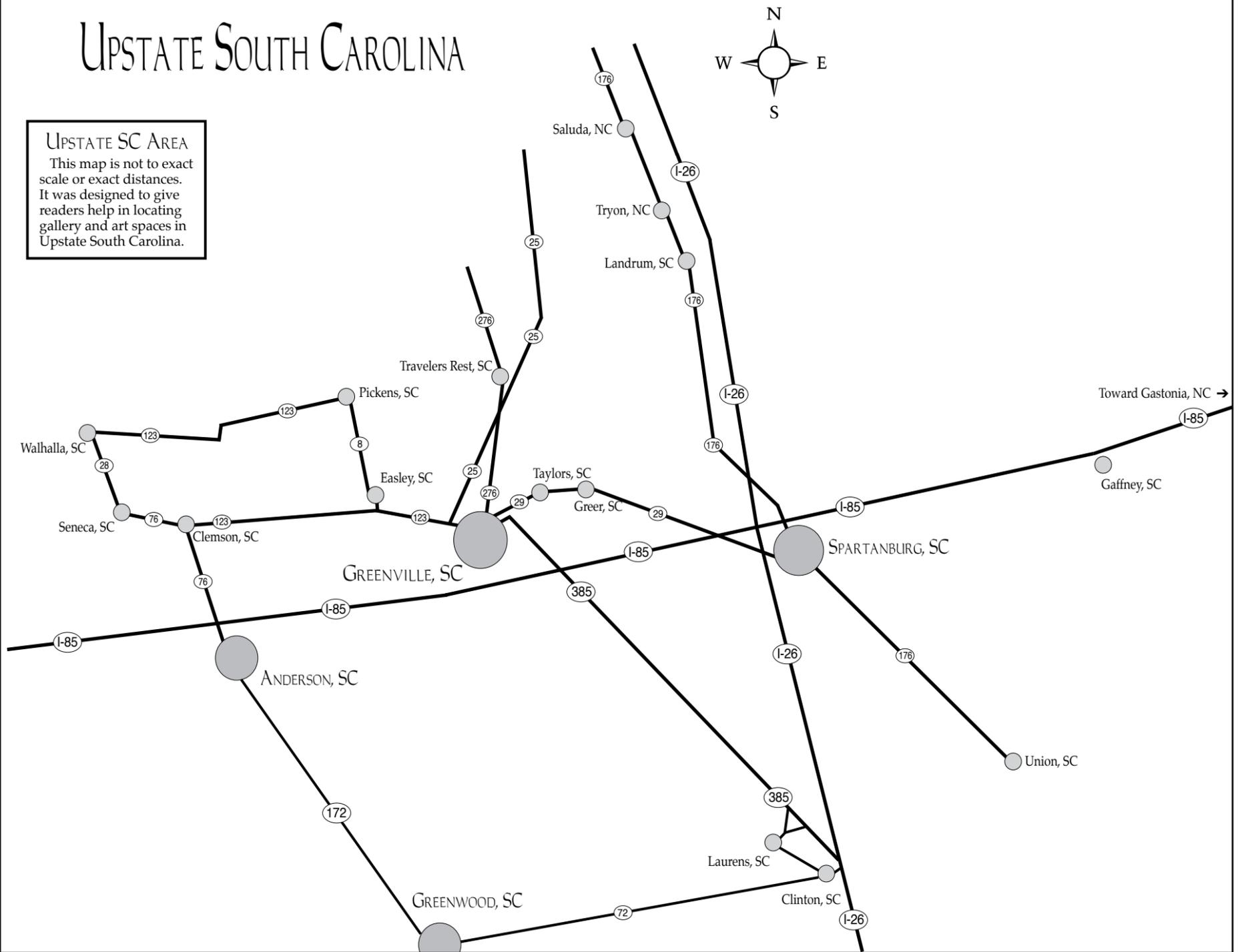


UPSTATE SOUTH CAROLINA

UPSTATE SC AREA

This map is not to exact scale or exact distances. It was designed to give readers help in locating gallery and art spaces in Upstate South Carolina.



