



Portuguese Art Gallery Invites Lincoln County Artist Karen Banker to Exhibit in International Solo Show

Lincolnton, NC (January 26, 2012) - Located near the Castle São Jorge in the historic center of Lisbon, Portugal, Lincoln County artist Karen Banker (www.KarenBanker.com) will be the featured artist in an international solo show entitled "Karen Banker USA" at the Colorida Galeria de Arte opening February 11, 2012 and running through March 2, 2012.

Having exhibited her award winning work in multiple states, this is Banker's first international exhibit and first time representing the USA abroad. In August 2011, Jose Roberto Moreira, director of the gallery, contacted Banker after taking note of her work online. Before contacting her, a careful review was conducted of her vibrantly colored and emotionally charged paintings after which Moreira and his staff agreed that Banker's work would appeal to the gallery's international client base. He then offered Banker a solo exhibit slated for February 2012.

Says Banker, "I was speechless when I heard from Mr. Moreira, partially because I don't speak a word of Portuguese, but mostly because I was so excited about having the opportunity to have my work recognized on a global scale, especially in Europe where so much great art exists. It's not often that an international gallery reaches out to an artist inviting them to be part of a show, let alone a solo show. I am so honored and humbled."

When asked what about Banker's work appealed to him and his staff, Moreira responds, "Her work invites us to contemplate and ponder. With strong language it must be viewed in silence allowing it to invade our space. The absence of recognizable images gives us a platform to talk about the unconscious and at the same time explore our emotions. Her contrast of colors has a determinative value for the reading of the work. The forms are inexact with a fast mix of colors that join and then explode with depth, allowing us to explore the contradictions of anguish and joy."

The Colorida Galleria de Arte is known worldwide for providing a solid podium for their artists that achieves both to best present the individuality of their works and to draw attention to the works inherent cultural significance.

About Karen Banker

Living in the hamlet of Pumpkin Center between Denver and Lincolnton, NC (7 miles west of Lake Norman near Charlotte), Banker's vibrantly colored and emotionally charged work can be found in galleries and notable fine art collections across the USA. Her award-winning work has been exhibited in several solo and group shows in multiple states including the Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA) in Miami, Florida. Additional information about the artist including images of her work may be found at www.KarenBanker.com.

About Colorida de Arte

Founded in 2007, Colorida Galeria de Arte is located by the Castle of São Jorge on the highest hill of the historic centre of Lisbon, Portugal, in a building more than 150 years old. Its principal focus is the representation of an international group of contemporary artists whose diverse practices include painting, photography, sculpture and drawing. Embracing artists who are both emerging and established, Colorida Art Gallery cultivates artist growth and makes a vital contribution to the Europe arts community. Most of the gallery's artists have had extensive museum activity, monographs, critical acclaim and important recognition from the international collection community.

Colorida Galleria de Arte is open to the public from Tuesday to Saturday from 1:30pm to 6:00pm. The gallery is located at 63 Rua Costa do Castelo, Lisbon, Portugal 1100-335. Their website is www.colorida.pt.