

Craven Allen Gallery in Durham, NC, Features Works by Damian Stamer

Craven Allen Gallery in Durham, NC, will present *Damian Stamer/Collaborations: New Paintings*, on view from Mar. 25 through May 6, 2023. A reception will be held on Mar. 25, from 5-7pm.

Collaborations features both new paintings from Stamer's continued exploration of home, memory, and place as well as a new body of work created in collaboration with Artificial Intelligence. Instead of his traditional process of using photographs as source material, Stamer used an AI text-to-image generator to compile reference imagery. The resulting oil paintings are visually striking and raise timely questions about our relationship with the digital world.

Damian Stamer (b. American, 1982) received his Master of Fine Arts from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill as a Jacob K. Javits fellow in 2013 and his Bachelor of Fine Arts from the Herberger Institute of Art and Design and Barrett, The Honors College at Arizona State University (where he studied painting with Craven Allen Gallery artist Beverly McIver) as a National Merit scholar in 2007. He also studied at the Hungarian University of Fine Arts as a Fulbright grantee, and the State Academy of Art and Design in Stuttgart, Germany as a Rotary Ambassadorial scholar.

Museum exhibitions include *Ruminations*, a solo show opening in March at the Gibbes Museum in Charleston, SC; *Altered Land* at the North Carolina Museum of Art, Area 919 at Duke University's Nasher Museum.

Damian's contemporary paintings explore themes of memory and loss through



Work by Damian Stamer

formal and conceptual approaches. Detailed architectural forms reminiscent of his childhood memories of the South are combined with gestural brushstrokes that push and pull the images into existence. The artist lives and works in Durham, NC.

Craven Allen Gallery is located on Broad Street in Durham.

For further information check our NC Commercial Gallery listings, call the gallery at 919/286-4837 or visit (www.CravenAllenGallery.com).

Chatham Artists Guild Partners with Smelt Art Gallery in Pittsboro, NC, Offers Two New Exhibits

The Chatham Artists Guild is thrilled to join Smelt Art Gallery in Pittsboro, NC, in the presentation of work by talented Guild artists including: *Love is in the Air! - Jewelry for Your Special Someone*, showcases the distinctive work of three artists and *Landscapes, Real & Imagined—Paintings and Drawings for Your Special Spaces*, displays the visions of fourteen artists. Both exhibits are on view through Mar. 28, 2023.

The exhibits will be the first of several that the Chatham Artists Guild will hold at the Smelt Art Gallery over the course of 2023. Smelt Art Gallery is a non-traditional art gallery that provides exhibition and event space for multi-cultural, multi-discipline art exhibitions and events.

Each Guild exhibit will run for two months and will host an Opening Reception on the first Sunday of the opening month. Exhibits will have a select mix of art forms, including paintings, photographs, pottery, ceramics, woodwork, sculpture, mixed media, glass, and fiber, and will feature such themes as "Recycle, Reuse, Reinvent!", "Let Freedom Ring"; "Ordinary to Extraordinary"; "Perspectives"; and "Inspired by Dreams". In December and January, there will be an all-members exhibit featuring "Visual Stories."

Smelt Art Gallery is located at 213 Lorax Lane at The Plant, the Chatham Beverage District on the east side of Pittsboro. The business enclave hosts indoor and outdoor gatherings and events and provides spirits, ciders, meads, beer, a coffee roaster, food, clothing, NC-made products, and more.

Smelt Art Gallery presents a unique gallery space, the building was used for aluminum smelting for inco alloys, manufacturer of parts for fighter jets, housed the reactor building for Piedmont Biofuels, and most recently shares space with bmc brewing, an on-site brewery and taproom. bmc brewing and the gallery are open Sun., noon-6pm, Mon./Tue./Wed., 10am-8pm, Thur./Fri., 10am-10pm, and Sat., noon-10 pm.

The Chatham Artists Guild is a 501(C)3 non-profit organization of artists whose purpose is to maintain artistic excellence among our members. Its mission is to raise awareness and appreciation for the visual arts (including the cultural and economic contribution it makes to the community), connect member artists and art patrons, educate the community, and cultivate new patrons regarding the arts.

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings or visit (www.chathamartistsguild.org).

Hillsborough Arts Council in Hillsborough, NC, Features Works by Sarah Carson

The Hillsborough Arts Council in Hillsborough, NC, is presenting *Feminine Identity* by Sarah Carson, on view in the HAC Gallery, through Mar. 13, 2023.

The first of two Cedar Ridge International Baccalaureate Student Exhibitions, *Feminine Identity* explores the social challenges women face in modern society and embraces the beauty, uniqueness, and strength of femininity.

