

Fall 2005

Under the Dome - Fall 2005

McKissick Museum--University of South Carolina

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UNDER *the* DOME

Telling the Story of Southern Life

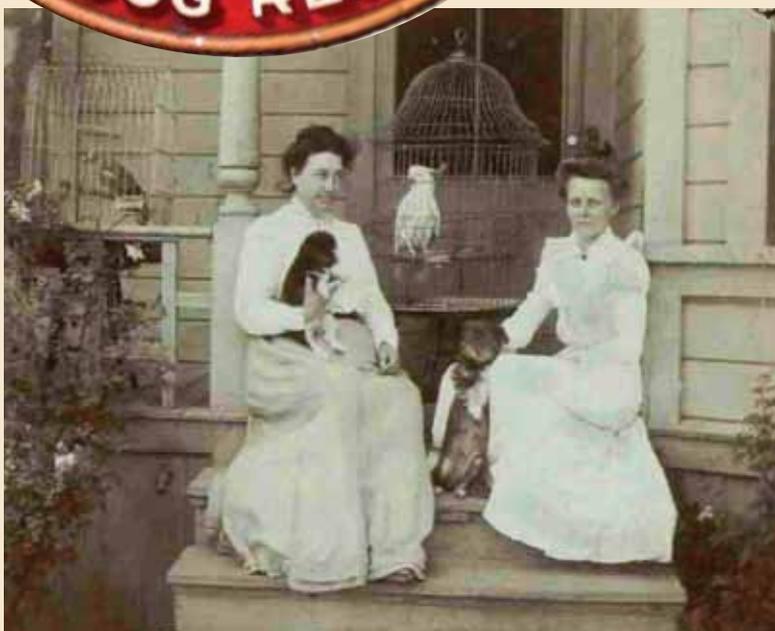
McKISSICK MUSEUM NEWSLETTER • Fall 2005



Pets in America

December 3, 2005–April 22, 2006

People everywhere have pets. It seems that we keep some animals around simply because we like them. We are amused by their actions and we find that they are good company. For centuries, the types of animals that people have kept as pets differed depending upon the species that were available locally. But today, the animals that share our lives as companions, sources of pleasure, and objects of beauty come from all over the world.



Above: Glover's Dog Remedies Advertisement
American
Tin and paint

Members of the Woolsey family
Los Angeles, Calif., ca. 1900

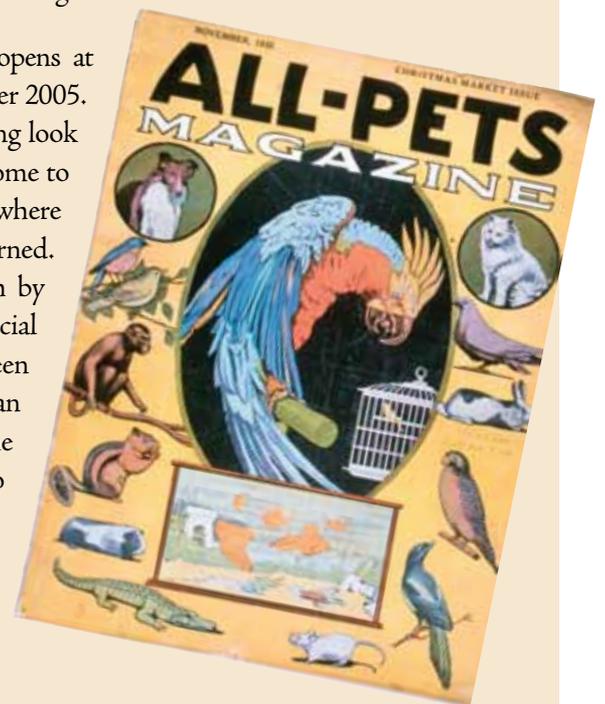
Right: Cover of All Pets magazine
paper and ink, 1935

In 2003, an estimated 61 percent of households in the United States owned one or more pets. And, Americans' enthusiasm for their pets is evident everywhere. A search on the World Wide Web brings up thousands of sites on pets. When did this national love affair begin? Few of us know anything about our history of life with our pets.

