

Welcome To The Afterlife

Artists Collective | Spartanburg in Spartanburg, SC, Offers Exhibit of Hope

Artists Collective | Spartanburg in Spartanburg, SC, will present *Celebrate Spring: A Dialogue of Hope*, on view in Gallery II and Gallery III, from Mar. 2 - 27, 2021.

This year, we are more anxious than ever to see spring rise from the dead of a winter. Months of isolation and restrictions from the coronavirus pandemic have accentuated “the normal tiring of a winter lifestyle,” says Carol Story, who is coordinating a new mixed media exhibition at the Artists Collective | Spartanburg.

“A phrase from a poem by Alexander Pope – ‘hope springs eternal’ – suggests that it is human nature always to find fresh cause for optimism,” says Story, a member artist who will exhibit some of her paintings in the show. “The changing of seasons from winter to spring seems to be that for most of us. Cold weather to warmer, dark and dreary days to brighter sunshine, dormant plants to colorful blooms, Lenten fasting to Easter feasting.”

Story says the idea of the exhibit came from “a collective voice from members to have an exhibit that said ‘spring.’ I think this comes out of not only the months of isolation and restrictions from the COVID pandemic, but also the normal tiring of a winter lifestyle.”

The show will present works by 13 two-dimensional artists (paintings, drawings and photography) and six members who make pottery and glass (vases and plant containers). Most of the works will be available for purchase.

Participating artists include: Wadi Cantrell (mixed media), Amanda Dawkins (mixed media), Patrick DeCrane (painting, drawing), Craig Denesha (painting), John Lever (photography), Judy Martin (fused glass), Janis McElligott (painting), Sydney McMath (painting), Ruza Pociavsek (pottery), Chuck Reback (photography), Beth Regula (drawing), Carol Story (painting), Brandi Tucker (painting), Sally Webber (clay work), Jim Webber (clay work), Joan Wheatley (clay work), Nancy Williamson (ceramics), Patti Wright (photography) and Tom Zumbach (fused glass).



Work by Janis McElligott

“Each piece is one artist’s statement of personal hope,” Story says. “Works will include expressions of joy in creation, the cycle of life, spring’s seasonal awaken-



Work by Judy Martin

ing, containers to display spring blossoms, etc. We hope that, together, they will elicit a positive response in each viewer ... possibly flipping their mental and emotional calendars to anticipate spring with emotions of hope and celebration. Just as we look forward to buried bulbs and dormant bushes springing forth in vibrant color, we trust that this show will inspire visitors to stroll through Hatcher Garden, pull out those seed catalogs or place their binoculars on the windowsill to watch the robins.”

“We hope visitors to the exhibit will see the ability to flip one’s mental and emotional calendar forward to consider the hope which comes with another spring,” Story says. “While individual works or the show as a whole speaks a message of expectation, the dialogue comes from the viewer’s response, as spirits are lifted by the prospect of new beginnings.”

“This will be a very diverse exhibit, with both literal and figurative depictions, photographic realism and subjective pieces,” she continues, “all to express the assurance that brighter days are ahead. It represents the voice of optimism from the members of the Artists Collective | Spartanburg, as we look ahead to the future.”

The Artist Collective | Spartanburg, 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 (artistscollectivespartanburg.org).

Clemson University in Clemson, SC, Offers MFA Shows for Lori Brook Johnson and Ashley Felder

Clemson University in Clemson, SC, will present *The Self Outside*, an MFA Thesis Exhibition showcasing drawings by Lori Brook Johnson and sculptures by Ashley Felder, on view in the Rudolph E. Lee Gallery, from Mar. 1 - 11, 2021. Virtual artist presentations will be offered on Mar. 8, beginning at 5:30pm.

When shown together the work of these two artists presents an existential lens through which the space within and without the self may be observed.

Lori Brook Johnson was born in West Virginia and received her Bachelor’s of Page 58 - Carolina Arts, March 2021

Arts from the University of North Carolina, Asheville. Her drawings place together moving parts of the past through layers of watercolor, graphite, charcoal, and pastel mediums. Often from an archaeological-type dig through digital collections, the references for Johnson’s work (anything from a painting, to a novel, or a stranger’s home movie from the 1960s), emerge the figures’ desire to share their stories. She spends time with the individuals in the archives she finds, pausing to ponder and look with a desire to resurrect, celebrate,

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Work by Lori Brook Johnson

and introduce audiences to the experiences of people who we otherwise would never meet.

Johnson’s drawings ask you to spend time with the figures. Coming from the perspective of a research-oriented artist, these drawings ponder our commitments to the past and stories that make us human. In one of her larger drawings, *The Breaker Boys*, the viewer must pause and spend a moment looking at the many faces of the young coal-mining workers who match your gaze. She pays close attention to fabric and clothing, as well as subtle tone changes in the faces of her figures. The artist states “the goal for the drawings is to question in all the lives that had to be lived, if the drawings can resurrect a touch and continue one that may never have existed.”



