

# H2O Installations at GreenHill in Greensboro, NC, Offers Advance Ecological Awareness through Art

GreenHill Center for North Carolina Art in Greensboro, NC, offers *H2O*, an ambitious, multi-media exhibition that highlights novel approaches to environmental stewardship on view through June 25, 2022. Works by Caroline Armijo, James Barnhill, Carolyn Henne, Bryant Holsenbeck, Kevin Palme, Barbara Tyroler, and Will Warasila feature large-scale, site-specific installations, documentary photography, and environmental art collaborations. There will be a closing reception on June 25, from 6-8pm with an Artist Talk by Kevin Palme from 5:30-6pm. *H2O* Family Artmaking will be offered weekly through June 20th at LeBauer Park from 1-2pm.

“Through public art installations, a multi-faceted gallery exhibition and robust programming, *H2O* spurs community conversations and calls to action to protect and preserve our water systems,” explained Barbara Richter GreenHill’s, Executive Director. “Exhibiting artists explore converging disciplines of art and science to innovate solutions, raise awareness, and re-think the roles we all can play to create a better tomorrow.”

Curator Edie Carpenter shared: “Artists in this exhibition engage us in a deeper understanding of our relationship to water as individuals and communities. Their works invite us to reflect on such ecological challenges as the proliferation of single-use plastics, pollution of groundwater and oceans, as well as questions of social justice raised by the loss of access to clean water. *H2O* offers creative approaches to repurposing waste products and advocates for change.”

The centerpiece of the *H2O* exhibition is a cascading public “waterfall” composed of 10,000 plastic bottles by environmental artist Bryant Holsenbeck. Located in the atrium of the Greensboro Cultural Center, the “waterfall” is one of several installations that draw attention to the waste stream of our society.

“Holsenbeck’s work offers a compelling example of community-building around environmental stewardship”, explained Barbara Richter. “Collaborating partners for sourcing and prepping discarded bottles for the mammoth installation include Unifi Corporation (a global leader in recycling plastics), Greensboro Day School, and The Rotary Club of Greensboro.” In advance of the exhibition, workshops at GreenHill offer public opportunities to help build the “waterfall” through bottle cutting and binding spiraled plastic. “When *H2O* is over,” explained Richter, “repurposed water bottles will transform into high-performance fibers at Unifi’s Reidsville plant.”



Work by Jim Barnhill  
 ming for all ages through June, from in-depth artist presentations to elementary school Eco-Art Education, created in partnership with the City of Greensboro’s Department of Water Resources. GreenHill Director of Education Jaymie Meyer notes: “Many North Carolinians are not aware that they, as individuals, impact our waterways. People may not realize, for instance, that 80% of ocean debris comes from inland sources and stormwater drains that channel debris directly into streams.” Meyer shared that #H2O, a juried online exhibition, allowed young artists to explore their personal interpretations of water conservation. The companion exhibition opened to middle and high school students across the state in early March.

Caroline Armijo (Greensboro) is creating an immersive, site-specific installation



Work by Barbara Tyroler

for *H2O* composed of large hexagonal columns suspended from the ceiling and pavement stones made from encapsulated coal ash developed in partnership with the North Carolina A & T Center for Composite Materials. Interviews, photographs, and objects belonging to residents of Walnut Cove, North Carolina tell the stories of living in proximity to coal ash. Armijo is a mixed media artist who in 2017 was awarded an Art Place America, National Creative Placemaking grant.

James Barnhill (Greensboro) Barnhill is presenting a sculptural installation including paintings on marine panel and tar, inviting reflection on the Deep Water Horizon (2010) and Exxon Valdez (1989) marine disasters. Barnhill is a sculptor best known for his public monuments. Major works include *February One* commemorating students who participated in the Woolworth sit-in. The sculpture is located on the campus of North Carolina A&T University.