Pet keeping used to be just one kind of relationship Americans had with animals. Well into the 20th century, people who lived in cities and on farms lived near horses, pigs, chickens, and other livestock. Even dogs and cats were expected to work, protecting property and catching rodents. By the 1940s few of us had face-to-face contact with working animals, and the popularity of pets grew along with our standard of living.

The exhibition *Pets in America* opens at McKissick Museum in December 2005. It will offer a lively and surprising look at the history of how we have come to think and act very differently where companion animals are concerned.

The result of more than a dozen years of research by curator Dr. Katherine Grier, it will examine the social and cultural history of the crucial relationship between animals and people. Pet keeping is presented as an important part of the history of everyday life in the United States. Changes in attitudes toward pets go with changing ideas about human nature and our individual and social responsibility. This exhibition provides a lively exchange of information and an enjoyable array of objects related to all kinds of pets. It also provides a compelling forum to examine social, economic, and ethical issues at the heart of our contemporary society. The museum is planning a series of public lectures and programs to accompany the exhibition in spring 2006. Detailed information will be appearing on the McKissick Web site, www.cas.sc.edu/mcks.



Mimicry and Magic: The Metaphors of David Voros

July 30–Oct. 15, 2005



David Voros, a USC professor of art, presents an autobiographical sketch of personal and familial experiences during his formative years raised in a Hungarian-American, Hungarian-Gypsy community. His passion for devotional images, an everyday part of his childhood, is expressed in many works, some of which reference 15th- through 16th-century religious art.

His works express the human condition, uncertainty and isolation, and one finding his way through life. Voros explains that many of his works are “inspired by street performers and circus geeks to communicate a sense of personal martyrdom.” With undertones of 17th-century Baroque tenebrism (dramatic contrast of light and dark tones), Voros’ large-scale paintings present the viewer with satirical depictions of life’s trials and tribulations.

More recently, Voros has experimented with graphic arts as a means of presenting unique illusionary metaphors drawn from the writings of Dante. This body of work is based on a translation of Dante’s *Inferno* by Mark Musa, a professor of classical literature at Indiana University, Bloomington. Here, Voros brings to life nearly 30 complex images, some with overlapping and juxtaposed imagery, often recalling the jarringly complex works of Francis Bacon, an expressionist figural painter of the 1950s.

“Mimicry and Magic: The Metaphors of David Voros” will be on display July 30 through Oct. 15, 2005. For more information regarding this or other exhibitions at McKissick Museum, please contact Jason Shaiman, curator of exhibitions, at 803-777-2515.

Left: David Voros, *Ecce Homo*, oil on canvas, 2000

The Jean Laney Harris Folk Heritage Awards

This past April, McKissick Museum and the South Carolina Arts Commission proudly hosted the 2005 Jean Laney Harris Folk Heritage Awards ceremony. The award, established by the South Carolina General Assembly in 1987, recognizes outstanding practitioners of traditional arts in South Carolina.

The recipients of the 2005 Jean Laney Harris Folk Heritage Award are Nancy Basket, Eugenia P. Deas, Cootie Stark, Charles Summer, and Dr. Jack Doyle.

Nancy Basket, basket maker, is the descendant of Margaret Basket, a Cherokee basket maker in Virginia in the mid-1800s. Nancy works with school groups and in many public settings to promote Native basket-making techniques.

Eugenia P. Deas, Gullah storyteller, or “Sister Genia” as the locals call her, draws upon the rich heritage of Gullah culture for her storytelling. She shares stories of incredible tragedy and hardship, yet she laughs often. Deas is a consummate entertainer, switching from English to Gullah and back again in her lilting and musical voice.

Cootie Stark, Carolina Piedmont bluesman, was one of the last traditional African-American blues musicians living in Upstate South Carolina. At 14, he was playing on street corners in downtown Abbeville. Born with poor vision, Stark went completely blind in his early 30s. By that time, he performed regularly at square dances, private homes, and local restaurants. Stark succumbed to cancer on Thursday, April 14, 2005. We extend our condolences to his family and friends.

Charles Summer, old-time fiddler, is from a small cotton-mill town in Union County.

His father was a master fiddler, but Charles does not recall the first time he heard the fiddle being played. It was always there. By the mid-1930s, Summer was performing on WSPA radio in Spartanburg with notable old-time country acts.



