

Ella Walton Richardson Fine Art in Charleston, SC, Features Works by Craig Nelson

Ella Walton Richardson Fine Art in Charleston, SC, will present *Your Table Awaits*, featuring works by San Francisco artist Craig Nelson, on view from May 1 - 31, 2025. A reception will be held on May 2, from 5-8pm, during The Charleston Gallery Association's First Friday Art Walk. Nelson will be in attendance for the opening reception. He has also agreed to give a painting demonstration on May 3, from 11am to 1pm at the gallery.

We welcome back award-winning artist Craig Nelson for his 24th solo exhibition. Nelson has been represented by the gallery since 2001.

Nelson's career as an artist has also been highly complimented by his work with his students, beginning in 1974, he began teaching at Art Center College of Design and for the past 30 years has been sharing his knowledge at the Academy of Art University in San Francisco where he is the Executive Director of the School of Fine Art, MFA & BFA, Drawing, Painting, Printmaking and Sculpture.



Work by Graig Nelson

Nelson's technique is multifaceted, featuring a variety of brushstrokes and an energetic display of oil colors. He brings simple scenes from every day to life, blending soft light in even the smallest corners between the architecture and figures he captures in his pieces. When viewing his works the common theme seems to always be a beautiful dance of sharp expertise and a magnetizing sensitivity. He creates an open invitation to jump into the painting, whether you are strolling alongside the Seine in Paris, gazing at a church steeple in Charleston or strolling along a European village in search of a quaint cafe.

Nelson's new exhibition revolves around a feeling of an invitation. There is a depth that reaches the viewer through every captured character, perfectly set table and gentle glow. The exhibition includes 30 new works of art. There is a wide range of sizes and scenes but the



Work by Graig Nelson

underlying theme of being welcomed in and to participate in his perspective of a moment in time remains true throughout.

Nelson manipulates light and time to almost freeze it - and preserve it for the rest of us who are not able to be with him while he witnesses it. An air of timelessness is transmuted with brushstrokes of ochres and cadmium red colors, that are bold and yet retain the softness that he has perfected.

When talking to Nelson about his exhibition he said, "This year I wanted to go back and do something I had never done. I went through past works and used a few of my pub scenes from England as a starting point. As the idea evolved, I landed on the idea I always wanted to do snapshots of people relaxing while adding in figures of people meeting up at work or spending a leisurely afternoon together." And that's exactly what you can expect to experience with this show, a snapshot on canvas of place in time. One where the viewer can melt right into the painting and unwind.

With titles like *One More Pint*, *To the Bistro* and *Comfort in the Cafe*, you are sure to feel that you have a seat at the table. In Nelson's words "That kind of feeling you experience in cozy pubs, a set table and even the exterior of a warmly lit restaurant. Not so up close and detailed but more of the feeling you get from being in those places."

For further information check our SC Commercial Gallery listings, call the gallery at 843/722-3660 or visit (www.ellarichardson.com).

Corrigan Gallery LLC in Charleston, SC, Features Works by Kristi Ryba



Work by Kristi Ryba

The Corrigan Gallery LLC in Charleston, SC, will present *The Cowboy Myth*, featuring works by Kristi Ryba, on view from May 1 - 31, 2025. A reception will be held on May 2, from 5-8pm, during the Charleston Gallery Association's ArtWalk.

Ryba speaks about her new work saying, "Growing up in the 1950s exposed me to many of the themes that appear in my work. I am drawn to the figurines, both souvenirs and decorative objects from the 1950s that I observed on the shelves and tabletops of my middle-class

home. As a child they fascinated me. Now I understand them to be objects that illustrate cultural messages about gender roles and the value of certain types of people."

"Recently I focused on objects that depict Indians, cowboys and horses, as well as images of Western romantic sepia landscapes - and how they influence American culture," adds Ryba. "In her February 22, 2025, Letters from an American, historian Heather Cox Richardson speaks about that time in our country and how in reaction

continued above on next column to the right

Carolina Arts

www.carolinaarts.com

You can find [past issues](#) all the way back to August 2004!

You can find [past articles](#) all the way back to June 1999!

History is the gateway to the future.

Send us your email address to be added to our list to receive notice of each monthly issue.

info@carolinaarts.com

to the liberal consensus of government regulation, a social safety net, promotion of infrastructure, and protection of civil rights, which were portrayed as 'socialism,' Conservatives reacted and: '...took as their symbol the mythologized version of the western American cowboy... In the mid-1950s, Americans tuned in to *Gun-smoke*, *Rawhide*, *Bonanza*, *Wagon Train*, and *The Lone Ranger* to see hardworking white men fighting off evil, seemingly without help from the government.' This image of the cowboy was always a myth. Life was hard, the work paid low wage, and one third of the cowboys were men of color."

"In this new work I emphasize the cliched relationship between Indians, cowboys, guns and the violence towards these and other marginalized people. Considering our government's focus on Manifest Destiny and our recent lurch toward fascism and dictatorship, this work seems timely. I use egg tempera and gold leaf on panel, and the patterns and motifs of Native American pottery designs inspire my decorative borders."

Exhibiting since 2005 works by local artists of caliber in a contemporary mindset, the gallery added the artists



Work by Kristi Ryba

of the Charleston Renaissance in 2011. Printmaking, following the tradition of the Charleston Etchers Club and Print Studio South, sculpture, and assemblages all grace the 1,800 sq. ft. space. There are a few exceptions of visiting and second market artists. From the edge of traditional to as "contemporary" as is feasible, the gallery presents works with thought and depth particularly in a nontraditional manner. Second market pieces and works from the estates of both Elizabeth O'Neill Verner and Alfred Hutty and other notable artists are available.

For further information check our SC Commercial Gallery listings, call the gallery at 843/722-9868 or visit (corrigan-gallery.com).

Charleston Crafts Cooperative in Charleston, SC, Offers New Exhibit

Charleston Crafts Cooperative in Charleston, SC, will present *Hometown Pride*, a group show on view at the gallery, from May 2 - 31, 2025. A reception will be held on May 2, from 5-8pm, as a part of the Charleston Gallery Association ArtWalk.

With a vast and varied history, Charleston is a melting pot of cultures, each leaving their marks through tradition. Charleston Crafts Gallery artists Randy Aschenbrenner, Selma Andrews, Thia Beniash, Lynne Gettlefinger, Laurie Propheter, and Jen York take pride in their communities and draw from their surroundings to bring the viewer a crafters eye on Charleston.

While these members are in the spotlight, the work of all the Gallery's members



Work by Lynne Gettlefinger

is on display and available for purchase, including jewelry, wood puzzles, encaustic paintings, mixed media collages, fiber art,

[continued on Page 10](#)