Carolyn Henne (Tallahassee) Henne’s videos show her *Sea Stars* living sculpture reef on Newport River in Beaufort, NC. Offering an environmentally positive approach to growing oyster reefs, Henne’s sculptures are fabricated from a patented material developed with Sandbar Oyster Co. and Dr. Niels Lindquist of UNC’s Institute of Marine Sciences. Henne heads the MFA art program at Florida State University.

Bryant Holsenbeck (Durham) Holsenbeck is installing a mammoth, public water bottle “waterfall” to document the waste stream of our society. An environmental artist who specializes in large- and small-scale sculptures, Holsenbeck is also designing a meandering stream from ocean plastic for *H2O*. Her book *The Last Straw: A Continuing Quest for Life Without Disposable Plastic*, is the subject of a UNC-TV documentary.

Kevin Palme (Asheville) Palme is producing a large-scale, site-specific floor drawing using salt crystals. The ephemeral work will emphasize the malleability and impermanence of water. Palme will disassemble the drawing at the exhibition’s closing reception. Palme earned a BA in studio art from Wake Forest University and an MFA in Painting from Savannah College of Art and Design. His well-known paintings of ice cubes are “meditations on water, something precious and necessary for life that we may take for granted.”

Barbara Tyroler (Chapel Hill) Tyroler is presenting a photographic mural that faces North Davie Street on GreenHill’s exterior windows. Her “Water Crossings” images explore “how we come to experience and express our relationship with water, and why we are drawn to it.” Tyroler is a photographic image-maker producing collaborative multi-media art projects that address social and cultural issues. She is a founder of the Click! Photography Festi-

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val and a member of FRANK Gallery.

Will Warasila (Saxapahaw) Warasila is showing works from his thesis exhibition, “Quicker than Coal Ash,” soon to be published as a book. Warasila is a photographer who recently graduated from the MFA program of Duke Center for Documentary Studies. His images tell the story of Stokes County community living next to Belews Lake and the steam station. Also on exhibit is a selection of photographs from his newest series on the Texas fossil fuel industry.

*H2O* is presented with vital support from lead sponsor Unifi Corp. who offers *H2O* recycling initiatives. Exhibition partnerships also include Greensboro’s Water Resources Department and the PNG Foundation in support of Eco-Art Education; Greensboro Day School and the Rotary Club of Greensboro; funding from Kess and Boon Thongthum and the Greensboro Airport Rotary Foundation; and generous in-kind services from Jim

Gallucci Sculptor, Ltd, PDM, and Printery.

GreenHill engages a diverse community of artists, adults and children through dynamic statewide exhibitions and arts education while providing a platform for exploration and investment in art. Inspired by a vision for cultural equity and inclusion, GreenHill is the only organization dedicated exclusively to presenting and promoting the contemporary visual art and artists of NC. The Center’s wide-ranging initiatives build empathy and connection through expressive, innovative and thought-provoking art. GreenHill’s exhibition space, shop, and studios are located in downtown Greensboro in close proximity to the Steven M. Tanger Center for the Performing Arts, where GreenHill also curates onsite galleries.

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, call the gallery at 336/333-7460 or on the web at (greenhillnc.org).

## Burroughs - Chapin Art Museum in Myrtle Beach, SC, Offers Exhibit Focused on Frida Kahlo

The Franklin G. Burroughs • Simeon B. Chapin Art Museum in Myrtle Beach, SC, will present *The World of Frida*, on view from June 18 through Sept. 24, 2022.

One of the most well-known female painters in the history of art is the fiercely brave and passionate Mexican painter Frida Kahlo (1907 – 1954), who is, today, a shining example of empowerment, beauty and determination. Her name alone conjures her self-image in our minds, as her numerous self-portraits in which her unibrow is her most discerning feature are considered iconic examples of her work.

As with many artists that have come before and after Kahlo, her work did not receive critical acclaim until a couple of decades after her death. It was in the late 1970s that art historians and political activists began to rediscover and examine her work, which eventually led to Kahlo becoming a champion for the Chicana, feminist and LGBTQ activist movements.

