

GUCCIVUITTON

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PRESS RELEASE

Florida Landscape Paintings

June 22nd - July 27th, 2013

Opening: Saturday, June 22nd 6:00-9:00 P.M.

Guccivuitton is pleased to announce a survey of **Florida Landscape Paintings**. This exhibition will examine the convergent and divergent avenues of artists exploring the subject of Florida's diverse landscape over the past 50 years.

The first western artists to document Florida's landscape, aside from the native Seminole people, began back with Spanish exploration of our peninsula in the Sixteenth Century. By the late Nineteenth and early Twentieth Centuries, when Florida began to experience rapid development brought in by Henry Flagler's railway and the many prospects of settlers looking for new opportunities, the Sunshine State was visited and documented by many prominent American artists such as John Singer Sargent, George Innes, John Winslow Homer, John James Audubon and Laura Woodward, to name a few.

It wasn't, however, until Albert Ernest Backus that Florida got it's first notable dedicated landscape painter. Backus devoted himself to capturing and canonizing the type of untamed and nuanced beauty we know today as "traditional" Florida landscape painting. Backus' work became catalytic in the development of a group of largely self-taught African American painters known as the Florida Highwaymen. This exhibition will represent a small but important grouping of works by Highwaymen artists **Mary Ann Carroll, Willie Daniels, Rodney Demps, James Gibson** and **Charles "Chico" Wheeler**.

Also present in the exhibition are artists **Scott Armetta** and **Juan Carballo** who have continued to work within the tradition of en plein air painting while looking towards modernism and photography for new ways to portray the rugged entropic beauty of the terrain. **Phillip Estlund** and **Brian Booth** work within the romanticized notion of construct to portray the idealization of what a Florida landscape painting can be. Probably the most divergent representations of Florida Landscape in the exhibition are by **Jason Hedges** and **Daniel Newman** dealing with constructs such as defacement and abstraction to open new pathways of discourse on the subject.

For questions or additional information, please contact the gallery at office@guccivuitton.net

Guccivuitton would like to thank Heron Cay Lakeview Bed & Breakfast Inn and Shana Beth Mason for their help making this exhibition possible.