

Artists Collective | Spartanburg

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“Some of our artists have wanted to do this so they can have more room in their studios to make more art,” Martin continues. “Three-D artists are always experimenting with new ways of doing something in their medium. Some things are pleasant surprises, but with experimentation there is always a learning curve and those pieces are good but not up to what is wanted by the artist.”

“Seeing newer artists such as Tom Zumbach starting out in a new medium, fused glass, and wanting to try everything in glass, he will have some that he doesn’t care for, for example,” she adds. “As a veteran glass artist, there are many pieces I have kept for looking back on the journey of 15 years, and now is the time to make more room.”

Other artists who will have works on display and for sale include: Sydney McMath (painting), Patrick DeCrane (painting, drawing), Chuck Reback (photography), Jim Weber (pottery), Janice McElligott (painting), Nancy Williamson (pottery), Chuck Bishop (pottery), Judy Martin (glass), Sally Weber (clay), Ari Carver (pottery), Rosemary McLeod (jewelry), Joan Wheatley (clay), Mary Verandeaux (painting, fused glass) and Patty Wright (photography).

“Many of our artists have been at work in their medium for years,” Martin



Work by Joan Wheatley

says. “Jim Weber has 50 years under his belt making pottery. Chuck Reback has years taking pictures. There are some artists that have changed or added a medium to their artwork. Mary Verandeaux is an accomplished painter and is now adding fused glass.”

“We hope people will get some joy from this show and will take some of that joy home with them to enjoy each day,” she adds.

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Artists Collective | Spartanburg in SC Features Works by the Late Roderice Cardell

Artists Collective | Spartanburg in SC is presenting *The MADDARTIST: Roderice Cardell*, on view in the Collective’s Solomon Gallery, through Feb. 26, 2022. During the Feb. 17 Spartanburg ArtWalk, members of Cardell’s band will perform from 8-10pm. for visitors to the gallery.

Roderice Cardell, who died in January 2021 at the age of 33, left behind him a legacy through his music, his art and, most importantly, his love of his community and his commitment to making it a better place. Nearly 100 of Cardell’s paintings – many never before seen by the public – will be displayed in this exhibition.

Cardell’s works – neo-expressionist abstract paintings done on canvas and wood – will be offered for sale, with the proceeds going to Cardell’s family foundation to help underprivileged children in the Upstate.

“When Rod left us, he left behind over 80 pieces of art at the Artists Collective,” says Beth Regula, chair of the Collective’s board. Cardell was a member of the Collective, where he had a studio.



Photo of Roderice Cardell

as an artist was prolific, talented and passionate,” Regula says. “He cared deeply that people saw his work and respected him and his work. He wanted to show it and share it. As a person, Rod was kind, compassionate, and willing to help others. He saw and felt that injustice existed and was willing to speak up and show up to try to make the world a better place.”

Cardell’s mother, Tonya Gilliam, says her son’s body of work is important “because he chose to take his frustrations and emotions out on his pieces. He expressed himself and encouraged others, especially the youth that struggled with anxiety and mental hurdles, to have a positive outlet by utilizing the canvas. That’s why his slogan was ‘turning chaos into beauty.’”

Gilliam says visitors to the gallery should see that his art has deep meaning. “If you look closely at some of his pieces, you will see messages, words or the mention of his relationship with God. You will see his life as it evolved from the beginning, where he used eyes in a lot in his work, to the times of protesting, love and peace.”

“What I want people to know about my son and his art is that he was passionate in everything he did,” continues Gilliam, who says when her son first began painting, she thought it was just a hobby but saw it grow as he used it after recovering from a near-death experience in a motorcycle accident. “He said that when he painted – when he created – it allowed him to express himself and be free from

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Work by Roderice Cardell

“We locked the works away until the family was ready to decide what to do with them,” Regula continues. “Only a few members of the Collective and his family have seen this work since last January. Since then, we have been working with the family to bring the work back into our largest gallery so that the community could once again see his work.”

“Rod – known as MADDARTIST –

anxiety and depression.

“From acting in stage plays, singing, dancing and the paintings, not to mention he loved his community, he cared for others and was actively helping them while struggling himself,” she continues. “He lived life to its fullest. He lived life the way he wanted to – unapologetically.”

