

Artists Collective | Spartanburg, SC, Features Works by Judy Martin and Thomas Zumbach

Artists Collective | Spartanburg in Spartanburg, SC, will present *Difference in Glass*, featuring works by Judy Martin and Thomas Zumbach, on view in Gallery III, from Nov. 2 - 27, 2021.

A veteran fused glass artist and a relative newcomer to the medium will present a joint exhibition. "We want people to see the different things that can be made with glass fusing – the different shapes, colors and ideas," says Judy Martin, whose years of fused glass work "morphed" from her jewelry making, sculptures to painting on glass.

Martin encouraged Thomas Zumbach, who is new to the art of fused glass, to do the joint exhibition. "I enjoy encouraging newer Artists Collective members to show their work in the galleries, so I asked Tom to share a gallery with me to display some of my new work and his emerging work for a sort of a one-on-one showing," she says, adding that the show will highlight "a veteran glass fuser wanting to show a new path and a 'newbie' wanting to show a new perspective of what can be made with glass.

"People will see the movement in colored glass, nature and abstract all made with glass," Martin continues. "This is showing two different glass artists, one new and one which has been at it for years. The different ways they think of making art from a piece of glass. We all have our own ideas and thoughts of how we want to do something and how we want it to come out."



Work by Thomas Zumbach

For Martin, she looks for nature, colors, designs "and anything that makes me feel good" to create her fused glass works. "I have always enjoyed being outside, even if it is to weed the flowers because I always see something different and new. I look at the sky daily to see the colors, formation of the clouds or to see dark rain clouds. I have found this is the hardest art that I have tried, but I find it rewarding at the same time. I want you to smile and/or think when you see any of my fused glass pieces. I am not going to tell people what I see in what I make – it is for the observer to look, study, examine and think what they see in the piece."

Zumbach took several glass classes from Martin at a time when his craft was concentrated on woodworking. "For 30 years I worked in precision grinding and my woodworking career overlapped. I built handmade furniture and started traveling to



Work by Judy Martin

major art shows with my wood turned art," he says.

After moving to Greer, SC, from the Milwaukee area in 1996, Zumbach started a full-time woodworking business and traveled from Michigan to Florida and places in between displaying at art shows. "I became interested in fused glass while working in Tryon, N.C., for 10 years. In 2014, I took classes from Judy Martin and started my new journey with color and texture that weren't brown, as wood," says Zumbach, a member of the Southern Highlands Craft Guild and the American Association of Woodturners. He joined the Artists Collective | Spartanburg about nine months ago.

"My new journey has been extremely satisfying for me," he says. "Using learned techniques, I am trying to speak with my own voice and inspire others to appreciate the art form the way I do. This exhibit is my 'coming out party,' and hopefully the public will find what I make in my new path."

Thirty works will be in the exhibition and will be offered for sale; prices range from \$25 to \$500.

"We both feel excited for being members of the Artists Collective | Spartanburg, which gives us a place to display on a regular basis," says Martin, who has been a member for four years. "We both truly enjoy being members for the diverse amount of information that can come from the various members. If you talk and listen to others, you are able to get ideas to incorporate into your own art."

The Artists Collective | Spartanburg, is located on W. Main Street, provides a forum and home for the arts and creative population of Spartanburg, providing facilities and services to artist members for exhibits, performances and creation.

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings or visit ([artistcollectivespartanburg.org](http://artistscollectivespartanburg.org)).

Artists Collective | Spartanburg, SC, Features Works by Chuck Reback

Artists Collective | Spartanburg in Spartanburg, SC, will present *Asylum Images*, featuring photographs by Chuck Reback, on view in Gallery II, from Nov. 2 - 27, 2021. A reception will be held on Nov. 18, from 5-9pm, during the third Thursday for ArtWalk Spartanburg

Spartanburg photographer Chuck Reback always had an affinity for horror movies – and abandoned buildings – so when he had the opportunity to photograph inside the now-dilapidated Trans-Allegheny Lunatic Asylum in Weston, WV, he jumped at the chance.

Six years and three trips later, the results are his upcoming solo exhibition. The building was a state-run, Victorian-era mental hospital that was used up until 1994. The building now is privately owned and open for tours. The site has a lot of deferred maintenance and is deteriorating rapidly.