It is Kahlo’s fearless expression of honest individuality and the human condition that has inspired the 114 works of art in a variety of media by 94 artists from around the world in the Art Museum’s exciting summer exhibition *The World of Frida*, which was organized by The Bedford Gallery at the Leshner Center for the Arts in Walnut Creek, CA, and has been traveling the country since 2018.

The Art Museum is proud to be one of the last venues to host the traveling exhibition, particularly during this very special year, 2022 – the Art Museum’s 25th anniversary. *The World of Frida* is very much a celebration of life – in all its triumphs and struggles – love and the pursuit of staying true to oneself. What better way to celebrate Great Art, Great Experiences for 25 years at the Art Museum!

Participating artists include: Cheryl

Abraham, Tara Ahern, Adela Antoinette, ARTNWORDZ (Micha Kuechenhoff & Grant Rosen), Kim Bagwill, Monica Balmelli, Charles Barth, Kaethe Bealer, Mandy Behrens, Anita Beshirs, Claudia Blanco, Elisa Bolanos, Kerstin Bruchhäuser, Jamie Burnside, Joyce Byrum, Alberto Carol, Denise Carson, Cheryl Chapman, Mona Cliff, Lisa Congdon, Denise Cortes, Sarah Cuevas, Sandra De Jaume, Marian De Le Torre-Easthope, Dion Dion, Razan Elbaba, Carlo Fantin, Don and Era Farnsworth, Ruth E. Fox, Francisco Franco, Rupert Garcia, Patti Goldstein, Betsy Gorman, Debra Grall, Amandalynn Grazier, Simone Guimaraes, Don Hall, Catherine Hicks, Christine Aria Hostetler, Yan Inlow, Jeni Jenkins, Barbara Johansen Newman, Johnny Karwan, Annie Kevans, Carlyn Krall, Irene A. Lawson, Li Lujiang, Emilio López-Menchero, Katie McCann, Alexis McKeown, Elspeth McLean, Julia McLeod, Kalen Meyer, Natasha Millard, Peter Moen, Crystal Moody, Atsuko Morita, Maria Motta, Nancy Mozelsio, Monica Nares, Laurina Paperina, Mariam Pare, Jazmine Parra, Chiara Passigli, Vivian Patton, Stikki Peaches, Karen Provost, Irene Raspollini, Kat Reilly, Barbara Rivera, Pete Rodriguez, Joshua Roman, Susana Sanchez, Racheal Scotland, Martin Segobia, Misty Segura-Bowers, Jennifer Shada, Pearl Lee Short, Juan Solis, Melissa Stone, Clare Szydlowski, Shannon Taylor, Marco Terenziani, Netsanet Tesfay, Cindy Thompson, Reveca Torres, Anna Valdez, Martin Francisco Valenzuela, Maya Vera, Carlos Villez, Roberto Voorbij, Lin Wei, Lorena Rocha Williams, Mimi Williams, and Angel Wynn.

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings, call the Museum at 843/238-2510 or visit (www.myrtlebeachartmuseum.org).

## Brookgreen Gardens in Murrells Inlet, SC, Features Works by Marc Mellon and Babette Bloch

Brookgreen Gardens in Murrells Inlet, SC, is presenting *Bronze and Steel: The Art of Marc Mellon and Babette Bloch*, on view in the Garden’s Rosen Galleries until July 24, 2022.

Brookgreen Gardens is displaying a special retrospective of bronze and steel sculptures by artists Marc Mellon and Babette Bloch. The exhibition will feature Mellon’s works in bronze and Bloch’s works in stainless steel, providing a dynamic survey of the couple’s creative career together for almost 40 years. Most works are for sale, and purchases will benefit Brookgreen Gardens in its ongoing missions.

“Showcasing unique sculptures and highlighting pioneers in American figurative sculpture is essential to our mission and honors the legacy of our founders, Archer and Anna Huntington,” says Page



Work by Babette Bloch

Kiniry, President and CEO of Brookgreen. “We are delighted to display works from such talented sculptors in their respective mediums.”

Known as one of America’s foremost representational sculptors, Mellon is most well-known for his portrait busts, com-

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