Work by Ashley Felder

Sculptor Ashley Felder received her BFA from Winthrop University in Rock

Clemson University in Clemson, SC, Offers MFA Shows for Carolyn Kerceman and Katherine Van Drie

Clemson University in Clemson, SC, will present *Intimate Distortions*, an MFA Thesis Exhibit showcasing paintings by Carolyn Kerceman and sculptures by Katherine Van Drie, on view in the Rudolph E. Lee Gallery, from Mar. 22 through Apr. 1, 2021. Virtual artist presentations will be offered on Mar. 25, beginning at 5:30pm.

The exhibition of paintings and sculpture are a physiological exploration examining internal and external landscapes of the human experience.

Carolyn Kerceman is a Mississippi-born, South Carolina-based painter exploring contemporary portrayals of landscape and narrative. She received her BFA with Honors in Painting from Converse College in Spartanburg, SC.

About her work Kerceman writes “I construct synthesized landscapes from echoes of past experiences. These paintings operate as inquiries to our physicality, seeking to reconcile the tangible and the metaphysical in order to reason with a complicated existence. Taking reference from family photographs of places I’ve once called home, I am interested in how manipulating these images can be used as a means to examine the intricacy of location.”

Katherine Van Drie was born in Great Britain, and moved to the United States in 1991 where she completed her BFA at Indiana University Northwest. Van Drie’s work takes a humorous look at how the resplendent lifeforms of nature can reveal

Hill, SC. Her work is an immediate response to the beauty of nature, the draw to be immersed in it, and her desire to understand something about it.

Felder invites the viewer to join her in meditating on the effects of time and the subtle metamorphosis of our landscape and natural environment. She investigates identity by utilizing traditionally feminine craft of quilting, stitching, and crocheting using fibers treated with alternative methods of photography. Felder states that she “searches for the self with subtle imagery through a use of natural dyes made from harvested materials, stitching together leaves and other natural materials, using photography to capture ephemeral earth-works.”

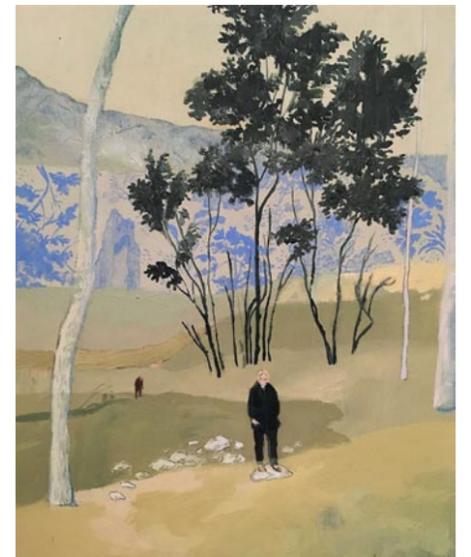
Both Johnson and Felder are process oriented artists with a desire to better understand their place within our cyclical surroundings. The artists both depict an interest in elevating quiet moments with individuals and nature to capture traditionally ephemeral moments. We invite the viewers to join in stepping in to ponder these transitory experiences.

Lee Gallery remains committed to providing quality exhibitions while addressing the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. Following Clemson University guidelines, the Lee Gallery is currently closed to the general public. However, the Gallery is open for visits by students, faculty and staff of Clemson University. Images from the exhibition can be viewed by accessing the Clemson Visual Arts Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

Campus galleries and showcase spaces include Lee Gallery in Lee Hall, the Acorn Gallery in Lee Hall II, College of Architecture Arts and Humanities Dean’s Gallery in Strode Tower, the lobby showcase at Brooks Center for Performing Arts and in Sikes Hall on the ground floor.

The Rudolph E. Lee Gallery showcases regional, national and international artists exploring a broad range of ideas, materials and creative processes. In partnership with academic programs and university initiatives the Lee Gallery develops exhibitions that examine contemporary issues and prompt discourse.

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings, call 864/656-3883 or visit (<http://www.clemson.edu/centers-institutes/cva/>).



Work by Carolyn Kerceman

humanities propensity of creating attractiveness through artificial and superficial means. She writes, “Contrasting the scale and wonder of that overlooked world with the worries and concerns that preoccupy our human psyche has led me to consider the duplexities of these two worlds and how they intersect and also clash with one another.” Her work explores how our values are shaped and influenced by large corporations and the male gaze, and through her work she considers the duplexities of the natural and artificial worlds and how they intersect and clash with one another.

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