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Watercolorists to exhibit at the Pickens County Museum

PICKENS — The Pickens County Museum of Art & History will be presenting "Three Watercolorists in Exhibition" from June 27 through Aug. 27.

On June 27, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., the museum will host a reception to meet the three artists featured in "Dale Cochran: Extraordinary Experiences," "Lynn Greer: Night Views" and "Russell Jewell: Legacy and Light."

Watercolor is a tradition that spans the chronicles of history. Primitive man's use of pigments mixed with water to create cave paintings evolved to the ancient Egyptians work on papyrus and traditional Asian masters painting on silk and handmade paper. In the Middle Ages illuminated manuscripts were brightly colored with the medium. The increased availability of paper by the 14th Century allowed for the increase of artistic possibilities so artists such as Albrecht Durer, Peter Paul Rubens, Jean Honore Fragonard and many more used watercolor as a means of drawing and developing compositions.

With the production of higher quality papers in the late 18th Century, the first national school of watercolorists emerged in Britain. These renderings encompassed visual identity of ports of sea, as well as the surrounding landscape and in 1768, influential topographers founded the Royal Academy, which encouraged watercolorists to carry the medium beyond their own technical achievements.

The earliest American watercolors were often created for documentation of the "new world," thus American artists worked in the shadow of European masters until the late 19th Century. Gradually, painters such as Thomas Eakins, Winslow Homer and James A. M. Whistler began to develop artworks that challenged the Europeans and the rise of American painting ensued.

The Pickens County Museum of Art & History is funded in part by Pickens County, members and friends of the museum and a grant from the South Carolina Arts Commission, which receives support from the National Endowment for the Arts.

Located at the corner of Hwy. 178 at 307 Johnson St., the museum is open Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m., Thursdays from 9 a.m. – 7:30 p.m. and Saturdays from 9 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Admission is free but donations are welcome.