COMMUNITY

Courtesy photo

Felicia Burse is cura-

tor of the "Flavors" show

at The NCLAC Gallery.

psychology from Loui-

siana Tech University

in 2013, and a Master

of Arts in museum

studies from Southern

University in New Or-

leans (SUNO) in 2018.

She has interned with

NCLAC and Louisiana

Tech's Special Collec-

tions, Manuscripts, and

Archives (SCMA) de-

partment. She helped

curate the Rites of Pas-

sage: Africa exhibit at

SUNO's library in 2017,

and re-imagined The

Camp Ruston Collec-

tion exhibit at SCMA.

Her artwork has been

exhibited in a selection

of shows and exhibi-

lights one work from

each creator and a short

bio about their process

or inspiration. Brenda

Wimberly, vocalist from

Shreveport, is clas-

sically trained, per-

forms folk, popular,

jazz, and traditional

gospel styles. She has

performed all over the

U.S. and internation-

ally. Camellia Jiles cre-

Theonlineshowhigh-

tions.

Friday, January 22, 2021 • Page 2

ART TALK

The NCLAC Gallery opens inaugural show 'Flavors'

The North Central Louisiana Arts Council is proud to announce the opening of The NCLAC Gallery, an online art gallery space for rotating solo and group exhibitions. The NCLAC Gallery was created as an effort to support area artists, give exposure to the arts, and keep patrons safe. Re/Max Results Realty of Ruston has made the project possible through their sponsorship. Owner Brandon Crume said he was excited by the opportunity to welcome viewers into a virtual space since the limits of COVID-19 have kept most art patrons from visiting physical spaces.

"Flavors" is the inaugural show of The NCLAC Gallery. The term "flavors" is used to espouse the different backgrounds of the selected minority North Louisiana artists and their various methods of artistic expression.

North Louisiana is full of artists and creatives with diverse backgrounds from various parts of the world who have made their home here or attend college here. From photographers, painters, vocalists, blues performers, to Bollywood dancing. these artists use art to inform the viewer of their culture and provide commentary on how the events that are happening in the world affect them.

"Flavors" is a group

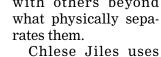


illustration and character design

to share her passion of storytelling to depict diverse characters and imagine stories that have remained untold. Drek Davis is a mixed

media artist working in collage, fabric assemblage, and painting. His piece "Diaspora (Ogoun's in Isolation)" invokes ideas of freedom, liberation, identity, and self-actualization. Evie Hinojosa uses her own body as in instrument to paint canvases that express the female experience; showing how women are often viewed as a collection of parts rather

than a whole person. Jamarrion Cotton listens to music as his inspiration to paint, letting the sounds choose the colors and shapes. The song by California hip-hop artist Kendrick Lamar inspired his piece "Momma." Katrina Harris is a portrait photographer who captures the expressions, moods, and inner thoughts of her subjects through careful styling. lighting, and wardrobe choices. Khalilah Maryam is a creator at heart. She uses photography, painting, digital drawing, writing, and design as ways to share her beliefs, her childhood. and her story as a way for others to learn something about themselves. Lisandra Di Liberto Torres draws on subjects from her hometown Hatillo, Puerto individuals to connect Rico, known as a cen-

with others beyond ter for milk production. Her paintings of red cows with wings merge representation and fantasy to illustrate

homesickness for her home country. Maryam El-Awadi uses oil paints to create narratives and communicate ideas through color. She creates vibrant, dreamlike

work where characters are in a fantastical environment.

MFA Graphic Design student at Louisiana Tech. She uses her experience as an international student to create the piece "Language Barrier" which invites immigrants to write their experience with

language differences on and relates them to pera luggage tag.

Phillip LeBlanc started "Hashtag Office Portraits" as a series born from a love of light, portraiture, and people. The series aims to capture the human moments of everyday life through photography with the intention of sparking human interaction. Robert Finley is a nationally-known blues and soul singersongwriter from Bernice. Music, for him, is a gift.

