

Fall 2010

Under the Dome - Fall 2010

McKissick Museum--University of South Carolina

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UNDER *the* DOME

Telling the Story of Southern Life

McKISSICK MUSEUM NEWSLETTER • FALL 2010

The Art of Environmental Awareness: Batiks by Mary Edna Fraser

Aug. 14–Dec. 14, 2010

In the 1960s, a new art style focusing on the natural environment emerged, creating what are known as “earthworks.” Notable earthwork artists conceptualized and created art in nontraditional museum and gallery locations, literally making art out of the environment. They paved the way for the artists of today, who make big statements about our changing world, both natural and man-made. Making her own mark both in South Carolina and beyond is Lowcountry artist Mary Edna Fraser, who uses her art to direct attention to environmental concerns on a global scale.

Fraser uses the batik method, an ancient process of waxing and hand-dyeing cloth. Through this art form, Fraser expresses the beauty of the natural world, as well as issues of climate change and long-term effects on the environment. Working from a topographical viewpoint, her large-scale works reference geological and geographical imagery and document the changing face of the landscape. Her colorful aerial views of barrier islands, coastal regions, and inland rivers record the dynamic look and feel of the diversity the landscape offers. The land, water, and sky are her inspiration.

Fraser’s interest in documenting the coast developed while she flew in her grandfather’s open canopy 1946 Ercoupe, with her brother as pilot. She initially documented the landscape only as a form of artistic expression. Over time, she began to observe what few people could see—change. Her first environmental works focused on the coastlines of the Carolinas. Her imagery has expanded to incorporate global references, maps, satellite images, on-location watercolors, and her photographs.

The exhibition will be on view from Aug. 14 to Dec. 14, 2010, on the second floor of McKissick Museum.



Above: Daniel Island is owned by Dr. and Mrs. Norton Seltzer

Right: Morris Island is owned by Norman and Christine Lorusso



SilverYana: The Photography of F. Tobias Morriss

Aug. 28–Dec. 18, 2010

F. Tobias (Toby) Morriss was an adjunct instructor of photography at USC from spring 2006 until spring 2010, when his life and career were tragically cut short following a hit-and-run accident in February. He was only 36 years old. A graduate of the University of Oklahoma (BA, philosophy) and Tulane University (MFA, photography), he came to Columbia and USC as a refugee from Hurricane Katrina. Guest curator Eric Plaag has worked with McKissick curators to organize **SilverYana: The Photography of F. Tobias Morriss** as a tribute to his friend's life and work.

Morriss was renowned for his stark and haunting images produced almost exclusively in black and white using the silver gelatin process. A remarkably popular instructor, Morriss mentored dozens of photography students who remained in close contact with him long after they completed their studies at USC. Zen-like in his approach to both subject matter and process, Morriss encouraged his students and colleagues to let go of any fixation on precision and instead “feel” the subjects and techniques that were most soul-satisfying.

SilverYana offers selections from his extensive body of work, as well as some of the unique handmade cameras Morriss designed and built during his productive but short career.

The exhibit will be on display from Aug. 28 to Dec. 18, 2010. An opening reception is scheduled for Sept. 9, 2010, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.



Top Left: *Given Enough Time Things Seem To Be Something Else*, 2006
Bottom: *F. Tobias Morriss at Timber Hollow, Va., November 2009*

Folk Heritage Celebrated at McKissick

On May 5, McKissick Museum hosted a reception for Harold Wayne Turner and Freddie Vanderford, the 2010 recipients of the Jean Laney Harris Folk Heritage Award. The following day, Turner and Vanderford received their awards from the legislature at the South Carolina Statehouse.

A maker of stringed instruments from Pickens, S.C., Turner draws on a long family tradition of woodworking and instrument creation. Creativity and attention to artistic detail characterize the fiddles, banjos, and dulcimers he creates. For many years, Turner has contributed to the preservation and promotion of the art of instrument-making through programs at schools and demonstrations at historic sites.

