



McKissick Museum
College of Arts and Sciences
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

Under the Dome

McKissick Museum's Monthly Newsletter - August 2023

McKissick Museum will be closed Saturday, September 2nd & Monday, September 4th in observance of Labor Day.

Join Us for a Conversation with *Paths to Freedom* Artist John E. Dowell on Tuesday, Sept. 26, 5:30-7pm



On Tuesday, September 26th, 5:30-7pm, artist John E. Dowell Jr. will join guest curator Dr. Frank C. Martin II in a public conversation about the photographs, installation and sound score he created for the *Paths to Freedom* exhibition. A Philadelphia native and Professor Emeritus of Printmaking at the Tyler School of Art at Temple University, Dowell will share how he came to photograph and manipulate nocturnal images of cotton in the South to reflect on and conjure his ancestors' experience.

Widely recognized as a master printmaker, Dowell has work in the permanent collections of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Museum of Fine Arts Boston, the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, the Houston Museum of Fine Arts, the Fogg Museum of Harvard University, and the Museum of the Rhode Island School of Design. Meeting him in person is an opportunity not to be missed!

Work-Study Student Megan Wooters Takes Up New Challenge



Born and raised in Charleston, SC, Megan Wooters followed in her sister's footsteps and enrolled at USC in the fall of 2020. She started out as a studio art major. But SVAD courses with art historians Amanda Wangwright and Andrew Graciano inspired her to declare a double major in studio art *and* art history.

Meanwhile, having worked as the design editor of her high school newspaper, at the end of her freshman year, Megan joined *Garnet & Black Magazine's* all student staff. There she continued doing design work for online content and print production of the publication that premiered in 1994 as a way of consolidating what had formerly been published separately as a yearbook and literary magazine. Finding many of her co-workers at the magazine were visual communications major, Megan checked out what that program had to offer and elected to undertake a mass communications minor.

Also in her freshman year, she took a geology course with Christian Cicimurri, Curator of Collections at McKissick Museum. After receiving notice that she qualified for work-study funding, Megan approached her instructor about the possibility of working at McKissick Museum. Cicimurri brought Megan on board first to assist with a major stewardship project in connection with McKissick's quilt collection. It was time that the sagging tubes around which quilts had been rolled over a decade ago needed replacing, and the quilts folded in acid-free boxes needed to be refolded and the tissue paper used to cushion where the quilts had been folded needing replacing as well.

Thanks to the generosity of donors to the museum's 2021 Midlands Gives campaign, the museum had secured funds to tackle this stewardship challenge. Megan subsequently joined Cicimurri, graduate assistant Blake Bolen and undergraduate curatorial intern Jada Furtick to undertake this project.

Christian Cicimurri was always quick to recognize and utilize students' talents. So it was not long before she had Megan assisting with inventorying and photographing McKissick's political campaign collection and trained on the museum's PastPerfect collections software to push up to 500 images and data about collections objects onto PastPerfect online so that they would become accessible to and searchable by anyone with access to the internet.

In fall 2022, Megan also helped staff FOLKFabulous@theFair, the folklife festival the museum presents in partnership with the South Carolina State Fair and the Wassamasaw Tribe of Varnertown Indians. FOLKFabulous 2022 featured an exhibit of Folk Heritage Award recipient Peggie Harwell's story quilts and a hands-on community quilt making

workshop that, thanks to her art and needlework skills, Megan was able to facilitate.

Most recently, Megan has supported the museum's exhibits and program with her graphic design skills. She designed the two panels now on view in the third floor lobby that accompany McKissick's *Recent Acquisitions* exhibition. She also has re-designed panels regularly used in the second floor lobby exhibition cases to announce that we are featuring objects from the museum's collections.

As Megan leaves the museum to become Assistant Art Director for *Garnet & Black Magazine*, we want to thank her for all she has done as part of the McKissick team and wish her the best as she embraces new challenges. When asked whether her experience at McKissick had perhaps informed her professional trajectory, Megan replied, "Yes, it made me want to go to graduate school." She's not sure whether she'll pursue graduate work in museum studies or graphic design. Serving as *Garnet & Black Magazine*'s Assistant Art Director in the coming academic year surely will help her decide.

Giordano Angeletti Pursues His Passion for Teaching & Prepares for 2024 Solo Photography Exhibition



Come this fall semester, McKissick's recent Curator of Exhibitions will be teaching courses in black and white photography at USC's School of Visual Art and Design and preparing for a solo exhibition of his own photography in 2024. We want to thank him for all he contributed to the McKissick team since joining us just weeks before the COVID campus closure and congratulate him on his

new endeavors. We encourage you to follow the new professional path he has charted for himself.

