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EASTERN CAROLINA CONTEMPORARY BIENNIAL



About the Competition

The objective of this project is to elevate the standard of regional contemporary art exhibitions by offering a professionally juried competition composed of the most competitive contemporary art and artists representing Eastern South Carolina. The competition will occur every two years beginning in 2025, and will culminate in an exhibition to be presented in the FCM Special Exhibits Gallery.

Competition will be juried by a three-member panel, hired by contract, and composed of qualified Southeast regional arts professionals as follows:

- One Arts Support Agency Representative
- One Curator / Gallerist
- One Working Artist

The geographic area is defined by the attached map (page 4), and will consist of the following SC counties:

Chesterfield, Marlboro, Dillon, Darlington, Lee, Florence, Marion, Horry, Sumter, Clarendon, Williamsburg, Georgetown, Calhoun, Orangeburg, Dorchester, Berkeley, Aiken, Barnwell, Allendale, Hampton, Bamberg, Colleton, Hampton, Jasper, Beaufort, and Charleston.

Competition will be sponsored by Chick-fil-A of Florence.

Awards will be distributed as follows:

First Place	\$2500
Second Place	\$1750
Third Place	\$1000
Honorable Mention	\$500

Schedule

2024

2024	June 14	Release press & prospectus
2024	July 12 - Sept 27	Online entries open
2024	Oct 7 - 11	Deliver Jurors' package
	Oct 14 - 25	Jurors' review
	Oct 28 - Nov 1	Jurors' report
2024	Nov 11 - 26	Catalogue design & review
2024	Dec 2 - 6	Catalogue to printer

2025

2025	Jan - Feb	Curatorial / pre-installation
2025	Feb	Catalogue in-hand
2025	March 3 - 7	Artwork delivery
2025	March 10 - 17	Installation
2025	March 20	Exhibition opening reception



Geographic Focus



Entry Requirements

- Only original works completed within the past two years which have not been previously exhibited at the Florence County Museum will be considered.
- Artist must be a native or resident of one of the following counties: Chesterfield, Marlboro, Dillon, Darlington, Lee, Florence, Marion, Horry, Sumter, Clarendon, Williamsburg, Georgetown, Calhoun, Orangeburg, Dorchester, Berkeley, Aiken, Barnwell, Allendale, Hampton, Bamberg, Colleton, Hampton, Jasper, Beaufort, or Charleston.
- Maximum of two entries per artist. Entry fee is \$25 per work. Fee is to be paid online using credit card. Museum members receive one free entry.
- No 2D work larger than 72” in width will be considered due to limitation of linear exhibit space. If submitting a single 2D work with more than one component, such as a diptych, the combined width of all components may not exceed the maximum allowed width.
- Wall-mounted works juried into the exhibition must be prepared for two-point (D-rings) or cleat hanging, unless a secure, alternative proprietary method has been designed by the artist.
- Framing is strongly preferred for any 2D work in a rectangular format. Unframed works on a sturdy support, or gallery-wrapped works on canvas, are permitted but must be fully media-covered around all wrapped edges.
- Large scale 3D works will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis with attention to spatial dynamics and other potential limitations within the gallery. Ceiling mounted work is not strictly prohibited, but will be considered at the curator’s discretion in consultation with the Jurors Panel.
- Freestanding and multi-component pieces must be assembled and fully prepared for installation by the artist at the time of delivery (week of March 3, 2025), including any hardware necessary for display. If the artist is unavailable to assist with installation, detailed installation instructions must be provided to FCM installer.
- FCM reserves the right to exclude from the exhibition any object which is inherently unsecure, requires special installation and attention from the museum staff, or does not conform to the museum’s standards of quality and taste.
- All artists are required to submit a statement no longer than 60 words.
- All entries accepted must remain on display for the duration of the exhibition.



“Contemporary art is an essential element to our ever-evolving world, as it allows the viewer to pause and to reflect on their lives through the lens of the artist. Art competitions are a marker in the career of the creator, serving as an inflection point for celebration and connection.”

About the Juror

Yu-Kai Lin is the Owner and Director of Kai Lin Art in Atlanta, GA, an art gallery specializing in contemporary artists of the Southeast. His curatorial role is expansive. In addition to managing artists, exhibitions, and events, Lin works with architects, consultants, designers, and collectors to bring art to new and diverse audiences. Since opening his gallery in 2008, Lin has launched over 100 exhibitions including the popular recurring The New South and the Atlanta Print Biennial.

Yu-Kai Lin has been recognized by numerous publications and institutions for his professional and creative contributions to art, including The High Museum of Art, Savannah College of Art and Design, and Wallpaper magazine.

In addition to managing Kai Lin Art, Lin is an accomplished concert pianist, educator, and public speaker. He graduated from Emory University with a Bachelor of Art in Music: piano performance in 2001.

kailinart.com



“Creating art allows us to tap into a deeper understanding of ourselves and our present moment as we collectively strive to reflect on what it means to be in our bodies and in our world. Museums and galleries that invite contemporary artists to exhibit their work through opportunities like competition are absolutely vital spaces in a thriving community.”

About the Juror

Mills Brown is a native Florence SC artist currently living and working in England. She has been the recipient of numerous grants, awards, and residencies in the US and Europe and has been the subject of multiple group and solo exhibitions, most recently *A Place to Hide* at Fusion Arts Window Galleries, Oxford.

Her complex and colorful multidisciplinary works investigate Southern Gothic themes, often using recomposed family photographs to explore life, landscape, memory, and decay. Her interest in facilitating creative practice has led to several collaborative arts-integrated community education projects, designing interactive aesthetic environments for children on both sides of the Atlantic.

Brown earned her MFA in Studio Art in 2017 from American University, Washington DC.

millsbrownart.com



“Contemporary art challenges us to look through a different lens, to reimagine what art is, what it can be, what it represents. Competition surrounding this art form allows for a sharpening of the craft, and a focus on its inclusion in the canon of the artistic landscape.”

About the Juror

Robin Aiken is the owner of Thornback Contemporary Gallery in Greenville, SC. Since 2016, she has also served as Visual Arts Programs Director for the nationally recognized Artisphere arts festival, where she organizes event programming and manages the jurying process.

In 2022, her passion for contemporary art resulted in a collaboration with artist Sunny Mullarkey to create “Making Space GVL”, a project that paired emerging and mid-career artists with local businesses to create opportunities to engage with potential art buyers in a meaningful way.

Aiken earned her BFA in Illustration from Savannah College of Art and Design.

artisphere.org