

Winter 1986

McKissick Newsletter - Winter 1986

McKissick Museum--University of South Carolina

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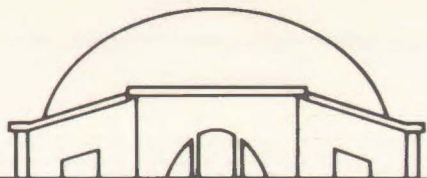


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WINTER



Silvia Morosoli

McKISSICK MUSEUM • THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

Made in Switzerland

November 21 - January 7

Paper, one of man's most essential commodities, was first made in the Orient about 2,000 years ago. Fine or unusual papers have been among the favorite materials of artists through the centuries. Rembrandt sought out special papers that would enhance his etchings. Today, not only do artists select interesting papers on which to draw, paint, or print, they have also begun to explore a much broader range of artistic possibilities. Many artists now make and mold their own paper as well as manipulate it through dyeing, embossing or folding.

The works in this exhibition are all part of this movement away from the traditional use of paper as a receptive surface. Each of these five Swiss paper artists has an individual sense of the new uses to which artists can put these fibers. Renee-Paule Danthine uses thin veils of colored, hand made paper to form delicate collage "dialogues". A more sculpted approach is taken by Silvia Morosoli who molds her work into human forms. This three-dimensional approach to paper art is also shared by Malou Colombo, whose egg-like forms symbolize the emergence of new life, and by Regi Muller, who creates complex wall pieces reminiscent of her training in textile design. Marischa Burckhardt manipulates both the texture of her work through the addition of shreaded American currency to her paper pulp, and the shape of the pieces through bending and folding them into three-dimensional forms.

While the use of unusual papers will remain an attraction to painters, draftsmen and printmakers, this medium will also continue to expand in its visual possibilities under such artists as these five. They have altered and broadened traditional approaches to paper by their more personal involvement and control over its physical form and composition.

This exhibition was organized with the help of Barbara Layne, a faculty member in the USC art department who worked with the artists during a 1983 workshop at the Elebor Centre d'Art in Switzerland. A number of the artists will be at McKissick for the installation of this exhibition.



Silvia Morosoli



Marischa Burckhardt

“Dr. Buz and Other Characters” by Sam Doyle

December 1 - February 15



A naivete of traditional art techniques along with the expression of raw emotion characterize the work of South Carolina artist Sam Doyle. The exhibition of paintings at McKissick presents a broad sampling of this artist's works, which are direct and uncomplicated images of characters and scenes from his life and locale. He brings to these images a simplified design with strong colors and frequently juxtaposed three dimensional objects. Many of his paintings are composed of unusual materials - often "found" materials - including plywood and scrap metal.

Doyle was born in 1906 on St. Helena Island, South Carolina, to farm-working parents. One of nine children, he grew up in the Wallace community on the