Angeletti grew up in the center of Rome, Italy. He started studying to be a professional photographer in high school. He then moved to London, UK, to study art at Central Saint Martins College of Art and Design, where he earned a BA in Critical Fine Art Practice. While living in Rome, surrounded by the city's history and art, he learned to love and appreciate the craft of the masters he read in his textbooks. In London, he was exposed to contemporary artists. Giordano completed his graduate studies in photography and art history at the Savannah College of Art and Design. His work has been shown in Italy, the UK, and US. Giordano has taught at South Carolina State University and Claflin. Before joining McKissick Museum's staff, he worked teaching and as a curator at the FAB Gallery in Orangeburg.

The photographs that comprise ***Imaginary Views***, a solo exhibit that will be featured at the Waterworks Visual Arts Center in Salisbury, NC from January 8 through May 26, 2024 started with images of dollhouse miniatures (doors, stairs, and windows) set against Southern vernacular architecture. Play things inhabiting safe environments so that viewers can allow their imaginations to take hold. Imagine a world that is reduced to a scale that is one twelfth the size of ours, where a landing on a staircase becomes a tree-lined avenue. These images refer to ideas of place, belonging, refuge, escape, and fantasy. The spaces imagined through these images are reveries. Fantasies of places that never were, tinged with nostalgia and wistfulness for what never was—illusions that seek and hope to become real. Since the start of the project, these images have grown to include diorama elements such as classical ruins and have escaped the confines of the home. Angeletti sets the more recent images against nature and famous historic views of Italy. These “classical remains” become a wink and a nod to western culture’s Greco Roman roots. Playing off of more recent architecture, these images show how the use of classical architectural elements still lends authority and dignity to so many institutions.

Upcoming Events

All events are free & open to the public unless otherwise stated.

The Nature of Fall with Rudy Mancke

Tuesday, September 19, 12 - 1 pm
Historic Horseshoe In front of McKissick Museum

Join University of South Carolina's Naturalist-in-Residence Rudy Mancke for an in-depth look into the natural changes that accompany the autumnal equinox. This free lunchtime lecture is fun for all ages, and visitors are encouraged to bring objects of interest for Rudy to examine. No live specimens, please.

Parents Weekend Behind-the-Scenes Tours

Friday, September 22, 11am and 3pm
2nd Floor Lobby, McKissick Museum

Join Faculty Curator Dr. Lana Burgess and Mark Smith, Curator for Collection and Exhibition Management for a look at some of the fascinating and fun objects that McKissick Museum cares for and presents in highly interpretative, interdisciplinary exhibitions.

Exploring *Paths to Freedom* with John Dowell

Tuesday, September 26, 5:30 - 7 pm
McKissick Museum 2nd Floor North Gallery

Join master printmaker and photographer John E. Dowell, Professor Emeritus at Temple University, as he discusses the inspiration behind *Paths to Freedom* and the process he used to create his artwork.

Lunch & Learn with Rachel McKeown

Thursday, September 28, noon-1pm
McKissick Museum 2nd Floor South Gallery

Join Guest Curator of Needlework: Women's Unspoken Art Form, Rachel McKeown for an informal tour of this celebration of 19th century women's creative expression through textiles.

[Visit Our Events Calendar](#)

Online Resources

[Virtual Exhibitions](#)

McKissick Museum is proud to present several online exhibits for you to explore from the comfort of your own home. Learn more about the Southern story through our diverse and engaging digital content. The following exhibits are currently available digitally:

Child's Play

A Laughing Matter? American Political Humor

A Woman's Right, Part 1

A Woman's Right, Part 2

Piece by Piece: Quilts from the Permanent Collection

Natural Treasures: Connecting to the Natural World

The Shell Game: Unraveling Molluscan Mysteries

The Bug House: The Lepidoptera of Dr. Richard B. Dominick

Digital Traditions

Established in 1985, the Folklife Resource Center (FRC) at McKissick Museum is a repository for photos, audio and video recordings, and archival print materials documenting South Carolina's traditional culture. The FRC's mission is to preserve and disseminate these materials. With the support of the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities over the past twenty years, McKissick Museum has undertaken important documentation projects related to sweetgrass basketry, alkaline-glazed stoneware, quiltmaking, and African-American celebratory traditions. **Digital Traditions** affords unprecedented access to the FRC's extensive holdings.

Historic Southern Naturalists

This online resource is the result of an Advanced Support for Innovative Research Excellence (ASPIRE) grant from the University of South Carolina and continued support through a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). These archival collections not only document 19th-century investigations of the natural environment in South Carolina, but chronicle the establishment and advancement of the field of natural history. This project brings together collections and archives from A.C. Moore Herbarium, the Charleston Museum, McKissick Museum, and the South Caroliniana Library, all in one place. The material collections, including botanical, fossil, and mineral specimens, exemplify the natural world that existed two hundred years ago and are sometimes the only representatives of these specimens in existence due to extinction and loss of geologic localities.

PastPerfect Online

McKissick Museum's online collections live here. This online database allows students, teachers, and museum fans the opportunity to explore McKissick's diverse collections without leaving their couches. Try different

keyword searches, or explore via the random images tab. You'll find everything from fossils to textiles, silver to art glass, and more.