Work by Chuck Reback

Reback, a self-taught photographer and artist originally from New York City who grew up in Massachusetts, first photographed in the building in 2015, when an extra day at a landscape photography workshop gave him the opportunity to tour the asylum and take a few shots along the way.

continued above on next column to the right

"I then heard about a two- to three-day photo workshop in the asylum scheduled for April 2020. This would be a different type of workshop for me – the organizers arranged for two models, lighting and props. I had never shot models before, and seldom photograph people, so it sounded like a good learning opportunity in a unique setting," he says. The COVID-19 pandemic forced the shoot to be rescheduled to November 2020, and Reback returned in July 2021 for the opportunity for more photos.

Reback found the asylum to be just what you'd expect – cold, damp and filthy – and he hopes the visitors to the exhibition will view it in much the same way. "Decay, spookiness, eerie, haunted ... hopelessness," he says of what he wants the photos to convey.

"The models were the real troopers. They were usually barefoot with little, if any, clothing," he says. "It was a little spooky, but mostly just depressing to think of all the patients that went through there over the course of 100-plus years and all of the treatments they received - electroshock, ice baths, straightjackets, confinement and more."

The process of photographing the asylum and assembling the exhibit have been rewarding for Reback. "This is my first solo show and the first where I have assembled a strong theme. Hopefully, it will encourage some more people to visit the asylum. In some images, I was trying to convey how mysterious the brain can be - what are the subjects thinking, why are they doing what they are doing? The difference between the interior of the asylum and the mind and the world beyond.

"This exhibit has been a very different exhibit for me," he continues. "In addition to being my first solo exhibition, the subject matter was a departure from my usual subject matter. I primarily photograph land-



Work by Chuck Reback

scapes and wildlife. I seldom work indoors, rarely photograph people and never before had worked with models. Hopefully, viewing this exhibit will challenge the audience much as creating it challenged me."

Reback, a retired economics professor at the University of South Carolina Upstate, says, "The Artists Collective | Spartanburg has pushed me artistically. It has introduced me to a lot of artists I would not have met otherwise." He has been a member since 2017.

The Artists Collective | Spartanburg, is located on W. Main Street, provides a forum and home for the arts and creative population of Spartanburg, providing facilities and services to artist members for exhibits, performances and creation.

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings or visit ([artistcollectivespartanburg.org](http://artistscollectivespartanburg.org)).

Artists Collective | Spartanburg in Spartanburg, SC, is Presenting Holiday Artisan Market

Artists Collective | Spartanburg in Spartanburg, SC, is presenting its 2021 Holiday Artisan Market, on view through Dec. 24, 2021, featuring locally made art specially curated for gift giving.

The market will be open 10am to 4pm, Tuesday through Saturday (closed on Thanksgiving) and will remain open until 9pm for Spartanburg ArtWalk receptions on Thursday, Nov. 18, and Thursday, Dec. 16. Many of the participating artists will be present during the ArtWalk reception, from 5 to 9pm, and will be available to talk about their art with guests. Guests will be required to wear face masks and to be socially distant.

Works offered for viewing and purchase include jewelry, pottery, textiles, fused glass, art photography, miniatures, paintings (oil, watercolor, acrylic), mixed media, drawings, decorative ceramics, cards and ornaments. Each item included in the market is handcrafted by one of the 34 participating Collective members and will be available for purchase, with prices ranging from under \$5 to more than \$1,000.



Works by Rosemary McLeod

coffee cup, woolen scarf, necklace, earrings, serving dish, painting or print. Shopping at the Collective also bolsters the local economy. Everything that we sell is made by our members who live in Spartanburg and surrounding counties."

As items are sold throughout the market, more art will be added to the display inventory. "Our artists are well prepared for this event," says Nancy Williamson, a member of the market committee. "We have stocked up on some of the items that we believe will be popular this year. We encourage people to visit several times because there will always be something new on the tables."

Patrons also will be able to register for door prizes of gift certificates redeemable for merchandise at the Collective.

Participating artists are: Chuck Bishop, Tab Blankenship, Wadi Cantrell, Ariella Carver, Amanda Compton, Robyn Crawford, Patrick DeCrane, Andrew Donnan, Addam Duncan, Pat Edwards, Marc Fedalei, Ashley Gary, Hannah Henderson, Thomas Koenig, Elliott Leader, John Lever, Judy Martin, Jessica Massey, Janis M. McElligott, Rosemary McLeod, Sydney McMath, Karin Patrick, Lady Pluto, Beth Regula, Dave Sawyer, Jonathan Swift, Brandi Tucker, Mary Verrandeaux, Sally Weber, Jim Weber, Joan Wheatley, Nancy Williamson, Patty Wright and Tom Zumbach

continued on Page 11