Summer 1989

McKissick Newsletter - Summer 1989

McKissick Museum--University of South Carolina

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Jasper Johns: *Summer*, Eleven-color intaglio, edition of 73, 26" x 19".
Beginning April 30, 1989, McKissick Museum will present a showing of works by Jasper Johns as part of its contribution to the University of South Carolina's celebration of The Year of the Arts.

For a brief time Johns studied art at the University of South Carolina and actively exhibited his paintings in the South Carolina Guild of Artists exhibitions. Then, at the age of 19, he moved to New York to advance himself in the art world. Uncle Sam intervened, however, and in 1950 he was drafted into the United States Army. While serving a tour of duty at Fort Jackson, South Carolina, Johns kept his fingers in the "art pie" by organizing the Fort Jackson Gallery at the Columbia Museum of Art.

After his discharge in 1952, Johns returned to New York to take up where he had left off—still hesitant as to how to become recognized as an artist. He continued to study and paint while working as a sales clerk in a bookstore. In 1954, he became friends with Robert Rauschenberg, also an aspiring artist in New York. Rauschenberg had several one-man shows under his belt and knew a number of the leading avant-garde figures in the creative world. Rauschenberg showed Johns how he could have more time to paint by freelancing as a window designer for Bonwit Teller. He only needed to work when the money ran out, the rest of the time could be spent on his painting. Johns' experience designing displays for Bonwit may have contributed to his interest in incorporating actual objects in his art works.

Jasper Johns' big break came in 1957 when Leo Castelli, visiting Rauschenberg, had the opportunity to see Johns' work. Castelli had opened a gallery expressly supporting avant-garde artwork and offered Johns his first show for January, 1958. Johns' paintings with such titles as Flag and Target with Four Faces were totally different from those of the influential Abstract Expressionists of the time. These artists had selected an expressive form of abstraction as a way of conveying their personal involvement with their art. The exhibited works of this remarkable twenty-eight year old left the art world speechless. Johns' selection of subject matter as well as his art techniques raised questions as to their meanings. Were they nothing more than paintings of material objects with no illusions, hidden meanings or romantic ideals? The show caused much furor and his controversial paintings were quickly obtained by private collectors as well as by the Museum of Modern Art.

By the early 1960s Johns had become a highly influential figure through his seemingly literal style of painting. Since the years following his launch into the art world by Castelli, Jasper Johns has had important exhibitions at the Museum of Modern Art, the Whitney Museum, the Guggenheim Museum, the Seattle World's Fair and major art centers in the world—among them, Paris, London, Brussels, Amsterdam, Stockholm and Venice. Paintings by Johns appear in major contemporary art collections around the world.

Because his style has evolved over the years from blatant images drawn from popular culture through hermetic crosshatchings to his more recent confrontations with his own personal imagery, Johns has remained a prominent forerunner in the art scene. His work has continued to challenge how we look at and think about art. His more recent series of works to receive critical acclaim is called The Seasons, a group of four paintings depicting man's passage through time, from the bloom of spring to the chilling grays of winter. Two years in the making, these works are tied together with the first self-portrait Johns has ever produced. A full-size silhouette of the artist was drawn onto paper by a friend and Johns reproduced the gray, faceless shadow onto the canvas of each of the paintings in The Seasons.

Johns has kept his ties to South Carolina through the years. At one point in his career he left New York to live at Edisto Beach for a while. Today he resides in Manhattan, but also has an island home in the Caribbean on St. Martin. In 1969, he was presented with an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree from the University of South Carolina for his contributions to the art world. He is considered South Carolina's leading ambassador of art and was recently inducted into the State's Hall of Fame.

Today, Johns is one of the most famous living contemporary artists in the world. He rarely gives interviews and when he does, he is very uninterested in

ALE CANVS V
1975
India ink and brush on paper and monotype
18 x 22 1/2, fr. 22 1/4 x 26 3/8
Courtesy of the John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art. Purchased with funds from the National Endowment for the Arts, Mr. and Mrs. A. Werk Cook, Mrs. William Cox
details of his past. Although he keeps his private life and his thoughts on art to himself, he is a major influence on young artists. His work speaks eloquently on its own of the human experience.

The exhibition at McKissick Museum will present a broad spectrum of his work over the years. It is hoped that this exhibition will allow viewers to understand the evolution of his art and the impact he has had on printmaking and sculpture as well as painting. The exhibition opens on April 30 and will run through August 6 of this year.

JASPER JOHNS; photo by Hans Namuth.

