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MICHAEL McCALL

RETROSPECTIVE

FORMS ORBIT THE MIND 1970 - 2010



Michael McCall meditating in front of his work "Longevity If You Dare"

by: Wendy Robbins

Los Angeles artist Michael McCall will be exhibiting his retrospective "Forms Orbit the Mind" this month at the Hickory Museum of Art. His work will include paintings and sculptures created over the last 40 years. McCall, a native of Hickory, NC has lived and worked in Los Angeles for the past 27 years but still maintains a strong connection to his home state.

McCall's early works are based on color theory and illusionary optical properties with hard edged graphics, later focusing on signs and symbols and their meaning. "I ferociously researched the symbols and their origins, and the research lead me to better understand the development of the alphabet, the nature of written history, and how each culture tends to use the same or similar symbols to express some very different ideas. Marks and gestures, cave drawings, diagrams, ideograms, pictographs, alphabets, it's all there in the history of the world." Michael also draws inspiration through the investigation of Asian philosophies including Taoism, the I-Ching, and Tai Chi, weaving their spiritual message of balance and harmony throughout his work.

Michael incorporates many unusual materials such as roofing tar paper, bottles, sand, newspaper and more as well as using traditional mediums to create his works. For more information on McCall's work and to read a wonderful interview by the renowned Walter Hopps please visit www.MichaelMcCall.org

Opening Reception

Saturday, May 15

8 – 10 PM

Hickory Museum of Art

Open to the Public

The Hickory Museum of Art is located in the Arts & Science Center of Catawba Valley at 243 3rd Avenue NE, Hickory. Regular hours of operation are Tuesday through Saturday, 10 AM – 4 PM and Sundays from 1 – 4 PM. General admission to the Museum is free. Group tours are available and contributions are appreciated. For additional information, call 828-327-8576 or go to www.HickoryArt.org.

The 66 year old Museum was founded by artist and Hickory native Paul Whitener. HMA exhibits American art and has special collections in art glass, art pottery, Southern contemporary folk art, and 19th and 20th century paintings and prints. The Museum is comprised of 3 floors with 11 changing galleries and an interactive children's gallery.

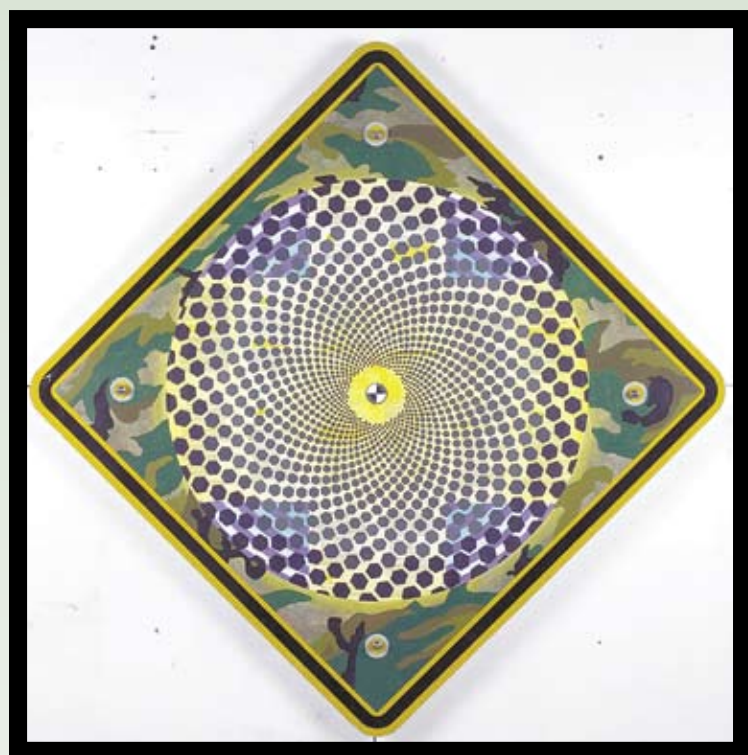
The Arts & Science Center of Catawba Valley is located on Hickory's SALT Block in the former Claremont High School building. Other organizations in the center include the Catawba Science Center, Western Piedmont Symphony, Hickory Choral Society and the United Arts Council of Catawba County.



Michael McCall pictured outside of his alma mater, Claremont Central High School in 1968. The building now houses the Hickory Museum of Art – he is posed in front of what is now the Museum’s loading dock. McCall’s 40 year retrospective is being presented at the Museum from May 15 through September 26 in the Coe Gallery, the location of the school’s gymnasium where the artist played basketball.



“Power of Myth” 1988 Oil, sand, on canvas 64” x 88”



“Fokus” 2008 Acrylics, pages of the I-Ching on road sign 49” x 49”



“Canon “ 2005 Acrylics, pages of the I-Ching on Hexcell aluminum panel 96” x 96 “



“Alpha/Omega” 1989 Acrylics, enamel paint, glass microspheres on canvas 84” x 108



“Tao Te Spherico” 1994 Acrylics, pages of the I-Ching on panel 48” x 48”