

# Artists Collective | Spartanburg, SC, Launches Website to Exhibit and Sell Art

In reaction to COVID-19 and the demand for online art exhibitions and sales, Artists Collective | Spartanburg has launched a new website at

[Shops.ArtistsCollectiveSpartanburg.org](https://Shops.ArtistsCollectiveSpartanburg.org) that features the work of local artists.

"This is something we have wanted to do, and COVID-19 pushed us to quickly develop and bring online a website that showcases the work of our members and gives the public an easy way to make purchases," Collective Chair Beth Regula said. "We have more than 50 members and all of them have been invited to 'set up shop' on this website. It's one of their membership benefits. Plus, it's a great benefit to the patrons of the arts, giving them an online way to see the work and purchase it, avoiding possible coronavirus exposure."

Normally, the art venue is open to the public Tuesday-Saturday, 10am-4pm, however, it is now closed to the public because of the coronavirus pandemic.

The new website is set up so that each artist has his or her own "shop." When visiting one of these shops, the patron can see photos of art by the artist. In addition, there is information on pricing, materials, availability, shipping, and the artist. Currently, the website features jewelry, glass fusion, miniatures, mixed media, paintings, and photographs. Payment can be made by credit or debit card.

All members have the option to have a

free shop on the website, and so far several have established their presence with more expected to go virtual as the site gains popularity.

"It's a very user friendly website," Regula said. "By word of mouth so far, people are already visiting the site and buying art, which absolutely thrills me. Artists Collective | Spartanburg is focused on the artists of this community. We try very hard to provide private and affordable studio space, public galleries with current exhibitions, the community's most extensive gift shop for locally made art, and now this new website. We are always looking for ways to help artists and to make art more available to the general public."

Artists Collective | Spartanburg is one of the leading not-for-profit art agencies in Upstate South Carolina. It is a membership-based agency with more than 50 members, most of whom live and work within driving distance of Spartanburg. The venue is located at 578 West Main St. in a converted three-story Baptist church. Normally, it hosts three public and free art exhibitions each month, but the venue's galleries are now closed to the public because of the pandemic until further notice.

For more information about the Shops at Artists Collective | Spartanburg, please visit online at [ArtistsCollectiveSpartanburg.org](https://ArtistsCollectiveSpartanburg.org).

# Metropolitan Arts Council in Greenville, SC, Offers Virtual Exhibit Honoring Alan Ethridge

The Metropolitan Arts Council in Greenville, SC, is presenting a virtual exhibition entitled, *ALAN - A MAC EXHIBIT*, honoring its Executive Director of 17 years, Alan Ethridge, who is also celebrating his 60th birthday. The exhibit features work from close to 40 Greenville-area artists and MAC members. All pieces can now be viewed online and many of them are for sale.

Before becoming MAC's Executive Director in January 2006, Ethridge had been Director of Marketing & Development since January, 2004. He was previously Director of Donor Research in the Office for Development at Clemson University since December, 1991. Prior to returning to Greenville in 1989, he had worked for Ogilvy & Mather Advertising in Atlanta and Henderson Advertising in Greenville.



Work by Diana Farfan

Ethridge is a 1982 summa cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa alumnus of Vanderbilt University where he received a BA in English Literature and Fine Arts. He serves on the Board of Directors of the Greenville Convention & Visitors Bureau and Artisphere and the Board of Governors of the Greenville Chamber of Commerce and the Board of Advisors of the Department of Visual Arts of Greenville Tech. In 2010, Ethridge received the Excellence in Arts Leadership Award from the Chamber of Commerce and the Peace Center for the Performing Arts.

Here's what Diana Farfan says about her work, *Alan's Show*: "*Alan's Show* is a celebration of Alan Ethridge's enormous efforts to maintain the MAC alive, strong and moving forward to support and encourage a large community of artists pas-

sionate for creation in every possible way, medium and kind of expression. The magic of a circus consists of the skillful acts of the acrobats. The magic of this circus is not only for entertainment but further to seduce, sensitize and educate the audience about the meaning and importance of the arts to enrich their lives and nurture their minds. Metaphorically speaking, these paper puppets embody Alan's pirouettes and maneuvers, so needed to convince and entertain in order to succeed in the world of art(s) administration, not a simple mission. Art in our community would not be as colorful and stunning as it is today without Alan's years of contortions and more, the support and vision of his team. Thanks to them the art motor keeps moving ahead in Greenville city and beyond!"

This is what Greg Flint said about his work, *The Emperor, In His Study, After Rivers, After Davide*: "When I was asked to participate in this show, both Jacques Louis David's 'Portrait of the Emperor Napoleon in his Study', and Larry River's painting based on the same piece, immediately popped into my head. I thought about it for a long time before starting to work on this, because I have often found that my first idea is usually not my best one. But the more I reflected on it, the more I realized that depicting Alan as Napoleon was a great fit. He has made

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such a tremendous impact on Greenville's art scene that the comparison is apt. I just want to say that his height played no part in my decision to... well, maybe it did a little... okay, yeah, more than a little... but anyway, my point is that Alan is both a charismatic, and despotic leader that we are all very grateful to. So thank you, Alan, for all of your hard work, and the many wonderful things you have done for the arts! Happy Birthday!"

Edith McBee Hardaway added this about her work, *MAC*: "In doing this work I tried to think about how I view Alan and MAC. To me, MAC is the umbrella that all the Arts in Greenville come under. This MAC umbrella offers shelter and protection for all these art organizations. Supporting them financially, advertising their programs, their events. Providing art education to schools and students of Greenville. Alan holds the umbrella. I should have put a cheerleader outfit on Alan."