Jasper Johns Film Festival

Among the many activities planned in conjunction with the Jasper Johns exhibition, the Museum is featuring a film festival during the summer months. Since McKissick opens at 1:00 p.m. on Sundays, Museum visitors will have ample time to preview the exhibition before the 3:00 p.m. film showings.

May 21
Painters Painting (116 min)
A complete overview of the American art world from 1940 to 1970 is presented in this film.

June 11
USA Artist: Jasper Johns (30 min)
Footage of the artist at work is included in this filmed interview with Jasper Johns.

June 25
Shock of the New: Culture as Nature (52 min)
Featuring the works of Jasper Johns and other later media artists, this film documents the trend of artists turning away from nature and toward culture as subject matter.

July 16
Jasper Johns: Decoy (18 min)
Hanafuda: Jasper Johns (35 min)
These two films document Johns' activity as a printmaker.
Welcome to Planet Earth

A single crinoid or "sea lily" shows its flower-like feeding appendages and the column of "stem" which extended down towards the ocean floor.

What do you know or believe about the Earth? Where in the universe are we? Do you believe sea monsters exist? Or that crystals have mysterious powers? Would you believe that there are snails over two feet long? Bring your ideas and compare them with those in Welcome to Planet Earth. This new exhibition at McKissick presents the most accepted concepts and facts about the Earth as it is understood today. It also illustrates that ideas about the Earth have altered through time and looks at various sources of information that have contributed to our perception of the Earth.

This multi-faceted exhibition is based on the Museum's natural science collections and is the first to fully interpret McKissick's treasures from the Earth and its seas.

Minerals, the basic building-blocks of nature, are a major focus of the exhibition. Aesthetics and geometry combine in the elegant crystal shapes of minerals that are illustrated by examples from McKissick's large collection.

Crystals reshaped by humans are exhibited in Welcome to Planet Earth's permanent display of gemstones from South Carolina lapidary J. Harry Howard. Approximately two hundred exquisite gemstones will demonstrate the variety and skill of Howard's gem cutting talents. Some of his lapidary equipment is also exhibited in a hands-on display that explains how stones are cut.

Next to the Howard gemstones gallery is another small gallery featuring special minerals. These minerals produce light in response to ultraviolet rays, a phenomenon known as fluorescence. McKissick Museum has one of the largest collections of fluorescent minerals in the Southeast. A wide variety of colorful light emissions from dozens of specimens will be on view in a time sequence presentation. Many other minerals are available in natural colors and shapes in the extensive Mineral Library which will open this summer.

Earth is the only planet in the solar system that is known to contain life and Welcome to Planet Earth reviews geologic time with examples of the many important, weird and wonderful creatures of the Earth's past. A stromatolite, an ancient algal reef producer, is the oldest specimen on display. The stromatolite is about 2.5 billion years old and is on loan from Chicago's Field Museum for this exhibition. Early animals include trilobites, jellyfish, worms, snails and clams.

Vertebrates on exhibition start with fishes and proceed through reptiles, including dinosaurs and their relatives, to mammals. Other unusual and ancient lifeforms emphasize the incredible variety of creatures that have inhabited Earth. Since most species that have ever lived on Earth, excluding insects, have lived in water, water-living animals are preferentially illustrated in this visit through time. To further the visitor's exploration of the Earth as a water-bearing planet, the exhibition brings an underwater environment into the natural sciences gallery. A seven-foot long living reef aquarium offers visitors the opportunity to observe the fascinating and beautiful world of coral reefs first hand. The aquarium contains...
Graphics assistant Pamela Martin puts the finishing touches on a model for Welcome to Planet Earth.

a special filter and lighting system which imitates the natural conditions of a coral reef environment. This system allows the plants and animals that normally do not survive in a regular salt water aquarium not only to survive, but to flourish. Animals of the Atlantic and Caribbean populate the living reef system at McKissick. Colorful hard and soft corals, tube-worms displaying their crown of tentacles, and sea anemones, the flowers of the ocean, are just a few of the inhabitants to be seen in the aquarium. Bright yellow Tangs, deep blue Damselfish, and orange and white striped Clownfish also appear swimming among the beds of plant covered rocks. Like natural coral reefs found in the ocean, this "mini reef" is constantly changing and offering something new to see with every visit. The aquarium is designed and sponsored by the Devine Street Aquarium and Pet Shop. Maintenance and provision of the reef inhabitants are shared by the shop, the Midlands Marine Aquarium Society and the University’s marine science program.

Other surprises await the visitor interested in the simple geometric rules governing crystal growth, the complexities of lifeform interaction, and the mysteries of the universe. Welcome to Planet Earth and to discovering some of the fascinating facts and lively legends about our planet.