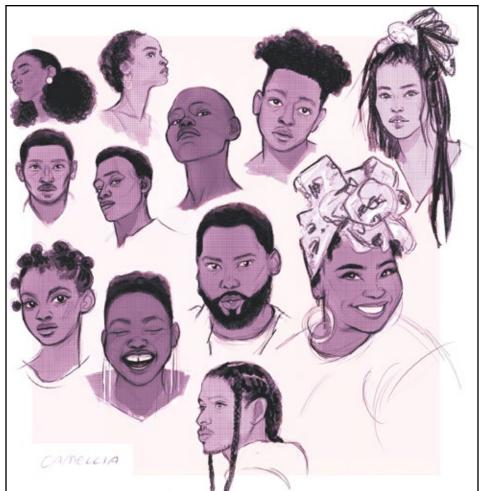
He says, "that's what Pankita Patel is an I try to do with my music; say something positive and do something positive." Shane Greer's painting "Fall of Man" explores the concepts of death and vulnerability. He addresses issues such as poaching of endangered animals

sonal loss.

Svlvia Shultz continues her passion for performing by celebrating her Indian culture. She performed "India Nite" in 2019 with a Bollywood dance to a medley of songs from the 50s and 60s inspired by Indian cinema. Wei-Shu Tsai is a visiting assistant professor in the voice area at Louisiana Tech. His baritone vocal range brings strength and power to his performances sung in six different language all over the U.S. and abroad.

"Flavors" is now on display at The NCLAC Gallery by visiting nclacgallery.org.

Madeline Marak is executive director of NCLAC.





Madeline Marak

exhibition of 16 artists curated by Felicia Burse, a native of north Louisiana. Burse graduated with a bachelor's degree in general studies with a concentration in arts and a minor in

ates digital drawings of characters that reflect her same face, body type, and skin tones that she finds missing in mainstream media. She seeks to motivate

Pictured is a digital drawing by Camellia Jiles titled "Black People Are Beautiful."

SENSE & SENSITIVITY

Woman wants to close open marriage

DEARHARRIETTE: My husband and I have become dysfunctional. and I don't know how we can come back from it.

We have been married for three years.

We were discussing divorce until we found the root of our problem-myhusband wanted to see another woman and still be with me.

I couldn't imagine being without him, so we opened our relationship; we both had outside relationships. I have trouble keeping other relationships going once I tell them about my open marriage with my husband; every time I get serious with someone, they ask me to leave him, and I end up dumping the guy.

This open marriage is not working for me. I want to close our marriage, but I'm afraid my husband will not want to. How do I prepare myself for it to end?

> **Closing My** Marriage

MY MARRIAGE: It's time for a sit-down with vour husband.

and direct with him. You never wanted an open marriage. The only

reason you agreed to it in the first place is because you love your hus-

your marriage. You have now tried it.

Remind him that you You have to be upfront have met more than one man who wants to be in a monogamous relationship with you, but you would rather be with him. Ask him if he is will-

ing to close your marriage and be totally devoted to you. If he is unwilling, you will have to decide whether you

DEAR CLOSING band and wanted to save can live with that — or leave.

> Harriette Cole is a lifestylist and founder of DREAMLEAPERS, an initiative to help people access and activate their dreams. You can send questions to askharriette@harriettecole.com or c/o Andrews McMeel Syndication, 1130 Walnut St., Kansas City, MO 64106.



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CELEBRATIONS

Wednesday

Jan. 30

BIRTHDAYS

Today T. Scott Boatright, 57

Sunday

Wyesau Peterson, 43

Antonio Wilson

Monday

I

Peterson, 72

Mayfield, 12 To have a celebration published call 255-4353

ArLyzzia and Chase

Markieta Hicks

Courtesv photo



By



Harriette Cole