

For Immediate Release

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“Clyde Edgerton and Louis Rubin: PEN TO PAINT” Features Artwork by Two Southern Writers

With dozens of published works and literary accolades between them, Clyde Edgerton and Louis D. Rubin, Jr. have a way with words. An upcoming show of their artwork will prove that they have a way with paint, too.

PEN TO PAINT opens at the Tanner Hill Gallery Warehouse Row Project Space on Friday, April 15. On display will be the paintings of novelist Clyde Edgerton and novelist, historian, editor and literary critic Louis D. Rubin, Jr., both from North Carolina. Music will be provided by Christie Burns and Matt Evans of the Folk School of Chattanooga.

The opening reception at 8:30 p.m. will be held in conjunction with the Arts & Education Council (AEC) Conference on Southern Literature, a three-day literary celebration during which Edgerton, Rubin and 48 other acclaimed Southern writers will participate in readings, book signings and lively discussions.

Edgerton, whose *New York Times* best-selling books include *Raney*, *Lunch at the Picadilly* and *Walking Across Egypt* (which was made into a movie), was inspired to pick up a paintbrush while working on his book *The Bible Salesman* in 2007.

“I became kind of obsessed with a green 1950 Chrysler driven by a thief in the novel,” says Edgerton. “I decided to make a painting of the car, bought some acrylic paints, and went to work. The experience of painting the car was so pleasing I did three more cars, changed to oils and have been painting, mostly on weekends, since.”

When Edgerton grew tired of painting cars, he started on landscapes, becoming interested in how light works in a painting. Then came animals, and now people.

“I’m fascinated by how what seems easy is hard, how accidents can surprise, the ways painting is like writing, how cliché can work for and against you, how you can ‘feel’ something wrong in a painting without being sure of what it is. And like in all art, there’s fun in embracing uncertainty, and in trying something you think you can’t do.”

The origin of Rubin’s paintings, almost all of ships and freighters, began when he and an old college friend began researching a book. They traveled from Hampton Roads to Corpus Christi (Texas) photographing seaports and writing about them. Rubin began illustrating ships, fulfilling a childhood love of the huge monolithic seagoing vessels.

"I grew up in Charleston," he explains, "so my love of ships started as a child. I used to hang out at Adger's Wharf watching the shrimp trawlers and cargo launches come in."

The founder of Algonquin Books of Chapel Hill and a founding member of the Fellowship of Southern Writers, Rubin taught English and creative writing for many years, mainly at Johns Hopkins University, Hollins College, and the University of North Carolina. (Annie Dillard, Kaye Gibbons, John Barth, and Lee Smith are just a few of his former students.) He has written or edited some forty-five books of his own, the most recent of which is *Uptown/Downtown in Old Charleston*. He lives in Chapel Hill, North Carolina.

PEN TO PAINT will run through May 27. During the Conference on Southern Literature (April 14, 15 and 16) hours are 12 p.m. – 5 p.m. Following the Conference, hours will be Fridays from noon to 5 p.m. through May 27.

For more information about PEN TO PAINT, call Tanner Hill Gallery, 423-280-7182. For information on the Conference on Southern Literature call 423-267-1218 or visit SouthernLitConference.com.

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