McKissick Museum has been selected to participate in the National Endowment for the Arts Advancement Program. McKissick is one of 50 organizations chosen from 173 applicants in six artistic disciplines. South Carolina has the distinction of having two organizations selected and the Museum shares the honor with the South Carolina Orchestra Association, also of Columbia. Only six museums were picked for the program, with McKissick being the only university museum. In announcing the awards, program director Jeanne Hodges stated that the participating organizations "stand artistically among the best in their given field." Through the Advancement Program the Museum will work with national consultants to develop long-range plans for future growth and expansion.

Each year McKissick Museum offers weekly summer camp type activities during the months of June and July to complement the exhibitions and collections. Each session runs Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. till noon and is designed for a specific age group of children. Some of this year’s special programs complement the natural sciences opening of Welcome to Planet Earth. For the more art-minded child, experimenting with the many different printmaking techniques or stitching together a Kool Aid quilt may provide a wonderful week of creative outpouring.

A flyer detailing registration information is enclosed in this calendar issue. If you have any questions, please call McKissick’s Community Services office at 777-7251.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>1 through 6 August</td>
<td>Jasper Johns</td>
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| through 15 August | Movietonews Exhibit  
Those Amazing Men & Their Flying Machines |
| 7             | 3:00 p.m.  
Jasper Johns Gallery Talk                                                       |
| 21 through 6 August | Glorified Patchwork: Crazy Quilts of South Carolina  
Jasper Johns Film Festival                |
| 4 through 15 February 1991 | Welcome to Planet Earth                                                        |
| 9             | Winged Wonders: The Story of Photographing Nature: A Close  
Planning a Mini-Museum: A We |
| 10            | Jasper Johns Film Festival                                                        |
| 12 through 16 | McKissick Mornings — Dino D                                                     |
| 19 through 23 | McKissick Mornings — Come 3                                                      |
| 25            | Jasper Johns Film Festival                                                        |
| 26 through 30 | McKissick Mornings — Kool A                                                      |
| 27            | Glorified Patchwork Gallery Talk                                                  |

4  Museum Closed — July 4 Holiday

10 through 14  McKissick Mornings — Dino Daze
  McKissick Mornings — Artprints

16  Jasper Johns Film Festival

17 through 21  McKissick Mornings — Mineral Magic

23  Baruch Silver Collection opens

24 through 28  McKissick Mornings — Dino Daze

7:30 p.m. — 8:30 p.m.
the Flying Wing

9:00 a.m. — 12:30 p.m.
Look

10:00 a.m. — 4:00 p.m.
Workshop for Teachers

3:00 p.m.

9:00 a.m. — noon
Sea With Me

9:00 a.m. — noon
Quilts

3:00 p.m.

9:00 a.m. — noon
& Lunch

11:00 a.m.
James C. Harbin, Jr., received one of the four 1989 Folk Heritage Awards for his thirty-year involvement with the Anderson County Singing Convention. Harbin was honored by the South Carolina General Assembly on April 5, 1989, at which time he received a certificate from Lieutenant Governor Nick Theodore.

The Anderson County Singing Convention, held twice a year in May and October, features the singing of shape-note gospel music. First held in 1868, the Anderson event is probably the oldest singing convention in the United States. Shape-note singing dates back to 1798 when it was introduced as a way of helping people learn to sing.

Shape-note music is a notation system that uses different shapes for each note of an octave. Four shapes were used for the notes in a scale until 1846, when seven shapes were introduced. Shape-note reading was taught by singing school teachers who organized ten-day classes for churches. Today, however, there are few singing school teachers left.

The tradition is still being promoted by songwriters from the South who continue to submit shape-note songs to publishers like the James D. Vaughan Music Company and the Stamps-Baxter Music Company. Such songs are characterized by strong four-part harmony, a steady up-beat tempo and fundamentalist religious messages.

Through his work as a song leader, performer and president of the Anderson County Singing Convention, James Harbin has helped to keep this tradition alive. He stresses that the Convention is interdenominational and open to everyone. Other South Carolina counties such as Greenville and McCormick also support the shape-note tradition through regular singing events.

Each year the South Carolina Legislature, through the Folk Heritage Awards, honors four persons or groups who have contributed to the folk heritage of the state. This year's other three winners will be featured in future issues of the calendar. They are Carrie Grate Coachman, a black quilter from Pawley's Island; Sara Ayers, a Catawba potter from Columbia; and the Jarvis Brothers, a jubilee gospel singing group from Orangeburg.

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Folk Heritage Award Winner

The Gallery Talks

One of the many benefits to Museum members is The Gallery Talks. Two exceptional offerings will be made during the summer months.

