

“Above and Beyond” Exhibition featuring J. Christian Snedeker and Dave Merrill

Friday, February 26, 2016



Ella W. Richardson Fine Art announced a joint exhibition for local landscape artist J. Christian Snedeker and acclaimed aviary painter, Dave Merrill. Alongside Snedeker's breathtaking sunsets are Merrill's more intimate portraits of Lowcountry birds, from the Great Blue Heron to the Snowy Egret. This will be Merrill's first show at the gallery and he and Snedeker are excited to take visitors to places "Above and Beyond."

Born in 1952 in Long Island, J. Christian Snedeker attended the Boston Museum School of Art before moving to Charleston to pursue a career in furniture making. While this was a creative pursuit in its own right, painting was Snedeker's true passion and he eventually chose to be a fine artist full-time. Of this passion for painting, he expresses, "It is searching that compels me to put paint to canvas."

A Utah native, Dave Merrill recently relocated his family to Georgia. "The west has massive mountains. The east has incredible greenery. I love seeing the morning mist as it lifts, revealing those amazing trees. It's like watching the curtain lift for a play," he explains. By focusing on the light, contour, and movement of wildlife, Merrill gives a voice to some of the Lowcountry's quietest and most elegant residents.

Both locals and visitors agree: southern skies are a force of beauty. There is nothing quite like the pink and orange glow that saturates the sky each night, nor the great winged creatures that roam overhead. The works in this exhibition stimulate the senses and celebrate our gorgeous landscape with a tribute to its beauty. Both artists will be present for the exhibition opening reception, which coincides with the First Friday Art Walk on March 4 from 5-8 p.m. On Saturday, March 5 from 1-5 p.m, Dave Merrill will conduct a painting demonstration in the gallery.