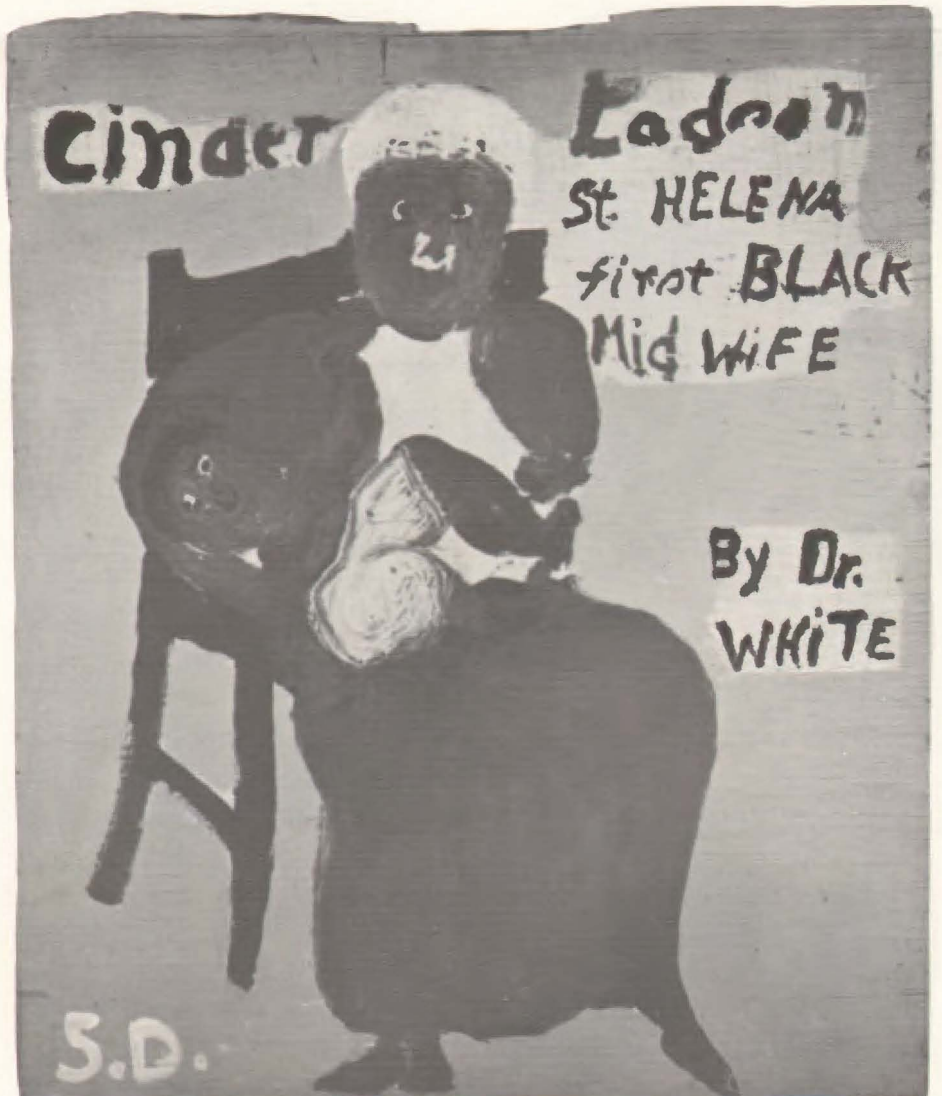
island, which was comprised mostly of the descendants of freed slaves. He attended Penn School through the ninth grade. While there his studies included literature and carpentry, and he gained recognition for his drawing ability.

Doyle was invited to study art in the North by an artist sister of one of his teachers. Financial circumstances, however, forced Doyle to leave school and enter the workplace, first as a clerk and later as a porter for a wholesale store in Beaufort. He eventually went to the Parris Island Marine Corps base and kept that job until his retirement in the late 1960's.

Doyle almost exclusively relied on his St. Helena experiences to form the basis

of his art. Scenes involving characters such as Dr. Buzzard, or "Dr. Buz" (the island's richest Black, a voodoo doctor who received his inspirations by listening to a conch shell), are singled out on Doyle's "canvas" and are simplified to a basic story line. Doyle's strong drawing ability is very evident with lines providing as much contrast as the colors and designs themselves.

The work of Sam Doyle has in recent years become much acclaimed for its naive expressions of the Southern Black experience. Examples of his work have been featured in exhibitions at the Corcoran Gallery of Art as well as private galleries across the country. Sam Doyle died in 1985.



NOVEMBER

DECEMBER

Onyile Onyile: The Other View

Through November 9

University of South Carolina faculty member Onyile Onyile has worked in the traditional and refined techniques of graphic design throughout his professional career. The works on display represent an evolutionary process begun in 1979.

Annual USC Art Faculty Exhibition

Through November 12

Recent works by the faculty of the Department of Art on the Columbia Campus. This exhibition brings together a wide variety of media and styles each year. Although these artists frequently exhibit on their own, this showing is an excellent opportunity to see their work as a group.



Cynthia Colbert

Modern Suburban Scenes— Variations of the Modern Dilemma

November 18 through
January 11

Intricate and imaginative drawings by
Conrad Mehlenbacher.

The Wedge Plantation: The Collection and the Legacy

Through January 25

One of the largest systematic collections of Lepidoptera — moths and butterflies — in the world will be exhibited in the Geology Gallery. Magnificent, beautiful or intriguing, over 120 moths and butterflies lend their earth tones and iridescent sheen to this exhibition.

