

**DATE: November 23, 2009**

**EVENT DATE: Reception December 12, 6 – 8 p.m. exhibit continues through February 11, 2010**

**FOR RELEASE: Immediate**

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**ATTACHED PHOTOS:**

**1-Miller-Hope Nunnery Glen Miller, “Hope Nunnery, All My People”, oil on canvas, 46” x 64”, 2009**

**2-Miller-DrinkSmall Glen Miller, “Drink Small”, oil on canvas, 46” x 64”, 2009**

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### **Story, Song, and Image A merging of Musical Heritage and Narrative Painting**

The **Pickens County Museum of Art & History** will be presenting new exhibitions from **December 12, 2009 through February 11, 2010**. Please join us from **6:00 until 8:00 p.m. on December 12** as we host a reception to meet the artists featured in **“Story, Song, and Image: A merging of Musical Heritage and Narrative Painting”**. This exhibition will continue through February 11, 2010.

**Story, Song, and Image: A merging of Musical Heritage and Narrative Painting**” is the conception of Glen Miller and John Fowler. Both artists have a passionate interest in the traditional music of South Carolina, and how it intertwines with its’ people and their lives. Miller, a visual artist and educator, is also a musician. Glen creates narrative works and themed exhibitions and has often used music and dance as subject for his work. Fowler, storyteller, musician, and music collector with production experience, has created several successful field recording projects relative to South Carolina.

Miller and Fowler have combined their fields of study, creating a multi-media project, which celebrates South Carolina's broad music heritage. They have combined elements of visual and performing arts and regional history into a museum based experience, which will include music and contemporary narrative paintings. Several forms of roots music, each relative to a particular geographical region of South Carolina are incorporated in the project. The exhibition and performance elements will be available as an educational opportunity for schools (private & public) as well as the general public. The educational elements include regional and local history, music, art, language and oral history.

“Story, Song & Image” focuses on 10 musicians who represent different genres of roots music that are important to South Carolina's regional musical traditions. The musicians represented were drawn from different geographical regions throughout the state. The exhibition aspect of the project encompasses the historical and cultural traditions of the genres of music as well as the musician's personal stories which are the subject of the contemporary narrative paintings. The paintings were derived from conversations with the musicians, their music, their stories, and composed in the studio from sketches, notes, and photographs taken in their home environment. The non-traditional paintings are intended to present the musicians as persons that, although representative of a historical tradition, are nonetheless living stories themselves. The performance aspect of the project further emphasizes this concept by bringing the music into the present, completing the purpose of Story, Song, and Image.

This project highlights some of our living history and one of the greatest cultural resources of our state, our musicians and their music.

Glen Miller, a native of Northeast Tennessee, has taught art in South Carolina since 1979. Glen has a BFA in drawing and painting from East Tennessee State University and an MA in Art and Education from The University of South Florida and further graduate study at the University of Tennessee. A public high school art teacher for many years, Glen currently teaches drawing and painting at Converse College and is a member of the faculty of the Greenville County Museum of Art where he teaches figure drawing. Glen Miller has received numerous awards in regional exhibitions. His most

recent solo exhibition was "Ruminations With A Charred Vine", a gallery sized narrative drawing installation at the Greenville Fine Arts Center. The artist maintains a studio in the Pendleton Street Arts District of Greenville and is represented locally by Hampton III Gallery.

John Thomas Fowler, from Boiling Springs, SC, is a traditional musician, storyteller, and music collector. John is a graduate of the SC Community Scholars Program, and is a Southern Artistry Artist. He has produced several recordings, and conducted a number of documentaries for SC-ETV. John plays a number of folk instruments, which include the banjo, guitar, spoons, auto-harp and washboard, and he has won a number of traditional music awards at regional and national festivals. At present John is working on a biographical sketch of an old-time black fiddler from the early 1920's, and also teaches as an artist-in-residence in SC. John is the host of the old-time radio show on WNCW 88.7 FM, called "This Old Porch", which airs on Sunday afternoons.

This exhibition is part of the museum's 2009 – 2010 exhibition season sponsored by **Pickens Savings & Loan** and **Upstate Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery & Dental Implant Center**.

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 Street** in **Pickens SC**, the museum is open **Tuesdays, Wednesdays** and **Fridays** from **9:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.**, **Thursdays** from **9:00 a.m. until 7:30 p.m.** and **Saturdays** from **9:00 a.m. until 4:30 p.m.** Admission is free but donations are welcomed.

For more information please contact the museum at (864) 898-5963.



Glen Miller, "Hope Nunnery, All My People", oil on canvas, 46" x 64", 2009



Glenn Miller, "Drink Small" oil on canvas, 46" x 64", 2009