

N.C. artists display work at Greenhill exhibition

BY DAWN DeCWIKIELKANE

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GREENSBORO— Romare Bearden's art won't stand alone at Greenhill gallery this month.

Starting Friday and continuing through June 22, N.C. artists John Beerman and Noe Katz also will display their work.

"It will be a really great time to be at Greenhill," said Laura Way, executive director and CEO.

"Here we have Noe Katz, who is a surrealist, and John Beerman, who has beautiful pictorial landscapes. And Romare Bearden defies definition. It will be pretty special to see these three artists in the same place at the same time."

ArtsGreensboro will sponsor the exhibition.

Noe (whose first name is pronounced No-ay) Katz and his family moved to Greensboro in 2010. Beerman was born here, spent much of his career in New York and now lives in Hillsborough.

Although both are painters, they bring divergent approaches to art.

In a studio in the Center Pointe building high above downtown, Katz creates oil paintings and three-dimensional painted wooden sculpture.

"Greensboro has a very meditative environment, very attractive with the trees and all of the views," he said.

Before he paints on linen or canvas, Katz covers it with layers of gesso, then sands it for a smooth surface.

On his wooden sculptures, he prepares the surface for paint by covering it with linen and layers of sanded



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Noe Katz, "Fruit of Love," oil on linen canvas, 2002.

gesso.

As he paints, he meticulously creates gradations of color. His pieces often combine stylized figurative images with surrealism and dreamscapes.

Katz, 60, has earned international acclaim from his work. His massive metal sculptural pieces decorate museums in California and Japan. He created the aluminum mural facade on the Fiesta Americana Hotel in his hometown of Mexico City.

He painted the image that became an animated video and posters to promote the recent Festival Internacional Cine Judío (International Jewish Film Festival) in Mexico City.

The Greensboro Symphony displays a Katz painting on this season's playbill cover and posters.

The Greenhill show is his first in North Carolina. He will display 25 pieces.

"We need to see art to enjoy and understand life," Katz said.

Beerman, now 58, took art lessons as a youngster growing up in Greensboro.

He remembers watching an

uncle paint at a mountain cottage.

"I think that really inspired me — the beauty of the place and watching him make paintings like that," Beerman said.

He left Greensboro at age 15 for Vermont, earned his degree at the Rhode Island School of Design and studied at the Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture in Maine.

He became known for his paintings of the Hudson River Valley. The Metropolitan Museum of Art and the Whitney Museum of American Art own pieces of his work.

Since returning to North Carolina in 2009, Beerman has focused his artistic eye on the state's scenes.

At Greenhill, he will exhibit about 50 newer paintings — 31 smaller oil studies on paper and about 20 paintings on canvas.

His subjects include still life, interiors, views from his studio, coastal scenes and, like his uncle, mountain scenes.

"It has been kind of a full circle," Beerman said. "I came back to where I started."

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Want to go?

What: "Two Artists/One Space: John Beerman and Noe Katz"

When: Friday-June 22. Public opening 6:30-8:30 p.m. Friday.

Where: Greenhill, Greensboro Cultural Center, 200 N. Davie St., Greensboro

Admission: \$5 suggested donation

Information: 333-7460, www.greenhillnc.org.

What: John Beerman discusses his landscape paintings. A reception with light refreshments will follow.

When: 6:30-7:30 p.m. April 24

Admission: Free

What: Talk and book signing by Noe Katz, presented in association with Caza Azul. A reception with light refreshments and music will follow.

When: 6:30-8:30 p.m. May 1

Admission: Free

Etc.: Visit <http://vimeo.com/83322106> to view a video of Katz's work.