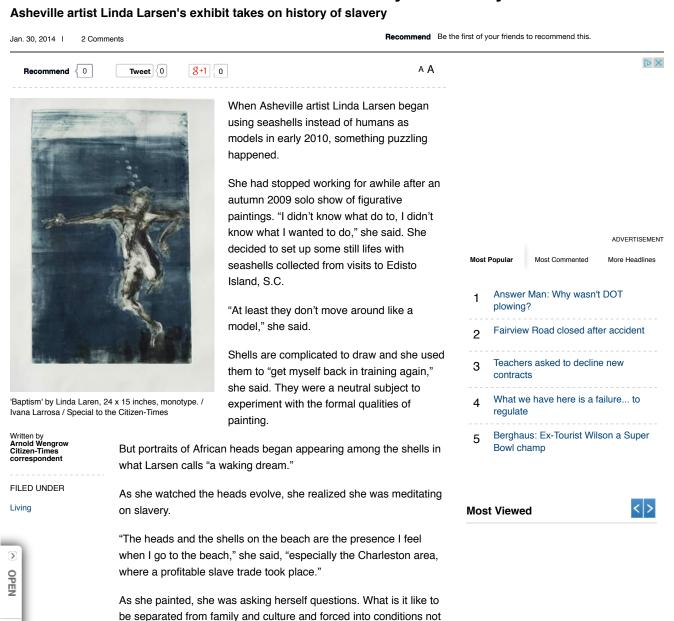


Asheville artist's exhibit takes on history of slavery



fit for an animal? What would it be like to be denied education and

access to the privileges that I take for granted?

Overturned school bus witness

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'My Inheritance' by Linda Larsen, 19 by 14 inches, oil on canvas. / Ivana Larrosa / Special to the Citizen-Times

"In a broad sense we are all in bondage to enslaved ways of thinking and reacting," Larsen said, "and maybe this is our common humanity. But none of us white people were actually physically enslaved, and that's a big difference and something I wanted to better understand."

Larsen's three-year meditation and questioning is now coming together in a new set of paintings she calls "Sights Unseen."
The exhibition opens Saturday at the Flood Gallery Fine Arts Center in the River Arts District.

Opening a conversation about race

Larsen acknowledges she was uncomfortable as a white artist responding to the experience of black people. She took some of the images she had started to her friend Deborah "Dee" James, a professor of literature and language at UNC Asheville. She had taken a seminar on Toni Morrison with James in 2004.

recounts scene

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