Nancy Basket

Dr. Jack Doyle, advocate for traditional storytelling, has dedicated the last 30 years to the study and preservation of oral traditions in South Carolina. He is a founding member of the South Carolina Storytelling Guild and a founder of the Center for Oral Narration at the University of South Carolina Sumter.

Acting "Foolish" Pays Off



A Fool For ART

Known for its documentation and presentation of Southern folk arts, McKissick focused on an international folk tradition last spring. On April 1, museum supporters gathered to celebrate April Fool's Day

and to act a little silly. The evening's festivities included an art sale, food, drink, and music by Little Cat Z. Guests wore foolishly festive attire and participated in the fun of the evening. Many took advantage of the artistry of Tina Feagin from Hott Aire Specialist and added a zany and air-filled hat to their costumes.

Sponsored and staged by the McKissick Museum Advisory Council, the event raised money for the McKissick endowment and collections fund. S.C. and regional artists supported the art sale, and numerous local individuals and businesses contributed to the success of the event. Plans are underway for next April's celebration.

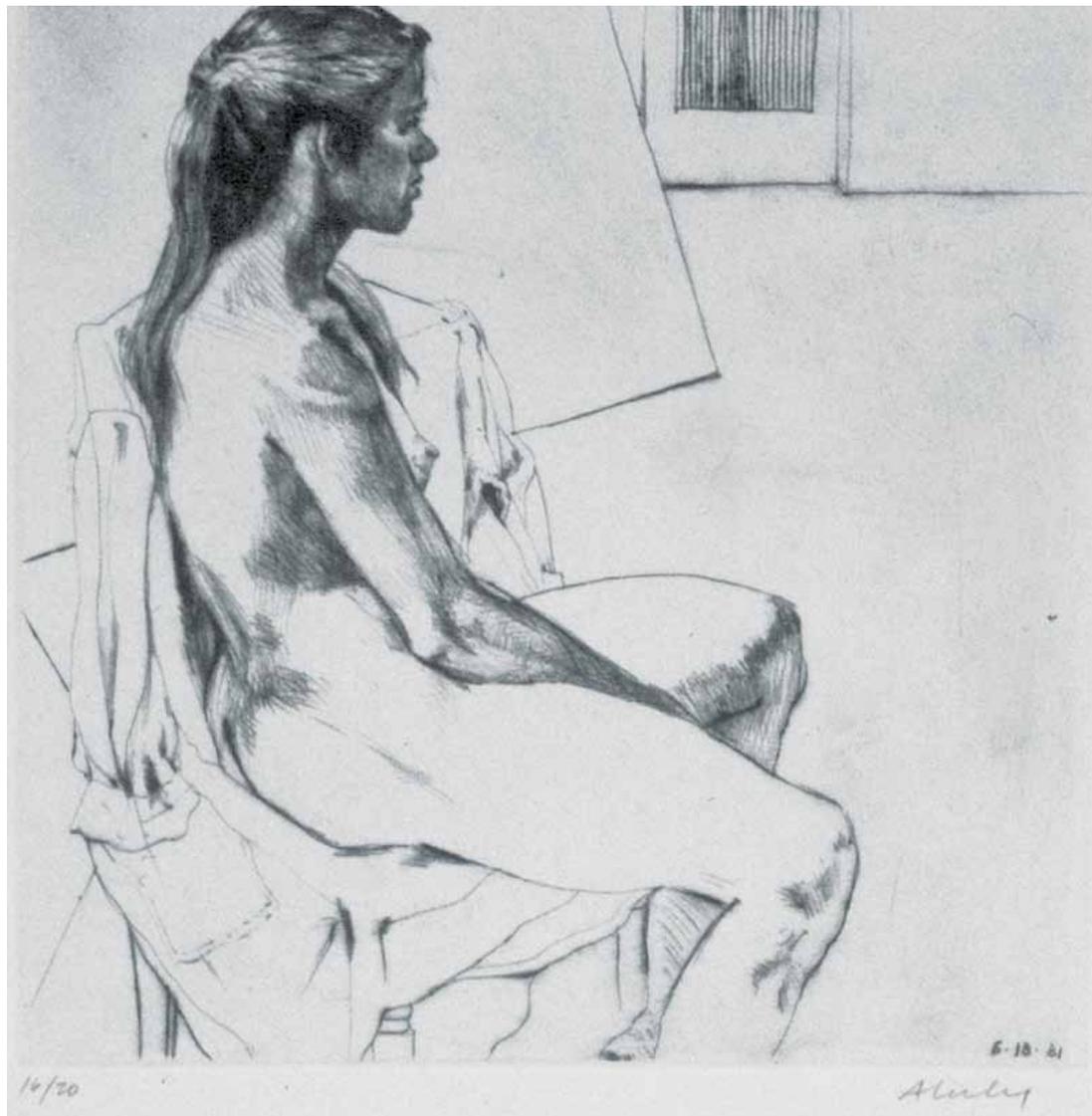
The Southeast Printmaking Invitational

Nov. 5, 2005–Jan. 29, 2006

Organized by members of Ink and Paper (University of South Carolina Printmaking Club) and McKissick Museum, this invitational exhibition will showcase traditional and experimental, hand-pulled prints by students from several southeastern universities. Included are works from students at the University of South Carolina, University of Georgia, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, University of Tennessee, and Clemson University. Following the display at McKissick Museum, the exhibit will tour the partner universities.

An Intimate Look: Works by Sigmund Abeles

July 16–Sept. 17, 2005



Sigmund Abeles, *Amherst Suite #2 (Model in Studio)* Drypoint, 1981

Since the 1950s Sigmund Abeles, a graduate of the University of South Carolina, has projected his life in prints, drawings, and paintings. As a child he lived with his mother, who ran a boarding house on Highway 17 in Myrtle Beach. He spent many hours during his formative years sketching the many boarders, beginning a lifelong fascination with the human form and expression. The sculpture of nearby Brookgreen Gardens also provided models from which he learned to represent the human form.