Furman University in Greenville, SC, Offers Works by the Late Matthew C. Baumgardner



Matthew Baumgardner in his Travelers Rest Studio, 2010. Photo by Tim Barnwell Photography courtesy of the Baumgardner Estate. Copyright Matthew Baumgardner Estate.

Furman University in Greenville, SC, will present *Matthew Baumgardner: Grids and Glyphs*, featuring paintings, sculptures, notes, journals and other artifacts, celebrating the life and work of visual artist Matthew C. Baumgardner (1955-2018), presented by the Furman University Department of Art, on view in the Thompson Gallery of the Roe Art Building, from Jan. 19 through Feb. 19, 2021.

As the campus remains closed to the public due to COVID-19 protocols, in-person viewing of the exhibition is limited to Furman students, faculty and staff. However, the online Zoom exhibition opening, which takes place Thursday, Jan. 28, from 6:30-7:30pm, is free and open to the public. RSVP by e-mail to the Furman Department of Art at (furmanart@furman.edu) to obtain a Zoom link. Installation images and video of Baumgardner's work

in *Grids and Glyphs* will be available online at (<https://baumgardnerarchives.com/>) by late January 2021

Curated and organized by Furman art students, the exhibition, *Matthew Baumgardner: Grids and Glyphs*, is the culmination of the Curatorial Issues and Practices class taught by Diane Fischer, adjunct professor of art history, and marks the second exhibition of Baumgardner's work hosted at Furman.

The show explores Baumgardner's creative process and inner spirit through a selection of works and ephemera spanning the artist's career from 1977-2018, and includes 17 paintings, sculptures, notes, journals and materials from his Travelers Rest studio.

Central to the exhibition are paintings rendered on birch plywood with Baum-

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gardner's signature medium – "mud" – a thick, paint-like paste created with gypsum and powdered pigments he applied to surfaces in multiple layers of grids and glyphs. This technique and the series of paintings born from it won him a Visual Arts Fellowship in Painting by the National Endowment for the Arts in 1993.

For the Jan. 28, Zoom opening, Furman's Sarah Archino, associate professor of art history, and Fischer will give context for the exhibition, followed by students who appear in pre-recorded mini-presentations, including a video walk-through of the gallery, a chronological study of Baumgardner's work, a discussion of a special display, and explanations of artifacts from the artist's estate. A live Q&A will follow the student presentations.

One of the students integral to the exhibition is Furman senior Brandon Barney, an art major from Marietta, SC. He said the hands-on experience of curating and organizing the exhibition never felt like a typical class, but rather, a vocation.



"Coral Reef," 2016, golden acrylic products, graphite, powder pigments, gypsum, Lascaux varnish on canvas over luan, 48 x 48 inches. Copyright Matthew Baumgardner Estate.

"There wasn't a cookie cutter format that you could expect from the work or the assignments during the course," he said. "It forced you to be prepared to do anything at any time for the sake of the team. We all learned how to work with



"Composition #240," 1980, acrylic and fluorescent pigment on Masonite, 31.75 x 23.74 inches. Copyright Matthew Baumgardner Estate.

each other extremely well, and by the end of the whole process, we all seemed to move and work as one unit."

Other student curators for *Grids and Glyphs* include: Mercy Fisher '21 (Pottsville, PA), Rebecca Fulford '21 (Miami Beach, FL), Gracey Greco '21 (Dublin, Ireland), Micaela Hogan '21 (San Antonio, TX), Lily Russell '22 (Elon, NC), Sophia Scheibeler '21 (Port Washington, NY) and Adare Taylor '22 (Berwyn, PA).

Fischer, former chief curator of the Allentown Art Museum (Pennsylvania), joined the Furman faculty in August 2020. She said the class represented a "rare opportunity" for students to get a real-world understanding of the curatorial side of art and much more.

"They learned teamwork and transferable skills – not just how to organize an exhibition, but skills like project management, drafting and editing, connoisseurship, marketing, and creating presentations," Fischer said. "This class has perhaps been the most amazing experience in teaching I've ever had."

Born in Ohio in 1955, Baumgardner

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