Growing up in Buffalo, S.C., Vanderford was taught to play the blues harp, or harmonica, by his grandfather. Though the Chicago blues shaped his early style, Vanderford's friendship with master blues harpist and former medicine show performer Arthur “Peg-Leg Sam” Jackson introduced him to the Piedmont blues tradition as a teenager and transformed his playing. Today, Vanderford combines traditional blues with his own variations, playing solo or with fellow musicians such as “Little Pink” Anderson, Brandon Turner, or Steve McGaha. His passion for the blues shines through his music and his willingness to pass on the Piedmont blues through creative performances, talks, and mentoring aspiring musicians.

Turner and Vanderford received the Jean Laney Harris Folk Heritage Award in honor of their considerable talents and their contributions to the preservation of S.C. folklife. The award was created by the S.C. legislature in 1987 to recognize lifetime commitment to the Palmetto State's traditional folk arts. Recipients of the awards have demonstrated excellence in a particular folk art form, maintained a high level of artistic commitment, and enriched the lives of people in their community and state through their unique talents and dedication. The Folklife Resource Center at McKissick congratulate Turner and Vanderford on their outstanding achievements.

Right: *Freddie Vanderford performs at FHA reception.*
Below: *Harold Wayne Turner prepares to perform.*



Congratulations!

The staff of McKissick Museum congratulates the graduates of our Museum Management Certificate Program Class of 2010:

Edward Blessing
Ashley Bouknight
Amanda Bowman
Ruth Chan
Helena Ferguson
Melanie Neil

Student News

The spring 2010 semester was a busy one for museum management students.

Edward Blessing completed an internship at McKissick Museum in the collections department. He identified priority objects from the collections of sweet grass baskets, Catawba pottery, and Southern pottery to be digitized for a project that will benefit researchers and be used by University faculty in developing museum-based instruction.

Ashley Bouknight curated *Lest We Forget: Remembering Ward One*, an exhibition for the South Caroliniana Library.

Helena Ferguson and **Anjuli Grantham** were awarded McKissick Museum Graduate Student Travel Supplements to attend professional conferences.

Course Information

The Museum Management Program offers one core course per term. All classes are held on Wednesdays from 2 to 4:30 p.m. Classes are offered in the following rotation. Please plan your schedule accordingly.

Fall 2010 and spring 2012, MUSM 701
Exhibition Development

Spring 2011, MUSM 704 Collecting, Collections Management, and Curatorial Practice

Fall 2011, MUSM 700 Administration and Management of Museums

To schedule internship hours or an independent study, or for more information about the program, contact Lana Burgess or Peggy Nunn at 803-777-7251.

Alumni, We're Looking for You ...

The Certificate in Museum Management Program wants to reconnect with its graduates. If you are a graduate of the program, please contact Lana Burgess (lbjburgess@mailbox.sc.edu) so that we can add you to our alumni database and possibly feature you in an upcoming newsletter.



Museum Management student Rebecca Bush participates in a drum lesson at Grass Roots Basket Day on April 17.

McKissick Museum Awarded NEA Grant

McKissick Museum has been awarded a \$20,000 grant from the traditional arts and culture program at the National Endowment for the Arts for "Diverse Voices: Discovering Community through Traditional Arts." The grant will be used to create digital access to the museum's rich object collections built over more than 30 years of academic research and fieldwork.

Museum management students Edward Blessing and Renee Zeide are digitally photographing about 250 pieces of Catawba pottery, which will be added to our database. The information will be integrated into a new Web site, and a curatorial assistant will be hired to help complete digitization of more than 2,000 traditionally made objects.

Where in the World Is Saddler Taylor?

McKissick's Saddler Taylor left in fall 2009 on a mission with the 178th Field Artillery Unit of the National Guard. He is now in Kabul, Afghanistan. Through pictures, care packages, and Skype, Saddler keeps abreast of everything happening at the University and McKissick. A volunteer on the camp fire department, Saddler recently wrote of his experiences, "The camp maintains a volunteer department, and somehow a couple of my buddies convinced me to join the fun. There are about 3,000 people at our camp, and the vast majority of them live in tents or wooden huts, so a fire would be truly disastrous, basically a miniature version of the 1871 Chicago fire. Have you seen the FX show *Rescue Me*? That's us, minus the good food, high-rises, and melodrama. Peace out!"