Borrowing almost exclusively from life experiences, Abeles invites his viewers into controlled environments. His scenes are often intimate and subdued, presenting himself and/or sitters in moments of introspection or a committed awareness of their being observed. Abeles' works also explore relationships and emotions such as joy and love, while other works convey a moody sense of reality filled with the angst of life's tribulations.

The exhibition includes approximately 35 figural works by Abeles. Media range from graphite drawings, pastels, and paintings to etchings, lithographs, and bronze sculptures. Twenty-five works in the exhibition are from McKissick Museum's permanent collections. A significant number of the works are generously on loan from the Columbia Museum of Art, the South Carolina Arts Commission, the South Carolina State Museum, and Abeles.

"An Intimate Look: Works by Sigmund Abeles" will be on display July 16 through Sept. 17, 2005. For more information regarding this or other exhibitions at McKissick Museum, contact Jason Shaiman, curator of exhibitions, at 803-777-2515.

Courage Wins National Museum Award



Photograph, 1940s, Summerton Graded (white elementary school) Summerton, S.C. Courtesy of South Carolina State Archives.

The exhibition *Courage* has won one of the American Association of Museum's top exhibition awards. *Courage*, researched and designed by the Levine Museum of the New South in Charlotte, N.C., was on view at McKissick from September 2004 through January 2005.

The exhibition focused on South Carolina's connection to the significant events that led up to the important *Brown v. Board of Education* decision by the Supreme Court of the United States. It told the story of the Reverend Joseph A. DeLaine and the others who courageously asked for better conditions in their segregated local school in Clarendon County.

The award is presented annually by the National Association of Museum Exhibition, a professional committee of the American Association of Museums. Although dozens of museums across the United States submitted their top exhibitions to the competition, the committee awarded only two. The other award was presented to the Chicago Historical Society for its exhibition *Teen Chicago*, which depicted the lives of contemporary and past teenaged city residents.



College of Arts and Sciences
University of South Carolina
Columbia, SC 29208

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

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Please Pardon Our Mess!

McKissick Museum is undergoing renovations through October 2005 to replace the 1940s elevator. While construction is occurring, handicap access is limited. Please call for information prior to making your visit, 803-777-7251. We apologize for the inconvenience but hope you will continue to support us with your presence.

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