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The City of Charleston Office of Cultural Affairs presents
The Spirit of Place: Traditions of the Agrarian Home in Barbados and the Lowcountry
An Exhibition at the City Gallery at Waterfront Park

Charleston, S.C. – The City of Charleston Office of Cultural Affairs presents *The Spirit of Place: Traditions of the Agrarian Home in Barbados and the Lowcountry*, exploring perspectives on New World building traditions and typographies common to the Caribbean and the Southeastern United States. This curated exhibition brings together artists' perspectives on the architecture of Barbados and the Sea Islands of the Carolinas and features the art of photographers Bob Kiss and Julia Cart. Combined with documentation of the history of these building types from the Avery Research Center for African American History and The Slave Dwelling Project, organized by Joseph McGill, Jr., Field Officer with the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the exhibition examines the nature of house and home. Central to the exhibit is a model of a Barbadian chattel house, constructed in partnership with the American College of the Building Arts. Chattel houses, designed to be moved, allowed itinerant workers to relocate between different plantations and farms on Barbados according to the seasonal need, availability of work, or even if a dispute with their employer warranted it. Traditionally made of wood and assembled without nails, a chattel house could be folded in upon itself and then carted to its next destination. The exhibition, which will run at the City Gallery at Waterfront Park from September 7 through October 6, 2013, will feature the work of Barbadian Bob Kiss and Charlestonian Julia Cart, as well as photos from the Avery Research Center archives by Robert Yellin and by Terry James of the Slave Dwelling Project.

About the Artist: **Bob Kiss** began photographing in 1961 and was formally trained in the Rochester Institute of Technology five year BS/MS program. Originally based in his Manhattan advertising and fashion photography studio, he also studied filmmaking at New York University and directing at Masterworks Laboratory Theater. After 20 years in the fashion fast lanes of Paris, Munich, Milan, London, Los Angeles, Rio, and Sao Paulo he settled in Barbados in 1993 where he continues his advertising and fine art photography. Shows of his fine art photographs have appeared at Queen's Park Gallery, Zemicon, Tides, The Gallery of Caribbean Art, Lancaster Gallery, Aweipo, On The Wall Gallery, The University of Maine Gallery, as well as the Alan Klotz Gallery in New York City. His photographs appeared in the Andy Warhol retrospective which opened at the Whitney in Manhattan and toured the world. One of his photographs of Andy Warhol is in the Andy Warhol Museum in Pittsburgh. His work is in private and institutional collections on three continents. For the last 12 years he

has also been making platinum-palladium, cyanotype, and salt prints. His book projects include fine art black-and-white photographs of Florence and Tuscany and BARBADOS CHATTEL HOUSES, which was launched in November, 2011. His awards include winning Gold for the 2005 ADDY best regional advertising photograph. A mural size print of his Chattel photo, "Stormy Sky", represents Barbados at the new corporate headquarters of Louis Vuitton in Sao Paulo, Brazil. His latest show, Beautiful People of the 80s, showed at Cin Cin by the Sea, Barbados, from February to June 2013.

About the Artist: Julia Cart is a self-taught photographer who studied art and French at UNC-Greensboro, theatre arts at Goddard College in Vermont, and mime, movement and theatre at L'École Jacques LeCoq in Paris. Her interest in large format film photography began when she first attended ZONE VI workshops in Putney, Vermont. She returned there each summer through 1992, where her mentor was Fred Picker, a protégé of Ansel Adams. Beginning in 1990, she began her photographic journey in historic preservation and documentation, concentrating on the sea islands, back roads and small towns of South Carolina. Working with grants from the SC Arts Commission, she taught workshops and had exhibits in the midlands and upstate. Her early childhood in Charleston and the Peace Corps experience fueled her interest in documenting the Gullah culture: its cultural, historic and artistic influence in the Lowcountry. A collection of these images was published by Arcadia Press in 2000, titled AND I'M GLAD: An Oral History of Edisto Island, which she co-authored with historian and poet Nick Lindsay. Cart works exclusively in black and white film, large format photography. In her darkroom, she develops and prints her work using both contemporary and antique printing processes. Her work is in corporate and private collections both in the U.S. and abroad, as well as in the permanent collections of the Gibbes Museum and the American Embassy in Sierra Leone, West Africa.

The City Gallery at Waterfront Park, owned by the City of Charleston and operated by the City of Charleston Office of Cultural Affairs, is a tangible resource and reliable venue for displaying the finest contemporary art from local, regional, national and international artists, stimulating discussion and dialogue among audiences. In the process, those who visit the City Gallery at Waterfront Park will be educated, enlightened and inspired by their experiences in this cultural space. The City Gallery provides access to the visual arts for everyone in Charleston, S.C., visitors and residents alike, by offering exhibits that are all admission-free. The City Gallery is located at 34 Prioleau St. in downtown Charleston, S.C., and gallery hours of operation are Tuesday through Friday, 10 am. until 6 pm., Saturday and Sunday, noon until 5 pm.

For more information, visit www.citygalleryatwaterfrontpark.com.

FOR MORE INFO:

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