The first gallery talk, focusing on the work of Jasper Johns, will be held on Sunday, May 7 at 3:00 p.m. Coffee and refreshments will follow the presentation.

McKissick’s guest curator Laurel Horton is the guest speaker for the second gallery presentation on June 27 at 11:00 a.m. In conjunction with Glorified Patchwork: Crazy Quilts of South Carolina, the participants will explore the variety of quilts in the exhibition and learn their complex and fascinating histories. Members are invited to bring a crazy quilt of their own for Ms. Horton to interpret. A box lunch will be served following this gallery talk—please fill in and return the form prior to June 19, along with a check of $4.00, if you wish to reserve a box lunch.

Crazy Quilts Gallery Talk and Lunch
— June 27, 11:00 a.m.

I will be attending the gallery talk and wish to reserve a box lunch. My check for $4.00, made out to USC McKissick Museum, is enclosed.

Name ____________________________
Address ____________________________
Daytime Phone ____________________________

(Mail your form and check to McKissick Museum, University of South Carolina, Columbia, South Carolina 29208).
In the latter part of the 19th century, many women, already trained in the traditional art of needlework, became interested in making artistic statements by decorating their homes with self-produced handicrafts. Between 1880 and 1900 a mania for making crazy quilts gripped the country. Women collected remnants of silk and velvet and arranged them to form seemingly random or "crazed" designs. These pieced quilt tops were also embellished with a rich variety of complicated embroidery stitches, geometric designs, and images of birds, flowers and insects.

Although this type of quilting was popular in South Carolina as well as the rest of the country, little has been known about quilts produced in the state. Drawing on documentation assembled during the 1983-1985 Quilt Documentation project (funded in part by the Folk Arts Program of the National Endowment for the Arts), guest curator Laurel Horton has assembled a fascinating exhibition of South Carolina crazy quilts. Opening on May 21, this showing contains examples of elegant as well as witty quilt creations.

Horton has worked on a number of quilt projects for McKissick Museum. The process of putting together this exhibition on Crazy Quilts particularly interested her because no two of the thousands of crazy quilts in this state are alike. It took Horton over a week to go through the more than 3,100 slides of quilts assembled during the documentation project and compile the first list of suggested works for the exhibition. At that point in the project old-fashioned detective work was applied. Catherine Horne, chief curator of McKissick, and Elizabeth Stanton, registrar, started investigating how to locate the quilts. In the three years since the original quilts were documented, many owners had moved away or died. After many letters and telephone calls, the final selection of quilts for the exhibition was made by Horton. On June 27, 1989, she will present a program on crazy quilts made in South Carolina. For more information contact Judy Kennedy at 777-7251.
Plan have been completed for a special series of events to be presented by the Smithsonian in Columbia. The result of an invitation by the city’s cultural institutions, these public presentations will bring a wide range of speakers and performers to the Midlands. The programs begin with an Afro-American music performance-lecture at the South Carolina State Museum on Thursday evening, June 8.

On Friday, events are offered by a number of USC departments. McKissick Museum is sponsoring a 7:30 p.m. lecture on the unusual Flying Wing airplane in honor of this craft’s 50th anniversary. Winged Wonders will be the title of E.T. Wooldridge’s exciting talk. Shaped like a giant boomerang, the Flying Wing was an airplane stripped of all but minimal essentials. The tail and fuselage were eliminated and engines, crews and passengers were submerged inside the wing for maximum aerodynamic efficiency. Despite their potential, few such aircraft were ever developed beyond the testing stage.

For those who are interested in topics closer to home, the Southern Studies Institute is offering a lecture on Southern Agriculture at the same time. Participants from both lectures are then invited to a reception hosted by the South Carolina Library.

Events continue on Saturday with a special day-long workshop on Planning a Mini-Museum, offered at McKissick Museum for area primary school teachers and other interested educators. This workshop will provide practical advice for planning a mini-museum in a classroom or library. Participants will learn how to collect and arrange objects to stimulate comparisons and will also participate in exercises designed to pique the interest of young students. This workshop is made possible by an outreach grant from the Smithsonian’s Office of Public Service.

A seminar on Photographing Nature: A Closer Look will be presented by Kjell Sandved on Saturday morning. Also sponsored by McKissick Museum, the session features techniques for photographing plants and animals in their natural habitats and is intended for both the amateur and professional photographer in search of new ideas. Mr. Sandved describes how to achieve correct exposure and discusses the creative use of filters, lenses, lighting techniques and macrophotography.

