

SCC Exhibit Features National Parks Artists in Residence

An art exhibit at Southeastern Community College that will feature work created by two former Artists in Residence at the National Parks Service will open with a public lecture and reception on Jan. 19.

Kelly Adams and Michael Voors, members of the art faculty at East Carolina University, were selected in 2009 as Artists in Residence at two national parks in the southwestern United States. The residency program offers professional artists the opportunity to pursue their discipline while living in the park for two weeks. Artists have access to back country sites and park collections during their stay.

Adams was seeking a contrast to her many years of experience with the wetlands of the southeast. For 20 years, her paintings and drawings have focused on the importance of wetland conservation and how people value natural environments.

"Like wet bottomlands, the dry land of badlands and mesa are unique fragile terrain whose value is subtle and intrinsic," Adams said.

Voors, whose interest in sacred locations has led him to excavation sites in Pompeii, Jerusalem and the caves of Qumran in Israel, explored the archeological sites at Mesa Verde National Park during his residency. He used pastel, pencil and watercolor to capture the natural beauty of the park while respecting its cultural heritage.

"I didn't want to leave an imprint or damage any of the site by accident," Voors said. "I was very conscious of the fact that these sites were the ritual centers of Native Americans and needed to be approached with a great deal of respect."

Adams and Voors will present a public slide lecture about their residencies on Thursday, Jan. 19, at 3 p.m. in the SCC Auditorium followed by an opening reception for their exhibit of drawings in A-Building from 5-7 p.m. Admission to both events is free of charge.

"Part of the impact of the work by Kelly and Michael is the simplicity of materials: paper and pencil," said SCC Art Instructor September Krueger. "The environments they illustrate capture more than a physical place. Their work also shows our precious relationship with nature and the respect it deserves."

The exhibit can be viewed Jan. 16-Feb. 24, Monday through Thursday, from 8 a.m. until 10 p.m. and Friday from 8 a.m. until 3 p.m. The Upstairs Gallery is funded by the SCC Foundation.

For more information about the exhibit and the SCC Art Program, call September Krueger at (910) 642-7141, ext. 379 or email skrueger@sccnc.edu.