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“Realist paintings at Green Hill explore symbolic narratives”

Greensboro, NC, August 20, 2008: Green Hill’s fall exhibition, *Allegorical Realism*, highlights the work of four North Carolina painters: Virginia Derryberry, Henryk Fantazos, Jack Ketner, and Mark Kingsley. These artists share an interest in representing the human figure in landscapes that are mysterious or fantastic. Their works suggest enigmatic narratives that expand beyond the borders of the canvas and encourage viewers to engage in creative interpretation. Curated by Edie Carpenter, **the exhibition will be on display from Friday, September 12, to Sunday, November 2, 2008. The opening reception will be held Friday, September 12, from 5:30 to 7:30 pm and is free and open to the public.** Light refreshments will be served.

Asheville artist Virginia Derryberry has enjoyed a long career as both a painter and a professor of art. Her work is noted for often presenting “fantasy landscape scenarios in which light and dark struggle for ascendancy.” Derryberry is the recipient of numerous awards including a Fellowship/Residency Award from the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts and a Juror's Choice Award from *Artstravaganza* at the Hunter Museum from juror Robert Stackhouse. Her recent paintings are also on view through February 2009 in a solo exhibition entitled *Rebis: Alchemical Narratives* organized by the William King Regional Art Center in Abingdon, Virginia.

Henryk Fantazos has described his life in Hillsborough after a childhood in Poland in this way: “every day stood like a portal of existence, ready to answer the question of what is worth doing in this tall cathedral of freedom.” Fantazos has been featured in many one-person shows and participated in countless group exhibitions across Europe and the United States. On display at Green Hill will be selections from his cycle of paintings titled “Face of the South.” Fantazos says of this work, “the South is a disappearing country. Yes: the world I am painting now is being removed, rolled away, and rubbed out with an eraser as big as Sherman's army of bulldozers. The South is removed every working hour and replaced with generic anonymity. Soon there will not be such place as the South.” This will be the first major group of Fantazos’ paintings exhibited at Green Hill.

Returning Burlington native Jack Ketner’s large-scale lyrical works will be seen for the first time at Green Hill in this exhibition. A professional musician and painter, Ketner first received acclaim for his paintings in 1975. Since then he has won numerous awards for his oil on canvas works. His work has been included in juried shows, group

exhibitions, and one-person shows throughout the Northeast and Southeast including the major exhibition *Crosscurrents* organized by the North Carolina Museum of Art and the Mint Museum in Charlotte. The Downtown Gallery of the University of Tennessee at Knoxville will be exhibiting Ketner's work in an October exhibition entitled *Compassionate Voices*.

Long-term Greensboro resident, Mark Kingsley, describes his work, "It's about our sublimated fascination with decay, disease and decomposition. It's about a civilization on a short leash". The characters in his painting are subtle yet stark and introspective. Mark Kingsley has a background as an art instructor & art critic although his career as an artist is paramount including solo and group exhibitions throughout the country. He also operates his own conservation business.

To complement the *Allegorical Realism* exhibition, Green Hill will be presenting a series of related programs including the following:

On Friday, October 3rd, at 5:30 pm, Green Hill will present *Three Modern Dance Performances: Works by Jan Van Dyke, John Gamble, and Kerrie Hudson*. The three dance performances will explore alternative perceptions of reality. Gamble and Van Dyke are both part of the Dance Department faculty at the University of North Carolina – Greensboro. This event is free and open to the public.

On Friday, October 10th, from 12:30 -1:30 pm, Asheville artist Virginia Derryberry will speak about her work and give a slide presentation. Feel free to bring lunch.

On Monday, October 13th, at 5:30 pm, Curator Edie Carpenter will give a Members Only Private Tour of the exhibition. Carpenter will present an in-depth discussion of the work in *Allegorical Realism*. Light refreshments will be served.

On Wednesday, October 15th, from 12:30 – 1:30 pm, Carpenter will give a lunchtime gallery tour of *Allegorical Realism*. Carpenter will discuss the curatorial decisions that guided the creation of the show. This event is free and open to the public.

On Thursday, October 23rd, at 5:30 pm, Green Hill will launch a new series of programs titled *Dialogs*. The *Dialogs* series presents artists talking to artists about contemporary issues in the arts. On October 23rd, Green Hill presents painter Henryk Fantazos and poet Jack Gilbert. Fantazos and Gilbert will discuss the artist's paintings as well as their collaboration on the book *Song of the Line*, a collection of poems by Gilbert and engravings by Fantazos published in 2007 by Durham's Horse and Buggy Press. This event is free and open to the public.

On Wednesday, October 29th, from 5:30 -7:30, the *Dialogs* series continues with painters Jack Ketner and Mark Kingsley who will discuss the symbolic narratives underpinning their paintings and their participation in *Allegorical Realism*. This event is free and open to the public.

On Thursday, October 30th, at 5:30 pm, Green Hill will host a lecture on the history of North Carolina crafts by Susan Larson titled “The Penland School of Crafts: Past and Present” in anticipation of the work to be displayed in this year’s *Winter Show* exhibition. This lecture is presented in association with Greensboro Public Library's annual One City, One Book program featuring *The Pleasure Was Mine* by Tommy Hayes. The novel explores the arts & crafts lifestyle and is set at The Penland School of Crafts in western North Carolina. Light refreshments will be served; free and open to the public.

In addition, Green Hill and ArtQuest will be presenting a series of programs for teenagers as part of the **“Studio at the Center”** program supported by the **Hillsdale Fund, Inc.**

On Wednesday, September 17th, at 4:30 pm, Mario Gallucci will teach a drawing class that invites students to explore and create imaginary worlds. The class is free, but reservations are required – contact Verna Fricke at 336-333-7460, ext. 107 to make a reservation.

On Wednesday, September 24th, at 4:30 pm, Mary Young will teach a still-life painting class. The class is free, but reservations are required – contact Verna Fricke at 336-333-7460, ext. 107 to make a reservation.

On Wednesday, October 8th and 15th, at 4:30 pm, Terry Schuback Gordon will present a two part workshop on poetry and book making. The class is free, but reservations are required – contact Verna Fricke at 336-333-7460, ext. 107 to make a reservation.

The Green Hill Center for North Carolina Art is located at 200 N. Davie Street in the Greensboro Cultural Center in downtown Greensboro across from Center City Park. With a mission to represent and promote North Carolina artists, the Green Hill Center has been a Greensboro institution for more than 30 years. Green Hill houses over 7000 square feet of gallery space, a sales shop, and ArtQuest, a giant, hands-on art studio for children and families. For more information, call (336) 333-7460 or visit www.greenhillcenter.org. Museum hours are Tuesday to Saturday 10 to 5 pm, Wednesday 10 to 7 pm, and Sunday 2 to 5 pm. A suggested donation of \$5.00 is requested for admission into the gallery. Metered street parking and public parking lots with nominal fees are conveniently located adjacent to Green Hill.

The Green Hill Center receives support from the United Arts Council of Greater Greensboro and the NC Arts Council (an agency funded by the state of North Carolina and the National Endowment for the Arts.) Other support for Green Hill is provided by Exclamations Catering, Piedmont Heritage Wine Trail, Natty Greene’s Pub & Brewing Co., WFDD 88.5 FM, YES! Weekly & the VF Corporation.