A lecture on Preserving America’s Past will be offered at the Columbia Museum of Art on Saturday afternoon. The same afternoon, a family-oriented lecture Wings Over the Ocean and a lecture, From Field to Factory, will be presented at South Carolina State Museum. The final event is a film and lecture that will be offered twice Sunday afternoon at the Riverbanks Zoo.

In the final event, it is important that they be purchased immediately. You may obtain them through the Smithsonian or participating institutions in Columbia. Please call host institutions for additional information on specific programs.

Winged Wonders: The Story of the Flying Wings, presented by E.T. Wooldridge, Assistant Director for Museum Operations of the National Air and Space Museum

Location: McKissick Museum

June 10 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Tickets cost $10.

Photographing Nature: A Closer Look, presented by Kjell Sandved, Special Photographer for the National Museum of Natural History

Location: Currell College on USC campus

June 10 9:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Tickets cost $20.

Folk Arts Apprenticeship Program Begins

The Folk Arts Apprenticeship Program, funded by the South Carolina Arts Commission, the National Endowment for the Arts and McKissick Museum, is in full swing. Guidelines and applications forms were mailed in March to over 200 organizations and individuals for the April 24 application deadline.

In a folk arts apprenticeship program, a master traditional artist teaches his or her skills to a promising apprentice. In other states similar programs have involved arts such as basketmaking, quilting, fiddle playing, gospel singing, blacksmithing, chair making, rug making, square dance calling, and boat making. Artists of more unusual traditional arts are also encouraged to apply.

Similar apprenticeships will be administered by the State Folk Arts Program at McKissick, representing the interest of the Museum in sponsoring outreach efforts. Successful applicants will learn their skills in the natural work environment of a master artist. By developing programs outside the walls of the University, the staff hopes to play an active role in strengthening the state’s diverse cultural traditions and informing a larger audience about South Carolina’s rich heritage.

The Museum will pay a stipend to the master artist as well as travel expenses and material costs involved in an apprenticeship. Lasting up to six months, these learning experiences involve regular meetings between the master and apprentice. Masters in the program will be traditional, recognized artists—those who have learned skills that have been passed down through generations within a community, group, or family.

For more information about the Folk Arts Apprenticeship Program, or for application materials, contact Drew Beisswenger at 777-7251.
Membership

Renewals are pouring into the membership office! Members who joined McKissick Museum last February and March recently received renewal notices regarding their memberships and the return rate is proof positive of the support for this program. Many wonderful and exciting events are already planned for the enjoyment of members this year—an exhibit of works by the internationally recognized Jasper Johns, the reopening of the Baruch Silver Collection gallery, the long-running natural science exhibit...

Welcome to Planet Earth, as well as various trips, lectures, film series and children's activities.

We extend a special welcome to those of you who have joined the Museum for the first time. Thank you for becoming a part of our exciting membership program. As you are probably aware, all membership contributions are channeled back into the Membership Program to be used for benefits and programs designed especially for members. We look forward to seeing you at many of these events.

Baruch Collection Gallery Nearing Completion

Construction is well underway on the renovations to the first floor south gallery. In fact, the Baruch Gallery is just a part of the overall renovation to that wing of the building. Many visitors probably remember the outdated cases in which the Baruch Collection was exhibited until 1985. Since that time the collection has been involved in several behind-the-scenes activities including the publication of a catalog and an extensive conservation survey and cleaning.

Now the Museum staff is in the final stages of preparing a new exhibit of the collection utilizing the latest in conservation and exhibition technology. Visitors will first enjoy an insightful glimpse into the lives and accomplishments of Bernard and Annie Baruch. Then a dynamic interpretation of the craft of silver, its use in the 18th century and its most notable craftsmen will follow, with more than 100 pieces on exhibit.

The new home for the Baruch Collection takes shape.
McKissick Museum honors its corps of docents each year with a special luncheon and presentation of the Mildred Kahan Award. This important award honors the memory of Mildred Kahan, an active community worker and McKissick docent. Museum volunteers become eligible for the award after completing 500 hours of service.

This year two of the Museum's docents were honored with this award at the February luncheon. Mary Dannerbeck, who has been an important part of McKissick for many years, has served the Museum by working with textile conservation projects, taking inventories and accessioning objects, and participating as a hostess for the First Egyptians exhibition. Ann Klingenhagen, whose excellent work in the Museum library has been a major contribution to McKissick, has also guided tours and taught numerous workshops as well as served as a valuable resource on early South Carolina life.

It is with deep appreciation that the staff recognizes the efforts of Mary Dannerbeck and Ann Klingenhagen, along with all of the other docents who enable McKissick to offer a wide variety of quality programs to the Columbia community and audiences across the state. Thank you!