFA candidate in Studio Art specializing in Ceramics and

USC-Lancaster in Lancaster, SC, Features Works by Fran Gardner

USC-Lancaster in Lancaster, SC, will present *Over Time*, featuring works by influential USC Lancaster Distinguished Professor Emerita of Art and Art History, Fran Gardner, on view in the Red Rose Gallery at the USC-Lancaster Native American Center, from Apr. 4 through Aug. 5, 2022.

On Thursday, Apr. 7, from 5-7pm, the Native American Studies Center is hosting a special reception in honor of the new exhibits, where Gardner will give a talk discussing her work at 6pm. In addition to being presented in person, the talk also will be presented via Zoom. Anyone wishing to attend the virtual program may register at the link available on any of the Center's social media platforms or on the Center's website at (www.sc.edu/Lancaster/NAS).

Featuring small works of stitchery and painting by Gardner, the retrospective includes artwork from the early 2000s to works completed as recently as a few months ago.

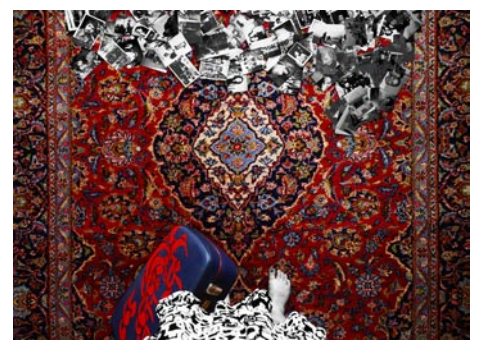
As the exhibit opens at the Center, a companion exhibit of some of Gardner's never-before-seen pieces also will be on display during the same time frame on USCL's campus in the Bradley Arts & Sciences Building. The exhibition, *COVID Diary*, chronicles work Gardner created as pandemic lockdowns began in March 2020.



Work by Fran Gardner

An award-winning fiber and mixed media artist, Gardner was one of the key faculty organizers of Native American Studies at USC Lancaster. She retired last August after a 32-year career at USCL. In addition to being a professor and artist, Gardner also has served as chair of the Native American Studies Advisory Committee and is credited for playing a role in the hiring of more than one Native American Studies faculty member.

In the spring of 2013, Gardner and her public art class worked with the Center's



Work by Nakisa Abdollahbeigi

Printmaking. Prior to being admitted into this program, he received his BA in History and MAT in Art Education from the University of South Carolina. During college, he has worked and volunteered with a large number of programs in Columbia including 701 Center for Contemporary Art, ARC of Columbia, and Palmetto Center for the Arts. His work has been shown in galleries throughout the state in both juried and invitational exhibitions. As a graduate student, Brutto has won awards for both Distinguished Service and Juried Student Exhibitions.

McMaster Gallery is located in the University of South Carolina's School of Visual Art and Design on Senate Street, Columbia, SC with accessible street parking on Pickens, Senate, and Henderson Streets.

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings or contact Olga Yukhno, Gallery Director, by email at (yukhno@mailbox.sc.edu).



Work by Fran Gardner

Archaeologist Chris Judge to create the spear point installation located behind the reception desk in the Center. Judge identified the various arrowheads, spear points, and pottery sherds by date, while Gardner and her class created a curtain-like timeline installation of the artifacts.

"There likely would be no Native American Studies Center if it weren't for Fran Gardner," said Director of Native American Studies Dr. Stephen Criswell. "She was instrumental in getting this project off the ground and has been a longtime supporter of and contributor to our work. It is fitting her work be featured in the Center. Not to mention, she makes incredible art!"

The Center is a 15,000 square foot facility in historic downtown Lancaster. Guests will have the opportunity to tour the NAS Center's gallery spaces, archives, classrooms, and archaeology, language, and audio-visual labs. Home to the world's largest collection of Catawba Indian pottery, the NAS Center will offer exhibits of regional Native American Art, classes and programs focused on Native American history, culture, archaeology, folklore, and language.

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings, call the Center at 803/313-7172 or visit (<http://usclancaster.sc.edu/NAS/>).

The deadline each month to submit articles, photos and ads is the 24th of the month prior to the next issue. This will be April 24th for the May 2022 issue and May 24 for the June 2022 issue. After that, it's too late unless your exhibit runs into the next month.

But don't wait for the last minute - send your info now. And where do you send that info? E-mail to (info@carolinaarts.com).