

A Charleston Art Walk

The classic city's abundance of high-quality galleries helps make it one of the South's cultural hubs.



far left: Triplets Tripp and Shannon Smith and Jennifer Smith Rogers all display their work at Smith Killian Fine Art.

left: Gallery Chuma features hats made by the owner's sister, Grace Mark.

Charleston, South Carolina, stands tall as one of the region's premiere destinations for art. Lowcountry themes dominate the subject matter. "People love this area," says Hume Killian, owner of the Wells Gallery and partner in Smith Killian Fine Art. "When they visit, they want to take artwork home to help them remember their experience." Next time you're in town, browse some of our favorite galleries.

Gullah Impressions

"There are hat lovers, and there are hat wearers," says Chuma Nwokike (pronounced wo-KEE-kay), owner of Gallery Chuma. "These cater to both." Beautiful hats adorn his gallery's wall. Chuma's sister, Grace Mark, creates these functional art pieces. Her hats complement paintings by Jonathan Green, the Charleston native and nationally acclaimed artist whose paintings depict the Gullah culture. 43 John Street, Charleston, SC; (843) 722-7568 or www.gallerychuma.com.



Kate Long represents an emergence of young artists on the Charleston art scene.

Art in Focus

At the Wells Gallery, keep your eye out for works by Kate Long, an artist in her twenties who has carved her initials into the Charleston art scene. Her slightly abstract take on the Lowcountry provides a fresh contrast to the more literal works by her contemporaries. 17 State Street; (843) 853-3233 or www.wellsgallery.com.

All in the Family

The Smith triplets grew up watching their mother paint and couldn't deny their artistic genes. At Smith Killian Fine Art, trace Betty Anglin Smith's impressions of the marsh and their influence on her children Tripp Smith (photography), Shannon Smith (still lifes and landscapes), and Jennifer Smith Rogers (architectural landscapes). 9 Queen Street; (843) 853-0708 or www.smithkillian.com.

Bold and Beautiful

Artist Margaret Petterson paints with bursts of energy. Her gallery is full of oils of cityscapes and marshland scenes exploding with reds and yellows. She transforms something as simple as a palmetto into a fiery beacon. 125 Church Street; (843) 722-8094 or www.margaretpetterson.com. —TANNER C. LATHAM

★ For More Info

Find more don't-miss things to do in Charleston: southernliving.com/october2006

Upcoming Art Walks and Events

The galleries of Charleston's French Quarter (between South Market and Traill, Meeting Street and the waterfront beyond East Bay) host an art walk on October 6. (843) 724-3424 or www.frenchquarterarts.com.

The Charleston Fine Art Dealers' Association presents the Fine Art Annual November 3-5 with a Plein Air Painting in Washington Park, gala, and silent auction on November 4. (843) 958-0014 or www.cfada.com.