

# Harvey B. Gantt Center in Charlotte

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and began a process that would eventually lead to *Cash Crop*, which includes adult content - invites viewers to walk into an emotional and psychic space to confront the past, present, and future.



Work by Stephen Hayes

*Cash Crop*, is comprised of fifteen life-size relief sculptures of former slaves that serve as a symbolic representation of the fifteen million Africans imported to the New World from 1540 to 1850.

A native of Durham, NC, Hayes has been working at some form of artistic expression his entire life. He earned a BFA from North Carolina Central University as well as an MFA from Savannah College of Art and Design. Hayes has also studied ceramics under John Gill and Walter McConnell at Alfred University.

Hayes is a young artist with a fascination for connecting the historical to the present. *Cash Crop* is an installation borne of curiosity, passion, and the artist's inventive and symbolic re-visit and re-articulation of the Atlantic slave trade and its human cargo. As an undertone, Hayes has linked this historical transportation of humans with today's transportation of products made by the exploitation of people through sweat shops and cheap labor in Third World nations.

In the exhibit, *Rhythm-a-ning*, James Phillips, Charles Searles and Frank Smith have produced art that visually reflects the qualities and characteristics of jazz. Each artist - in his own way - has improvised with color, rhythm, patterns, and forms to abstractly produce work which can soar and challenge in the way listening to Theloniou Monk might do. Though Searles is no longer with us, Phillips and Smith still work as colleagues in the innovative art group,

AfriCOBRA. This exhibition is filled with light, color and sound and is an abstraction emerging from cultural experiences and practices. It is a visual embodiment of the idea of improvisation.

Photography in Africa has grown in the past four decades and certain photographers have become synonymous with the field. One of these is Malick Sidibé from Mali. In 2007, he received the Venice Biennale's Golden Lion Award for lifetime achievement.

South African photographer, Zwelethu Mthethwa, has developed a powerful reputation in recent years because of his large color images documenting working people and working conditions in his native country.

The two photographers bring a sense of different places and cultures to their respective work and offer audiences the chance to feel the emotional and aesthetic differences in their approaches to similar subjects. Their virtuosity and unique vision compares favorably to the best photographers working anywhere in the world.

Friday's, Jan. 13 exhibition opening will launch a series of activities designed to celebrate the Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Weekend. On Saturday, Jan. 14 at 10:30am, Stephen Hayes will lead a plaster mold-making workshop. Participants will create unique face and hand molds with Hayes providing assistance. The cost for the workshop is \$10 with museum admission and is limited to twenty participants. At 2 pm, Hayes will talk about the inspiration that led to *Cash Crop*. The discussion will be moderated by Tanure Ojaide, a renowned Nigerian poet and writer who has won major national and international poetry awards, including the 2011 Cadbury Prize for Poetry.

The Gantt Center will reduce general admission to \$5 on both Saturday and Sunday. On MLK Day, Monday January 16, 2012, admission for the exhibition and all activities will be free.

Founded in 1974, Charlotte's Harvey B. Gantt Center for African-American Arts + Culture (formerly the Afro-American Cultural Center) exists to present, preserve and promote African-American art, culture and history. The Harvey B. Gantt Center is an epicenter for the best in visual, performing and literary arts and leads community outreach initiatives and arts education programs. Built to museum standards, it is also the permanent home for the John & Vivian Hewitt Collection of African-American Art and is a celebrated wedding and event venue.

For further info check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, call 704/547-3700 or visit ([www.ganttcenter.org](http://www.ganttcenter.org)).

## Jerald Melberg Gallery in Charlotte, NC, Features Works by William Partridge Burpee & Thomas McNickle

Jerald Melberg Gallery in Charlotte, NC, will present the exhibit, *William Partridge Burpee and Thomas McNickle*, on view from Jan. 21 through Mar. 10, 2012.



Thomas McNickle, *Autumn with Deep Blues*, 2000, Watercolor on Paper, 10 1/4 x 14 inches

A member of the American and National Watercolor Societies, Thomas McNickle says, "Watercolor has been my most direct and immediate connection to the landscape for over forty years. I use it either in the field or in the studio almost daily. I have filled hundreds of

sketchbooks with it and also painted major pieces, but still it remains the most capricious and thrilling of mediums."

McNickle's work has been exhibited in over forty museum and gallery exhibitions and can be found in numerous collections including the Butler Institute of American Art, the Hoyt Institute of Fine Art, Vero Beach Center for the Arts and Kansas State University.

Alongside watercolors by McNickle, the gallery is featuring pastels and paintings by William Partridge Burpee (1846-1940), a great American Impressionist landscape painter. Burpee exhibited at such prestigious institutions as the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts, the Art Institute of Chicago and the Corcoran Gallery in Washington, DC, and his works can be found in the permanent collections of the Museum of Fine Arts, MA, Cheekwood, TN, the Columbia Museum of Art, the Louisiana State University Museum of Art, the William A. Farnsworth Museum

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and the Portland Museum of Art.

