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Winthrop University

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Explore Winthrop's Creative Habits

ROCK HILL, S.C. - One of the best collections of contemporary South Carolina art will open Sept. 17 for exhibition at the Winthrop Galleries.

Passionate about art from the Palmetto state, Columbia native Mark Coplan was arguably one of the most important private collectors in South Carolina. With help from the S.C. State Museum and Coplan's family, the Galleries is able to present a glimpse of The Mark Coplan Collection. Some of the artists included in the exhibition are Carl Blair, Edmund D. Lewandowski, Leo Twiggs, Edmund Yaghjian, Carrie McCallum, Michael Petrovich, Wanda Steppe and Neville Chuzzlewit (a.k.a. Tom Styron).

Coplan, who passed away in 2002, will posthumously receive Winthrop’s Medal of Honor in the Arts at an Oct. 19 ceremony. Paul Matheny from the South Carolina State Museum will give a lecture about Coplan and his collection on Sept. 26 at 8 p.m. in the Rutledge auditorium.

Also opening Sept. 17 is New Works by Carla Stetson in the Elizabeth Dunlap Patrick Gallery and the Advanced Sculpture Exhibition in the Edmund D. Lewandowski Student Gallery in McLaurin Hall. Stetson's art is described as both personal and public, reflecting her personal values and reaching out to the community. She makes a range of art from densely worked mixed media collages to monumental public sculpture.

While at Winthrop, Stetson will have the opportunity to exhibit her range of work beginning with an installation of her two-dimension mixed media collage paintings and a large fiber work in the Elizabeth Dunlap Patrick Gallery. Within these works she is concerned with discovering or uncovering connections between the human experience and the earth.

In addition to an exhibition on the Winthrop campus, Minnesota artist Carla Stetson will install her temporary public work entitled The Red Line in downtown Rock Hill atop the WPA era Getty’s Building. The work was first shown encircling the former City Hall in Superior, Wis. There the line of red dresses hung from the fifth story of the large brownstone building. The Red Line installation in Rock Hill will be complete in time for Rock Hill’s Blues Festival, Oct. 4-6. Carla Stetson will give a public lecture on Oct. 4 at 8 p.m. in Rutledge auditorium.

Kirk Fanelly paintings will be on exhibit in the Rutledge Windows with a View, Sept. 10-Oct. 19. Currently living and working in Charlotte, Fanelly studied visual art and engineering at Brown University in Providence, R.I. and then at the Rhode Island School of Design. He began to share his work online in 1999, and has amassed a small, but eclectic group of clients across the globe. Fanelly will give a public lecture on Sept. 20 at 8 p.m. in Rutledge auditorium.

A Blues Reception will take place on Oct. 5, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at the Rutledge Gallery with music by The Fabulous Wild Cats. The reception, part of the Blues Festival for downtown Rock Hill, is free and open to the public.
Winthrop University Galleries is presenting a new faculty lecture series this fall semester called the "Creative Habit Presentations." These presentations are in conjunction with the Creative Habit Faculty Exhibition which will be held Nov. 9-Jan. 31 and is a collaboration with the Common Book Project. This year's book is "The Creative Habit" by Twyla Tharp. All presentations will be at 8 p.m. in the Rutledge auditorium.

Sept. 6 – Karen Stock: "How Ballet Helped Me Get My Ph.D."
Sept. 11 – Tom Stanley: "How High School Drafting Class and Rashaan Roland Kirk Work for Me"
Sept. 13 – Laura Dufresne: "Creativity, Intuition & the Flow"
Sept. 18 – Phil Moody and Mary Beth Thompson: "Creatively Interpreting History"
Sept 25 – Mark Hamilton: "How Painting Pushed My Photography"
Sept. 27 – Laura Gardner and Laura Dufresne: "Medieval Meets Modern: Collaboration & Creativity"
Oct. 9 – Jim Connell: "Copy, Steal and Rip Off or … Imitate, Assimilate and Improvise"
Oct. 11 – Alice Burmeister: "Action Figures and PEZ Dispensers: The Creative Habit of Collecting"
Oct. 23 – Marge Moody: "Boxes and Sketchbooks"
October 30 – Seymour Simmons: "Creativity, Myths, Misunderstandings, and Making It Possible"
Nov. 1 – Bryan Davis: "22 1/2-minute room"
Nov. 8 – Laura Gardner: "Small, Portable, and Interruptible"
Nov. 15 – Shaun Cassidy: "Paying Attention to Potential"

Jan. 17 – Mike Lavine: "Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance, Golf, and Carlos Castaneda"
Jan. 29 – Jennifer Belk: "Travel and Creativity ... The Intertwined Nature of Your Personal and Professional Experiences"

All exhibitions, presentations and receptions are open and free to the public. Winthrop University Galleries is located in the Rutledge Building and McLaurin Hall on the campus of Winthrop University.

Gallery hours are Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. and closed weekends. For more information, call 803/323-2493.