Made in Switzerland

November 21 through
January 7

Innovative art works from five Swiss
paper artists.



Onyile Onyile

Doctor Buz and Other Characters by Sam Doyle

December 1 through
February 15

Striking local folk figures by South
Carolina's best known naive painter.



Malou Colombo

MBER

JANUARY



Jungle Pots and Other Earthly Things

January 15 through
February 15

Exotic raku pieces by artist Nell
Lafaye.

Dale Leys: Recent Drawings

January 23 through March 1

Large scale and masterful drawings
which convey the complexity and am-
biguity of nature. A faculty member at
Murray State University, Leys' unusual
drawings have been frequently ex-
hibited as examples of the new trends
in this, one of the oldest of art forms.

Recent Accessions

December 1 through March 1

A selection of recent historical and
decorative arts accessions to the
Museum's collections.



Sterling silver tankard, English, 1770-71

Jungle Pots and Other Earthly Things

January 15 - February 15

"Jungle Pots and Other Earthly Things" is an exhibition of raku ceramics by USC art professor Nell Lafaye. Known primarily for her paintings, she began making these unusual clay pieces after her second visit to South America in 1981. "I was mesmerized by the luscious colors and opulent textures found deep in the Amazon jungle. Growth and decay were so intrinsically present in the raw, uncivilized forms I saw."

After her return she tried to return to painting, but sensed something was missing and began working with clay. By chance she turned to raku and found the process both fun and appropriate to her artistic needs. Used extensively in traditional Japanese ceramics, the making of raku ware involves an open firing of the glaze. The characteristic surface crackling is caused by cooling the pieces in water or oil immediately after firing.

Her first pots were produced five years ago. Those early experimental pieces have been succeeded by the refined works in this exhibition. These pots, however, have lost none of the spontaneity, colors or textures which first inspired Lafaye during her tropical travels.

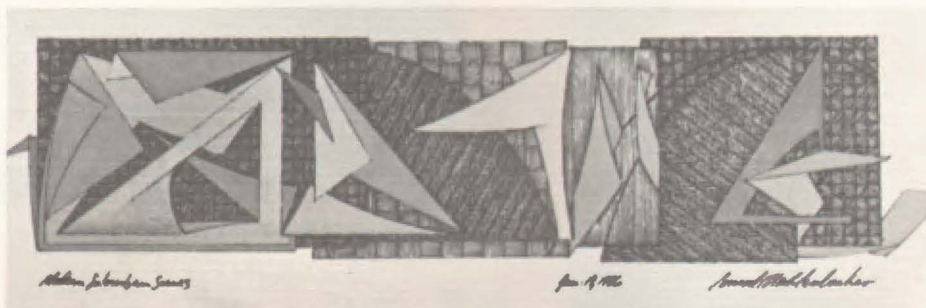


Modern Suburban Scenes - Variations of the Modern Dilemma

November 18 - January 11

Precise and visually complex compositions characterize the work of Conrad Mehlenbacher. This exhibition of paintings and drawings is made up of two series of works created in a four year period. The artist uses watercolor and India ink to create small scale objects which delight the eye with their intricacy and rich color.

Although Mehlenbacher holds both an M.A. and an M.F.A. degree in painting he is currently completing a graduate degree in theater. "I see a high degree of affinity between this art and a theatrical stage setting," says Lynn Robertson Myers, McKissick's Curator of Art. "There is the same sense of overlapping planes, but most of all I see both as a setting for the interweaving of



intellectual ideas. In Mehlenbacher's art in this exhibition we are dealing more with the mind than with the heart."

A faculty member within the University of South Carolina system, this artist is

also active in exhibiting his works. He has participated in showings at Louisiana State University and the Cheekwood Fine Arts Center, Nashville.

Mildred Cahan Award Winners

The Mildred Cahan Award was established at McKissick Museum in 1984 in honor of Mildred Cahan. Mrs. Cahan was a very active volunteer of McKissick and several other city agencies, who died in 1983. Recipients of this award are docents who have given more than 500 hours of service to the museum. This year there are five recipients who performed a variety of tasks at McKissick.