For further information check our NC Commercial Gallery listings, call the

gallery at 704/365-3000 or visit ([www.jeraldmelberg.com](http://www.jeraldmelberg.com)).

## Shain Gallery in Charlotte, NC, Features Works by Jay Zinn

Shain Gallery in Charlotte, NC, will present an exhibit of paintings on steel by Jay Zinn, on view from Jan. 1 - 31, 2012.

The love of patterns developing from natural organic materials is what drew Zinn to developing art through the oxidation process on black iron steel. After spending 20 years in décor and illustrative art, he tired of the confining details and began to explore the free-flowing technique of abstract.



Work by Jay Zinn

As Zinn began to experiment with oxidation patterns of rust on recycled steel, intermingled with colors and design, the possibilities became endless. He applies layer upon layer of oxidized patterns with water, different chemicals, acrylic colors, and glazing, and then finishes it off with four layers of polyurethane to prevent further oxidation and create a beautifully polished piece. No two images are alike because each develops in its own way through Zinn's creative eye for what pops. The process requires weeks to allow the oxidation and layering effect until the right image occurs. Then complementing colors and layers of glazing are added to flow with what the evolving image

demands.

Zinn discovered art on oxidized steel through Mike Elsass, a fellow artist for Penny Lane Publishing, Inc., where he has been licensed since the company's inception in 1993. Prior to joining this company, he was a published and licensed artist with Arts Uniq', Inc. Zinn has produced more than 100 images for national and international markets.

Zinn was born in Dayton, OH, and raised in a small farm community. He studied at The Dayton Art Institute, the University of Cincinnati, and the Central Academy of Commercial Art in Cincinnati, OH. Since then, he's studied privately under Alaskan watercolorist, Byron Birdsall, and abstract artist, Mike Elsass.

Zinn does not dabble in art alone, but is also a family man, published author and writer, chief editor of an international Christian magazine, and the senior pastor of a church in Davidson, NC. He's been happily married to his wife, Roseann, since 1974, and has two adult children and a granddaughter.

Located in beautiful Myers Park, Shain Gallery has been on the forefront of the North Carolina art scene since 1998. The gallery represents many leading national and regional artists, and was recently voted yet again the "Best of the Best" for best Charlotte gallery.

For further information check our NC Commercial Gallery listings, call the gallery at 704/334-7744 or visit ([www.shaingallery.com](http://www.shaingallery.com)).

## Hodges Taylor Art Consultancy in Charlotte, NC, Features Works by Richard Fennell

Hodges Taylor Art Consultancy in Charlotte, NC, is featuring works by Richard Fennell through Jan. 31, 2012.



Work by Richard Fennell

Born in 1947 in Ridgeland, SC, Fennell received his Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from East Carolina University and a Master of Fine Arts degree from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. His intense landscapes of his surroundings in the piedmont region of North Carolina reflect a careful placement of color, which he uses to translate the essential structure of nature. Fennell conveys a true sense and emotion of place in the intense North Carolina landscapes.

Fennell states, "I try to deal and at-

tempt to solve problems that arise through visual contact with nature. The answers to problems such as how to create a balance of color, how to create the illusion of three-dimensional forms, and how to arrange these colors and forms in a convincing space, I believe, exist in nature. What one has to do is look and observe."

Fennell's work can be found in the permanent collection of the North Carolina Museum of Art, Raleigh, NC; Montgomery Museum of Fine Art, Montgomery, AL; University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC; Duke University, Durham, NC; Kenan Collection, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC; Alamance Art Society, Graham, NC; and East Carolina University, Greenville, NC, as well as numerous private and corporate collections nationwide.

With over three decades of experience as professional art consultants, Hodges Taylor Art Consultancy offers a full range of consulting services focusing on businesses and individual private collectors. Our private gallery in uptown Charlotte is devoted to showing and promoting works by exceptional southeastern artists, and to offering stimulating programs in cooperation with artists and cultural groups that encourage creative conversation. The gallery is open by appointment and for special events.

For further information check our NC Commercial Gallery listings, call 704/334-3799 or visit ([www.hodgestaylor.com](http://www.hodgestaylor.com)).

## Hickory Museum of Art in Hickory, NC, Features Works by Chrys Riviere-Blalock & Andrew Fullwood

The Hickory Museum of Art in Hickory, NC, is presenting two solo exhibitions by North Carolina artists including: *North Carolina Landscapes* by Chrys Riviere-

*Blalock*, on view through Feb. 12, 2012, and *Andrew Fullwood: Origins*, on view through Feb. 26, 2012.

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