

Furman University in Greenville, SC

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in the shoes of the creation and make them believable and as tangible as possible to the viewer.”

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Institutional Gallery listings, contact Marta Lanier, Art Program Specialist by calling 864/294-2995 or e-mail to (marta.lanier@furman.edu).

West Main Artists Co-op in Spartanburg, SC, Features Works by Annette Giaco and Beth Regula

West Main Artists Co-op in Spartanburg, SC, will present *Sins & Virtues*, a collection of eight sculptures and eight large canvases, by Annette Giaco and Beth Regula, which explore the Seven Deadly Sins and Seven Virtues, from Oct. 2 - 31, 2018. A reception will be held on Oct. 6, from 6-8pm. The artists will host a discussion about their work at 7pm. Another reception will be held during the city's monthly ArtWalk on Oct. 18, from 5-9pm.

This exhibition will undoubtedly be one its most extensive and thought-provoking exhibits in the Co-op's history, the creations of two members, who based their 3-D and 2-D artwork on the Seven Deadly Sins and the corresponding Seven Virtues.

Annette Giaco will depict the seven sins on large canvases and eighth piece on board. In response, Beth Regula will depict the corresponding virtues in mixed-media sculptures.

The Seven Deadly Sins - lust, gluttony, greed, sloth, wrath, envy and pride - have long been used by the Christian church as the core sins to be avoided at all costs. Their history - with some variations - can be traced to ancient Greece and the philosopher Aristotle (384-322 BC). The current list was devised by Pope Gregory I in 590 AD. The list gained widespread acceptance at the hand of the Italian poet Dante (1265-1321 AD) in his literary work *Purgatorio*. Since then, it has withstood the test of time and has been the basis for many works of art and Christian teachings, including the popular horror/drama movie "Seven" (1995) and referenced by modern-day ministers, such as Billy Graham.

In contrast and in opposition to the Seven Deadly Sins are the Seven Virtues - chastity, temperance, charity, diligence, patience, kindness and humility. These virtues also have their roots in ancient Greek philosophers, Aristotle and Plato, however, the original virtues and subsequent variations were slightly different with strong religious aspects. They gained widespread acceptance when Christian governor Aurelius Clemens Prudentius published his epic poem *Psychomachia*, prior to his death in 410 AD. After Pope Gregory established the Seven Deadly Sins, today's version of the Seven Virtues was universally adopted.

As artists, Giaco and Regula were inspired by the book *Tribe*, by Sebastian Junger. "In his introduction, Junger talked about what we could learn from tribal societies about belonging, loyalty, and the meaning of our existence," Giaco said. "He went on to say, 'Modern society has perfected the art of making people not feel necessary.' The human need for more of everything at the expense of all that matters prompted me to use the deadly sins to illustrate the unraveling of common human decency and intelligence. The constant bombardment of opinions on Facebook about politics, religion, gun control, abortion, race, gender, whatever, also had a lot to do with the exhibition concept. Everyone has a right to an opinion on these important issues, but disagree with anyone, no matter how founded in fact, and out come the pitchforks and torches.

"My representations of the seven deadly sins are not meant to preach religious values," Giaco continued. "The church used these symbols and the threat of hell to keep an illiterate and superstitious public under control. My version of the sins is a statement about the loss of intellectualism and the growth of ignorance fueled by our quest for excess in all things. Recent events have only thrown more fuel on that fire by granting a kind of 'permission' to vocalize hate or become violent. The best description of us that I have heard is a 'culture of



Work by Annette Giaco

cruelty.' We all have the capacity for goodness, but our tribal disconnect coupled with the immediacy of technology has created a monster feeding on misinformation. Everyone thinks their 'side' is the only 'side.' There isn't enough civil dialog or exchange of facts with the hope that we may change the climate with more understanding and intelligent thought. We have become morally confused."

Each of Giaco's paintings represent one of the deadly sins. All of the oversize canvases are stained with a color that is associated with a sin. In keeping with her signature style of distortion, Giaco created message-based works of art that ignite the imagination, such as her take on greed, which is titled *Never Enough*. Here she divided her canvas horizontally, with an envious yellow over hellish red. In the depths of hell, pallid arms reach upward into the void, only to receive a fat bullfrog leaping stupidly to its doom. This body of work was done on raw canvas using acrylic stain.

"My reaction, as an artist when confronted with something I cannot understand is to express my thoughts about what I am feeling in a visual way," Regula said. "The works in this exhibit are my personal attempt of understanding society and my place in it. Although I could despair about what I feel we are becoming and what the future generations will inherit, it is not a natural feeling for me but hope is. For every sin of man there can be a corresponding virtue. The virtues of kindness, chastity, temperance, diligence, forgiveness, humility and charity. Every generation has probably thought the same about what is happening to their world but those with vision and hope for the future are the ones to move it forward. We have to find the right balance. Our leaders of the future need to have a sense of virtues/sins as they guide the citizens of tomorrow. Whether we like it or not, we are on the planet together and for that reason alone we are a tribe that must learn to exist together. We have to talk with each other, listen to each other, care for each other, use technology as an aide, and take care of the planet Earth. This exhibit is an exhibit of extremes. Mankind is not all bad or all good. My representations of virtues is an idealistic view. Somewhere in the middle is where I like to think most of us live."

Regula is renowned for her mixed-media sculptures that tell complex stories. Characteristically, they are often lyrical, intricate, colorful, organic, and optimistic. To illustrate her counterpoint to lust, she created a large mixed media disk that is both worldly and intimate. In *Forsaking All Others*, a virginal bride and groom stand at an earthy altar, surrounded by blooming flowers and

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ARTISTS TEACHING : TEACHING ARTISTS DEPARTMENT OF ART FACULTY EXHIBITION

Lee Gallery Sept. 28–Nov. 7 M–Th. 8 a.m.–4:30 p.m.

Reception F, Sept. 28 6–8 p.m.

Artist Talks

M, Oct. 15 2:30–3:30 p.m. David Detrich, David Donar, Denise Woodward-Detrich

Th, Oct. 25 2:30–3:30 p.m. Deighton Abrams, Daniel Bare, Valerie Zimany

T, Oct. 16 2:30–3:30 p.m. Christina Hung, Joey Manson, Todd McDonald, Kathleen Thum, Anderson Wrangle

CLEMSON VISUAL ARTS



THERE'S A FINE LINE BETWEEN PRICELESS AND WORTHLESS.



Artist Diane Falkenhagen's Texas studio — destroyed by flooding during Hurricane Ike, 2008

What would you do if you lost your work, your tools, your images, and a lot more to a flood? Metalsmith Diane Falkenhagen knows what five feet of contaminated saltwater can do to a jewelry studio. CERF+ can help you learn how to protect your career from crossing that fine line.

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