Henry Allen has assisted in the geology programs at McKissick for many years. He has worked in museum programs for children and adults incorporating his skills as a lapidary into the programming. He is a member of the Columbia Gem and Mineral Society.

Ernestine Bitting, a retired registered nurse, assists with docent programming. She also has developed a quilting project for use in the museum's outreach programs for senior citizens.

Gladys Claybrook, a member of the USC Women's Club, uses her time at McKissick to maintain the museum's library. She was instrumental in setting it up and continues to work at accessioning and cataloging the growing resources of the library. She has also been co-director of a children's summer program and assists with the children's hospital outreach programs.

John Downing works in the geology area of the museum pursuing an interest in fossils and seashells. He works at cataloging the museum's large collection of seashells. John also presents programs on South Carolina shells and marine life.

Robin Holloway is one of the museum's main tour guides. She has been very active for four years in leading programs for school children, adults and university students. Robin, a member of the USC Women's group, has also brought a variety of programs to senior citizens in Richland, Lexington and Sumter counties.

Honorees have their names inscribed on a plaque which hangs in the docent room.



McKissick Museum Director Dr. George Terry (far left, standing) is proud of the docents who have given their time and energy to the museum over the years. He is pictured with recent winners of the Mildred Cahan service award. From left, they include 1985 recipient Frank Hill, plus three of the five 1986 winners: Ernestine Bitting, Gladys Claybrook and Robin Holloway. Not pictured are Henry Allen and John Downing.

High Technology and Folk Art

McKissick Museum continues its study of quilting traditions in South Carolina by using high technology to study folk art. Under a planning grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, McKissick is working with the University's Computer Center and Instructional Services Center to design a project to transfer thousands of slides of quilts onto videodisc, which can be accessed by computer.

An important aspect of the project is that results from both McKissick's South Carolina Quilt Survey and the North Carolina Quilt Project will be combined on one videodisc. This disc will be a valuable resource to quilt researchers all over the country and may serve as a

model for the preservation of and access to other quilt projects nationally.

As part of the planning grant, Principal Investigator Laurel Horton has viewed videodisc applications at the University of Wisconsin and in Washington, D.C.

Videodisc technology is new and exciting. A single disc can hold 54,000 separate images per side. Both still frames and motion sequences can be included on the same disc. Although the initial cost is high, additional copies of the videodisc are inexpensive. The discs are played on a special machine which may be operated manually or connected to a computer. Videodiscs are most often used as instructional tools or for storage of visual images.

The Wedge: A Rice Plantation

Built near the South Santee River, the Wedge Plantation is highlighted in McKissick's current exhibition "The Wedge: The Collection and the Legacy." The triangular shape of the property enclosing the main house gives the Wedge Plantation its name. The house was built in 1826 on the highland section of the property by William Lucas, son of Jonathan Lucas - the inventor of the first successful rice pounding mill. William Lucas himself was a skillful business man and rice planter.

Located about 40 miles north of Charleston, the Wedge holds acreage in both Charleston and Georgetown counties. The three story house is supported on a raised brick foundation containing storage rooms. A white clapboard exterior, with a double stair entrance, contains twenty main rooms. The central portion of the home contains four rooms leading off a wide hall on each floor. Symmetrical wings to the central area hold the additional rooms. Wainscoting and plaster with ceiling cornices finish

the interior walls. Special features are the paneled library and the gray marble fireplaces in the two formal sitting rooms. Camellias and nine hundred year-old live oaks landscape the exterior.

Lucas and his heirs held the property until 1929, when Mr. E. Gerry Chadwick, a New York realtor, purchased the home for his own use. Careful renovations were carried out by Mr. Chadwick until his death in 1945. In 1946 Charles H. Woodward purchased the home and gave a few gifts of land to some of his employees, although he otherwise held the property intact. In 1966, Dr. and Mrs. Richard B. Dominick purchased the Wedge and some adjoining tracts of land, totaling 1350 acres. Major renovations were made to the home and surrounding properties, including the addition of a swimming pool and tennis courts. Since 1981, the Wedge has served as a guest house for foreign visitors to the International Center for Public Health Research.




McKISSICK MUSEUM
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