Mission Statement

The University of South Carolina's McKissick Museum fosters awareness and appreciation for the diversity of the region's culture, history, and natural environment. The museum fulfills the university's mission by engaging in campus educational and enrichment activities, acting as a repository for relevant collections, and through its graduate museum certificate program. It accomplishes these aims through original research about southern life, material culture, natural science, and decorative and fine arts, holding exhibitions, issuing publications and offering public programming. It collaborates with the university community and outside constituents in documenting, collecting and interpreting the Southern experience.

Become a Member!

Annual membership will allow you to explore the history, art, folklife, and natural environment of the Southeast through McKissick Museum's diverse collections, exhibitions, and programs, while also supporting the museum.

McKissick has made becoming a member even easier with our online donation and memberships portal! Click the button below to explore and purchase memberships, and donate to the museum all in one convenient location.

[**Purchase a Membership Online**](#)

Membership levels

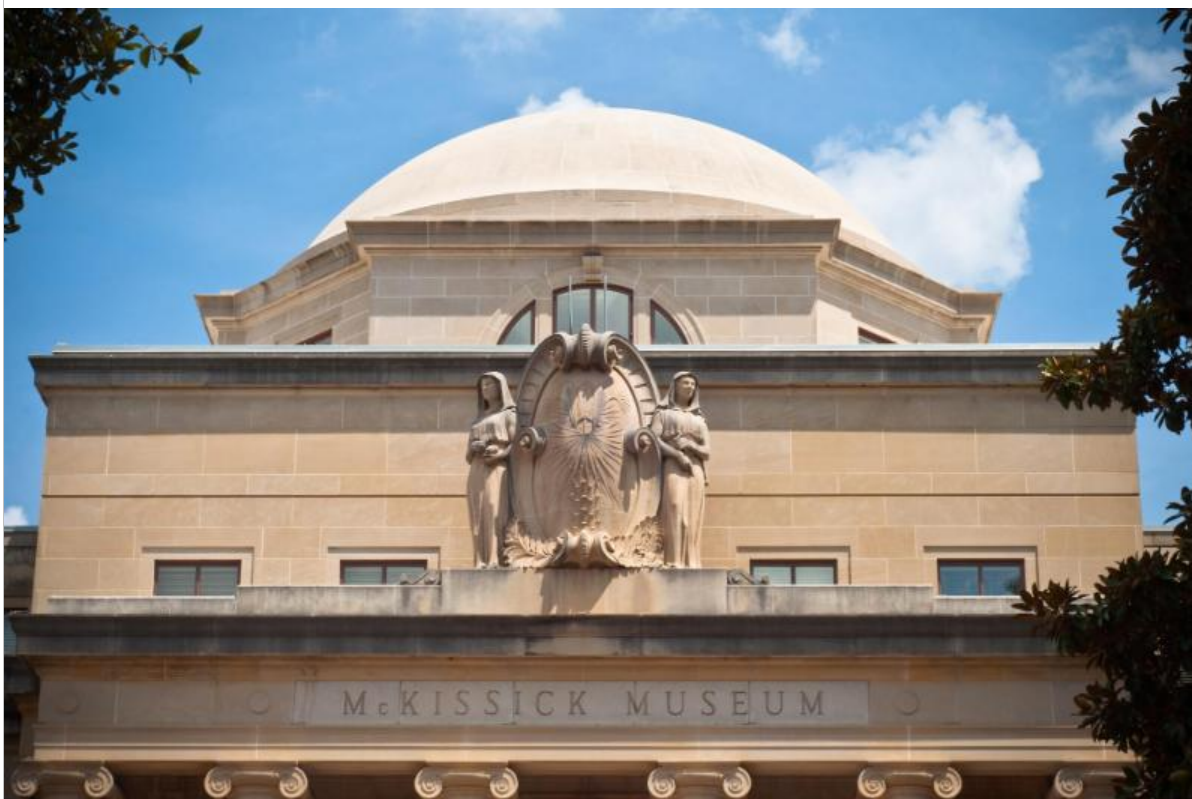
- **\$40 Single**
- **\$75 Household**
- **\$150+ Supporter**
- **\$300+ Benefactor**

Benefits for all membership levels include:

- Monthly e-newsletters and mailed invitations to exhibit previews, receptions, and events;

- Free admission to quarterly McKissick Mixers and other members-only gatherings;
- Discounts on ticketed events and publications; and
- Free Admission to over 80 museums in the Southeast as a participating member of the Southeastern Reciprocal Membership Program. Click [here](#) for a current list of participating institutions.

Memberships can be purchased over the phone by calling 803-777-2876, and by visiting our online donation and memberships [portal](#).



McKissick Museum | University of South Carolina, 816 Bull Street, Columbia, SC 29208

[Unsubscribe statedocuments@statelibrary.sc.gov](mailto:unsubscribe.statedocuments@statelibrary.sc.gov)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by mckscal@mailbox.sc.edu powered by