"Utilizing pattern, symbolism, and gold elements, my exhibition combines aspects of classical styles and techniques while juxtaposing traditional ideas through the bold presence and ideas embodied by my subject matter. My works are heavily influenced by Kehinde Wiley, Lina Iris Viktor and Gustav

Klimt, artists who utilize their photo-realistic painting styles and or embellishments to elevate the status of their subjects while creating commentaries on society's views of historically marginalized and oppressed populations," says Carson.

"Combining similar stylistic choices into this body of work, I present women in a position they are not often placed in, elevating the empowering women and exploring femininity in a bold, powerful light," adds Carson.

"Within my work I explore what it means to be a woman in today's society, focusing on the status elevation of women in comparison to the historical roles of

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women," says Carson. "Through my combination of classical elements and contemporary themes, I create a contrast between the new and old that tells the story of femininity throughout history and the biases and challenges tied to the narrative. Through my exploration of women's history and my experience as a female in modern society, I

create artworks that represent the strength I see in femininity while allowing my viewers to project their own identities onto my works."

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, call the Council at 919/643-2500 or visit (www.hillsboroughartscouncil.org).

Hillsborough Gallery of Arts in Hillsborough, NC, Offers New Exhibit

Hillsborough Gallery of Arts in Hillsborough, NC, will present *Breathe*, featuring works by Jude Lobe, Susan Hope, and Catharine Carter, on view from Mar. 28 through Apr. 23, 2023. A reception will be held on Mar. 31, from 6-9pm.

The exhibition offers fused and stained glass art by Susan Hope, landscape paintings and mixed media sculpture by Jude Lobe, photographic montage and mixed media by Catharine Carter.

For painter and multimedia artist, Jude Lobe, it's about finding peace and calm in the beauty of nature. "Our exhibit this year is a call out to breathe and find the beauty around us rather than to get caught up in the stress of what we hear on the news." "My art in this exhibit," says Lobe, "is inspired by the nature around me which convinces me that all living and so-called 'non-living' things are interwoven and connected with the animals and people that live that connection."



Work by Catharine Carter

"Breathe. We all do it. It is automatic. It is life" says glass artist Susan Hope. But faced with the title of the show, she "anticipated the fast approaching deadline, and had to calmly breathe... a lot... and wait for the ideas to rise out of attention to the moment." "Sometimes the inspiration just isn't there. Sometimes the muse is missing. Sometimes the glass or the kiln won't cooperate." Her work for this show reflects her continued experimentation with glass as it is broken, fragmented, crushed and melted again and again.

Working in this technique enables Hope to create more painterly images, unlimited colors and a variety of textures. It is a slow process. Each firing in the kiln can be as long as 24 hours and each piece is fired 4-6 times before it is cleaned and polished. "I began to see these 'down times' as the breath taken and the space between bursts



Work by Jude Lobe

of activity. In the silence of the kiln the many broken pieces became fused into a whole piece again. Just as in life, creation and healing began in the quiet and rest when I would patiently, intentionally...breathe."

When photographic montage artist Catharine Carter thinks about the title of this show, *Breathe* she is "reminded how often we go through our busy day without stopping to take a breath and check in with our feelings. It is in those moments when I stop and take a breath, the act of inhaling and exhaling can put me in touch with my thoughts and allow me to be open to inspiration."

"My art starts with recognizing an especially prominent or troubling thought or feeling that makes me wonder why it has my attention. My piece *Open Book* celebrates how a great story can spark your imagination. In *Bubbles* I was thinking about the fragility of life and *Omen* is the representation of a foreshadowing feeling."

The Hillsborough Gallery of Arts is owned and operated by 21 local artists and represents these established artists exhibiting contemporary fine art and fine craft. The Gallery's offerings include oil and acrylic paintings, sculpture, ceramics, photography, jewelry, glass, metals, encaustic, enamel, and wood. The gallery is located on N. Churton Street, Hillsborough, NC 27278. For further information check our NC Commercial Gallery listings, call the gallery at 919/732-5001 or visit (<http://www.HillsboroughGallery.com>).

Pittsboro Gallery of Arts in Pittsboro, NC, Features Works by Sarah Fishbein and Alissa Van Atta

The Pittsboro Gallery of Arts in Pittsboro, NC, will present *Break Glass in Case of POP*, which features works by Sarah Fishbein and Alissa Van Atta, on view from Mar. 7 through Apr. 2, 2023. A reception will be held on Mar. 10, from 5-8pm.



Work by Sarah Fishbein

For mosaic artist Sarah Fishbein the theme embodies the ideas of glass and comics to tell compelling emotional stories



Work by Alissa Van Atta

of today, such as women's rights. Her work tackles topics in a lighthearted but direct approach using the sparkles of glass in the

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