“I absolutely love his art. He left us all a piece of him in his work. I can feel his energy and awe him in every piece. I can go downtown Spartanburg and he’s everywhere. I’m very proud of him,” Gilliam adds.

Cardell, a native of Spartanburg and graduate of Winthrop University, was outspoken about issues he saw in his home community and the changes he sought in improving it. He provided a voice for Black artists and community members and was an active voice in conversations on equality and access. In 2019, he helped orchestrate the painting of the Black Lives Matter mural on West Broad Street in downtown Spartanburg. It was the site of an impromptu memorial when the community learned of his death.

Cardell once said, “As people, we have to look and see that our color palette has more colors than just one, not just ones that match our skin tones.”

“Roderice believed art could change people,” Spartanburg Councilwoman Meghan Smith said shortly after his death. “He lived that passion. He was an example of channeling hurt and frustration into a craft to create a better world. He has left a real gift.”

Regula says, “Rod was an exceptional artist and a well-loved member of the Artists Collective. Through this exhibition, we want to honor him as an artist and give the community an opportunity to see a large body of his work displayed in our Solomon Gallery.

“Rod in many ways was a bridge between the different communities of Spartanburg,” she continues. “He worked with children, was a performer, and was passionate about social justice. He spoke up and showed up. I remember when we interviewed him for membership in the

Arts Council of York County in Rock Hill, SC, Features Works by Jo-Ann Morgan and Renee Cloud

The Arts Council of York County in Rock Hill, SC, will present two new exhibits including: *Quilt Memorials: Saying Their Names in Fabric*, featuring works by Jo-Ann Morgan, on view in the Dalton Gallery, and *Last Looks*, featuring works by Renee Cloud, on view in the Perimeter Gallery. Both exhibits will be on view from Feb. 3 through Mar. 5, 2022. A reception will be held on Feb. 17, from 5:30-7:30pm, with remarks by Jo-Ann Morgan with Mike Gentry at 6:15pm.

During a time of political and cultural unrest, Jo-Ann Morgan turned to quilt making, a medium that is familiar, comforting, and traditional, through which she was able to make strong, even provocative, statements in an approachable way. Crafting stories through quilts, Morgan continues the tradition of representing pivotal moments of the African American experience.

Morgan is Professor Emeritus of African American Studies and Art History at Western Illinois University, and author of *The Black Arts Movement and the Black Panther Party in American Visual Culture* (Routledge, 2019). Her book *Uncle Tom’s Cabin as Visual Culture* won the prestigious Seaborg Award for Civil War Scholarship in 2008.

On view in the Perimeter Gallery is the exhibit, *Last Looks*, featuring works by Renee Cloud.

“Our literate brains cannot ignore words; we see them as a string of letters that convey a meaning, and never just a series of marks. We are always reading, always consuming information without pause,” said Cloud. Her work aims to bring people closer together through shared experiences while using her personal experiences as a platform. Language is Cloud’s medium, and the semiotics



Work by Roderice Cardell

Collective, one of our board members asked him how we could reach out to the Black community. He sat still for a minute and then said, ‘You have to go to them.’ With that answer, he became our ambassador in the community.”

“Cardell’s family, per his wishes, will set up a foundation for underprivileged children with the proceeds from the sale of his works at the exhibition,” Regula says. “We hope that those who knew and loved Rod will be able to purchase a work and know that they are helping to fulfill Rod’s desire to help others. He was a member of this community and touched many lives. Through his art, more lives can be touched. We hope the community will support the family in making Rod’s wishes come true.”

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Work by Jo-Ann Morgan

embodied by written words fascinates her.

This series of etched glass mirrors offers the viewer an opportunity to reflect and connect with the language featured on the reflective glass surface. A wall of portals, the focus is on the self-seen in and through the mirrors.

Cloud (b. 1992) is a Charlotte, NC, native and received her BFA in Studio Art from Appalachian State University in 2015. Using a combination of text art and mixed media, Cloud creates work that focuses on the personal narrative, the Black experience, and the power of the written word. The text incorporated into her work provides only a fraction of the narrative, leaving the viewer to create the rest. Cloud is currently working as a freelance creative within her community.

The Arts Council is headquartered in downtown Rock Hill, a state-recognized cultural district.

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