The Metropolitan Arts Council (MAC) is a 46-year old 501(c)(3) nonprofit arts service organization dedicated to the preservation and growth of the cultural arts in Greenville County, South Carolina. MAC advances the Upstate's cultural and economic vitality by providing funding, technical assistance and professional services that enable a strong, well-supported community of artists and cultural organizations to focus on creating, producing, exhibiting and presenting the arts.

MAC, as Greenville's sole nonprofit organization designated to regrant funding for the South Carolina Arts Commission, combines private and public funding to support the following constituencies:

1. Artists to encourage them to work, grow and flourish in our region.
2. Cultural organizations to assess needs and coordinate the delivery of arts services across the region.
3. Arts providers and tourism groups to stimulate arts-related spending and position the region as a cultural destination.

# Hampton III Gallery in Taylors, SC, Features Works by John Acorn

Hampton III Gallery in Taylors, SC, is presenting *John Acorn: Masks, Profiles and a Chair*, on view virtually through May 30, 2020. A Coffee and Conversation on Facebook that people can log into on will be offered on May 9 from 11 - 11:45am. People can e-mail me their questions at [sandy@hamptoniiigallery.com](mailto:sandy@hamptoniiigallery.com) and we will also do a virtual tour through the show with John.

Having completed a MFA at Michigan's Cranbrook Academy of Art, Acorn began teaching at Clemson University in 1961. After 7 years, he received a Fulbright grant and spent a year in Germany at a foundry outside of Berlin.



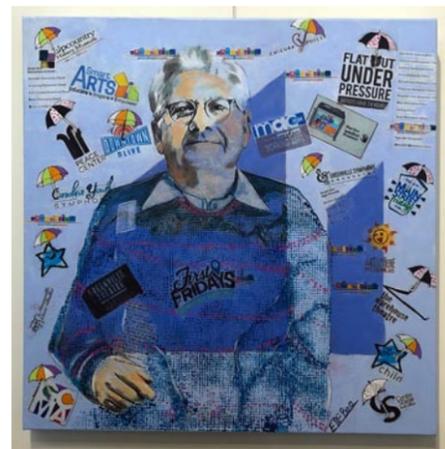
Work by Greg Flint



"Elemental Chair" by John Acorn

Acorn returned to Clemson and served as chair of the Art Department for 21 years, retiring in 1997. The South Carolina Arts Commission recognized his efforts as an arts advocate in South Carolina in 1998 with the Elizabeth O'Neill Verner Award.

Acorn has exhibited throughout the Southeast. His work is included in the collections of the Greenville County Museum of Art, the Asheville Museum of Art and Charlotte's Mint Museum of Art, among others. He has received the Art-



Work by Edith McBee Hardaway

4. Young people by helping educators and administrators fund programs that integrate arts into everyday learning.

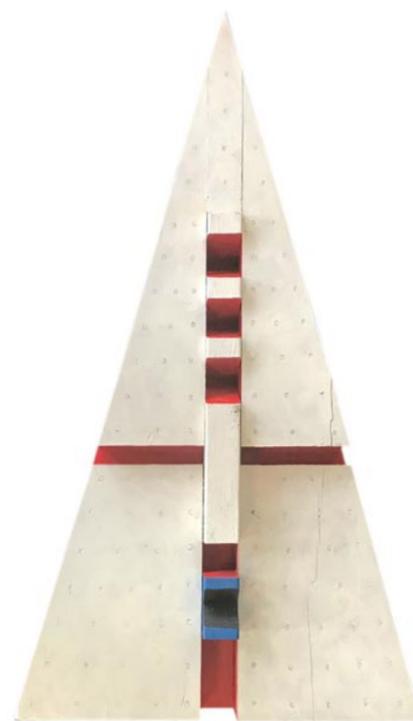
Since its inception in 1973, the Metropolitan Arts Council has been a progressive advocate for the arts community. Under Ethridge's leadership, MAC's endowment surpassed \$1 million in 2016, and awarded more than \$360,000 in grants last year alone.

In 2018, Ethridge received the Elizabeth O'Neill Verner Governor's Award for the Arts from the South Carolina Arts Commission, one of the Commission's highest awards in the state.

During his time at MAC Ethridge has truly transformed and unified Greenville's arts community, working tirelessly to ensure that the arts are funded at the highest level possible and that the arts are accessible to everyone. MAC's annual assets have increased by 1084.6% from 2006 - 2018 while Ethridge has been executive director and the organization has had an annual budget of over \$2 million for the past 3 years thanks to Ethridge's efforts.

You can view this virtual exhibit at <https://www.greenvillearts.com/alan-a-mac-exhibit/>.

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings call the Council at 864/467-3132 or e-mail to [mac@greenvilleARTS.com](mailto:mac@greenvilleARTS.com).



"Mask #8" by John Acorn

in-Architecture Award from the American Institute of Architects and Clemson's 2010 Distinguished Emeriti Award for his continuing commitment to the university and the community after retirement.

Sarah Kunkel, an art student in her senior semester at Bob Jones University, worked with Luke Delello to install the current exhibition of John Acorn's works. She spent time with Acorn, exploring his art and interviewing him.

Q: What inspired your mask series?

"I have always saved the money I made selling my artwork to buy African art. Owning this collection of African art exposed me to a lot of masks and one day I decided to make contemporary masks. For me, this series is not about imitating African masks, it's about referencing them

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