

Karen Weihs featured in Shifting Horizons exhibit

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Charleston native Karen Weihs lays palette knife to canvas “like a cake decorator spreads icing.” With calculated and colorful strokes, she manipulates thick globs into horizon lines, skies, and abstract forms that nod to the Lowcountry palette. Over twenty new works with Weihs’ quintessential abstract expressionist style and bold color perspective make “Shifting Horizons” a don’t-miss exhibition.

Weihs received her BFA from the University of Georgia and gives credit to the influence of Professor Lamar Dodd and mentor, Frank Licciardi for first inspiring her painting style. She began her professional career as a graphic designer, but sensed her true calling and moved into oils shortly thereafter. In 1994, she received “Best of Show” at the prestigious Artists of America competition. Weihs has a large collector base and her work is shown in corporate offices and restaurants including two governors’ homes and The Mansion of Turtle Creek Restaurant.

Weihs once said, “The aim of every artist is to hold life fixed so that a hundred years later, when a stranger looks at it, it moves them again.” It is not easy to walk by a Weihs painting and not feel an emotional response. Many of her compositions begin the same way, with two stacked color fields that will soon represent sea and sky. With layers of pigment, she feeds on the inspiration of the moment without premeditation. The results are swirly seascapes and marshes that often include abstracted trees, figures, and houses. Above all, her works are richly hued, living up to Weihs’ reputation as a sought-after colorist. This exhibition moves between places and textures, the sea and the mountains, and the eyes that gaze upon the mystifying presence of Weihs’ creations.

The exhibition will be on display from March 2- March 31. The Artist Reception coincides with Gallery Row’s First Fridays on Broad Art Walk on March 6 from 5-8 p.m.