

Sumter County Gallery of Art

continued from Page 19

ing them into ancestors that tell stories from another time. It has always been important to Smith to carry on the quilting tradition of her ancestors, while balancing the complexities of a world that is insistent on telling their story for her.

Smith offered the following Artist Statement: "I choose to express myself through quilts because of its personal connection to my ancestors and Southern roots. When I visited my grandmother in South Carolina, I always felt safe under my grandma's hand sewn quilts, which took on a rhythmic pattern similar to Kente cloth with vertical strips, bright colors, and asymmetrical improvisation. A simple piece of fabric can hold family truths from generations back. My grandmother's quilts consisted of leftover scraps from my aunts' worn out dresses, my uncle's ripped jeans, and calico, faded floral tablecloths from several Thanksgiving dinners. Conversations with my 98-year-old mother, grandmother, and aunts have always inspired me to base my artworks on the Antebellum South – expressions, idioms and controversial issues."

Darien A-Johnson received his MFA from Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ, in 2009 and a BFA from Saint Cloud State University, Saint Cloud, MN, in 2002. A-Johnson is known for incorporating the "glitch" aesthetic into a ceramic medium. The "glitch" aesthetic incorporates digital or analog errors. It is a way of organizing perception that emphasizes the artificiality of representation.



Work by Darien A-Johnson

A-Johnson's work addresses thoughts of memory, technological integration, mark making, and perceptual consciousness. He has found clay to be a relevant medium to explore the relationship of illusion and form, thought and physicality. A-Johnson recently went from being a studio artist in Copenhagen, Denmark, to join Georgia State University, Atlanta, GA as an Assistant Professor. His work represents the current entanglement of human cognition and digital processing.

The recent proliferation of the camera/phone enables us to record spontaneously. Experience is interrupted to capture and store moments. The recordings are used



Work by Beverly Y. Smith

for recollection; however, over time our reliance on the two-dimensional image to replace perceptual experience flattens and fragments the memory. By dissecting and altering these fragments, his work raises awareness of a continually altered state of visual consciousness that speaks to a shift in the experience of what we see.

A-Johnson's sculptural work is a contemporary departure from the ceramic medium that explores how social media and modern modes of communication affect our perception. Sumter and surrounding areas are especially rich in ceramic artists so this would be a good opportunity to hear a different approach to clay.

Although radically different on the surface, Beverly Y. Smith and Darien A-Johnson both explore memory, material and mark making in their respective mediums. Sumter County Gallery of Art is committed to continually challenging our audience and institution.

It goes without saying that presenting these artists reiterates SCGA commitment to presenting culturally diverse contemporary artists and reflects a commitment to changing mindsets while serving all the citizens of Sumter. As with all that we do here at the gallery, these exhibitions would not be possible without the generous support of our community sponsors: Rep. J. David Weeks and the Weeks Law Firm, Ben Griffith - State Farm, Tammy Kelly - State Farm, and the Sumter County Cultural Commission.

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings, call the Gallery at 803/775-0543 or visit (<http://www.sumtergallery.com>).

Stormwater Studios in Columbia, SC, Features Works by Lucy Bailey and K. Wayne Thornley

Stormwater Studios in Columbia, SC, will present *Figuratively Speaking – Interpretations of the Human Form*, featuring works by Lucy Bailey and K. Wayne Thornley, on view from May 19 - 29, 2021. A reception will be held on May 20, from 6-9pm and an Artists' Talk will be offered on May 29, from 3-5pm.

After conceiving the show last year, the two Midlands artists each began working on a new series which explores very different approaches to representing the human form. While elements and images of the human form have been a part of both artists' work for years, this is the first time they have worked collaboratively on the theme.

Lucy Bailey's ceramic sculptures incorporate multiple textures and surface treatments in their figurative forms. She utilizes combinations of underglazes and cold finishes, such as powered mica, ground rust, and graphite to create figures and faces that



Work by K. Wayne Thornley

present whimsical, regal, or stoic personalities. New work for this exhibition diverges in new directions with monochromatic pieces, metallic accents, and masks.

"Throughout my work I commonly use textured headpieces, hats, scarves, and collars as suggestions of each figure's unique personality and social status. It is an invita-

continued on Page 22



MOUSE HOUSE, Inc.

2123 Park Street, Columbia, SC 29201
(803) 254-0842

Weekdays 9:30am - 5pm & Saturday, 10am - 2pm

mouse_house@prodigy.net

<http://mousehouseinc.blogspot.com>

The fiber art studio of Susan Lenz
Also specializing in antiquarian prints and mirrors

www.susanlenz.com



MOUSE HOUSE, INC.
FIBER ART & ANTIQUE PRINTS

Exquisite handblown glass gallery and studio in the historic downtown vista arts district. Open to the public Mon. thru Sat. Offering unique and affordable blown glass vases, bowls, flowers, indoor and outdoor lighting, zperfume bottles, ringholders, sculpture, ornaments and much, much more. Providing quality, uniqueness, and affordability for 20 years!

Ask about our classes!!

One Eared Cow Glass, Inc.
1001 Huger St. Columbia, SC
803-254-2444 www.oneearedcow.com