

# *As Life Happens*

One could ask, "What does the work of Johannes Vermeer (circa 1650) and Debra Keirce (circa 2000) have in common?" The answer would be painting *As Life Happens*. The Virginia artist opens her first Charleston solo exhibition at the Ellis-Nicholson Gallery on Friday, April 6, 5-8 PM.

The artist says, "I love the way the Golden Age masters, such as Vermeer and his contemporaries painted every day scenes in such an unpretentious, and often humorous way...crumpled napkins and plates about to fall off table edges abound. Also, there is so much symbolism in their paintings. Whole narratives unravel as you study the compositions."

In *As Life Happens* Keirce has deftly painted what feelings look like. Her colors sing and her realism pops. To her, creating art is the ability to evoke emotions by the viewer. This is done with smoke and mirrors, parlor tricks and a "Trompe L'Oeil" approach.

*Charcuterie* depicts an old world feel using classical realism techniques and saturated colors. Here one wants to set aright the serving plates as they seem to have been haphazardly placed on the table, perhaps while also enjoying a small tasting. In *Happy Hour* you will notice how the diffused lighting, the reflective counters, the warmth of the brick walls and the hanging memorabilia feel. Then you remember the fun times you had in similar locations.

Keirce also includes in this exhibit state fair pieces that are a modern take on classic memories in countless family photo albums. All the fair scenes were captured at twilight when the sky turns that vibrant blue before going dark.

On Saturday April 7 from 11AM-4PM and on Sunday, the 8th from 1-4PM the artist will conduct an interactive painting demonstration at the gallery. Keirce will invite guests to try their hand at finishing some paintings she has started. Event is free and open to the public.