

Hampton County Art Council in Hampton, SC, Features Works by Antauwn Wade

The Hampton County Art Council in Hampton, SC, will present *Art for Grandma Dove*, featuring works by Antauwn Wade, of Varnville, SC, on view in the new Palmetto Gallery, located in the Palmetto Theater, from Dec. 5 through Mar. 1, 2021. A reception will be held on Dec. 5, beginning at 5pm, as a part of the Arts Council's Hometown Christmas Celebration. Following that, it will be open by appointment, Tue.-Fri.

A new gallery space is opening in rural Hampton County, inside the historic Palmetto Theater. Built in 1946, the Palmetto is a stunning example of an intact Art Deco-influenced, Art Moderne theater built for a rural southern town during the mid-twentieth century.

The neon-lit marquee and facade are almost entirely original, and the interior retains many of its original Art Deco influences. The Palmetto Theater was listed in the National Register by the National Park Service on October 9, 2012.

Since that time, many repairs have been made to restore the interior and upgrade the facilities. Fiber internet has been installed with speeds of up to 1 gig for special events. Most significantly, the old wallpaper installed in the 1990's has been removed and the lobby has been lovingly remade into a beautiful and intimate gallery space. The theater beyond, with 212 seats, remains a venue for stage performances and films.

The purpose of this smaller gallery space is to give emerging local artists the experience of exhibiting their work in a familiar and accessible setting, says interim Arts Director for Hampton County, Heather Bruemmer.

Local artist, Antauwn Wade, is the first artist to display work in the space. In addition to his paintings, Wade will



The Palmetto Theater

also debut a piano he painted. The piano, along with 9 others painted by other artists and donated by Fox Music House in North Charleston, will be included in a street piano project in Hampton planned to launch in Spring 2021. Wade's design choice for the piano led to a discussion which ultimately led to the name of this exhibit. During a discussion about his plans for the piano with Bruemmer, Wade cited the 1929 painting of a pipe by surrealist painter René Magritte, *The Treachery of Images*, with its famous caption "Ceci n'est pas une pipe." French for "This is not a pipe." According to Wade "People will look at this and see a piano, but it's not a piano. It's a labor of love and a work art for my Grandma Dove."

Wade had a love of art and drawing from a young age, but did not begin his

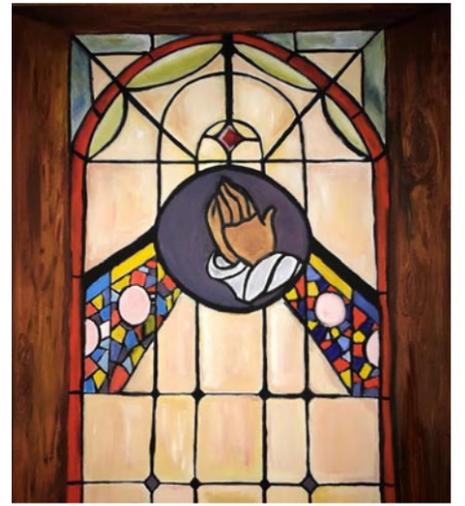
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formal study of art until 2018 when his beloved grandmother passed away. He took his first painting class at the suggestion of someone who was helping him work through his grief and depression. He felt the transformational power of his creative expression and was instantly hooked. He is now a fine art major and student professor assistant of art at USC Aiken.

Wade's work involves a lot of church and religious imagery, a reflection of the faith he learned from his grandmother. At the beginning of the current pandemic, Wade received a great deal of media attention for his practice of painting guardian angels on the windows of "essential" businesses, as a way to express his gratitude to essential workers. His paintings tell the story of a young man raised in the church.

Admission is free. Additional evening and weekend open house dates will be posted on the arts council website.

For further information check our



Work by Antauwn Wade

SC Institutional Gallery listings, call the Council at 803/842-9842 or visit (www.HamptonCountyArts.org).

Artists Collective | Spartanburg, SC, Features Works by Pete Harding

The Artists Collective | Spartanburg in Spartanburg, SC, will present *Feathers*, featuring works by Spartanburg artist Pete Harding, featuring his extensive photography and drawing exhibition of birds, on view through Dec. 1 - 26, 2020.

In the interest of public safety, patrons are required to wear face masks and stay socially distant from each other. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the gallery will not have a reception for this exhibition. The Collective is one of Spartanburg's leading art centers with three galleries, 30 studios, and more than 50 members.

"Pete's work is so beautiful, especially if you are a bird lover," Collective Vice Chair Nancy Williamson said. "He has a wonderful reputation for top-quality photography, and now, we're seeing that he is gifted in drawing as well. As a creative professional, Pete is top notch. He takes bird watching to the next level."



Work by Pete Harding

"For years I have been an avid bird lover and began to photograph them a few years ago," Harding said. "Last year, not content to just photograph, I began to draw birds using my photographs as a reference — all varieties, including coastal wading birds, raptors, and backyard songbirds. I want

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