Saddler (right) and a buddy at the fire department

Celebrate "Summertime" at McKissick Museum

McKissick Museum will hold its 16th annual gala **Summertime ... and the Art Is Good Lookin'** from 7:30 to 10 p.m., Friday, Aug. 20.

SUMMERTIME
AND THE ART IS GOOD LOOKIN'

Summertime is an invitational exhibit that will be on display from May 22 to Aug. 20, 2010, featuring more than 60 S.C. artists. The gala event and sale provide not only a chance to take home some really good art but also the opportunity to meet local artists, including Ann Baker, Ann Hubbard, Tuula Ihamaki-Widdifield, Marcello Novo, Nikolai Oskolkov, Renee Rouillier, Richard Wells, and Ellen Emerson Yaghjian. Works by all of the artists will be available for purchase during the gala, with a portion of the proceeds benefiting the museum. Music, food, and drinks will be available. Tickets are \$60 each and can be purchased from the museum office.

The museum advisory council would also like to recognize the exceptional work of Judy Battiste and Melanie Baker. Judy diligently secured volunteers and heightened community awareness for the *Grass Roots* exhibition, and Melanie coordinated our successful **Spring in the Garden** event. Congratulations to them and to all our council members who work tirelessly on behalf of the museum.

Telling the Story of Southern Life ...

Community, Culture, and the Environment



The McKissick Museum is located at the head of the University of South Carolina's historic Horseshoe in the heart of campus. All exhibitions are free and open to the public.

Gallery hours are 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. The museum is open from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturdays. McKissick is closed on Sundays. Metered parking is available on all adjacent streets and in the lower level of Pendleton Street Garage.

A number of volunteer opportunities are available at the McKissick Museum. Call 803-777-7251 for information on membership, tours, programs, and exhibits. Visit us on the Internet at www.cas.sc.edu/mcks.

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exhibitions, events, and activities

McKissick Welcomes New Staff Member

Melanie Neal has joined the museum staff as an assistant to the director in charge of donor relations. She will work with the museum advisory council to reorganize our membership program. A recent graduate of the Museum Management Program, she earned an MA in art history from USC and also works with the Columbia Museum of Art.



Recent Acquisitions

We have had a busy year in collections. The adoption of a new plan has brought a more focused vision. Goals include adding works made by Folk Heritage Award winners, contemporary basket makers, and art faculty. The museum advisory council provided donations and funds for purchases.

Jim and Susan Witkowski donated a ladder-back chair made by Archie Hunter of Kershaw County. Hunter, now deceased, was awarded the Jean Laney Harris Folk Heritage Award in 1993. In conjunction with the Grass Roots exhibition, the museum purchased a basket from each basket maker who demonstrated at Basket Day. We acquired "Nature's Refuge" by art department instructor Renee Rouillier, and William Bowman donated a Gamecock purse that belonged to his aunt, Caroline McKissick Dial Belser.



Needlepoint purse with Gamecock, c. 1950
Property of Mrs. Caroline McKissick Belser
Gift of Mr. William H. Bowman III, given in appreciation of Ms. Patricia Moore-Pastides' devotion and service to the University of South Carolina

Exhibits and Programs

The Art of Environmental Awareness: The Batiks of Mary Edna Fraser

Aug. 14–Dec. 14, 2010

Summertime ... and the Art Is Good Lookin' Annual Fund-raiser

Aug. 20, 2010, 7:30 to 10 p.m.

SilverYana: The Photography of F. Tobias Morriss

Aug. 28–Dec. 18, 2010

The Nature of Things ... Fall

Sept. 21, 2010

The Nature of Things ... Winter

Dec. 21, 2010

Walter Anderson: Everything I See Is New and Strange

Jan. 15–May 7, 2011

From Snapshot to Civic Action: Creating Healthy Environments through Community Engagement

Jan. 3–March 26, 2011