

# West Main Co-op in Spartanburg

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Spartanburg for most of their adult lives and are founding members of West Main Artists Co-op.

A native of Manchester, GA, Williamson received her bachelor's degree in fine art from the University of Georgia with concentrations in ceramics and textile design. After a successful career as a professional textile designer at Milliken & Company, she taught ceramics to beginning and intermediate students at Spartanburg Art Museum for 17 years. A leader in Spartanburg's arts community, she is a founding member of Carolina Clay Artists, Hub City Empty Bowls, as well as West Main Artists Co-op, and has held leadership positions in each of these organizations.

O'Dell-Keim, a Union, SC, native, received a bachelor's degree in fine art from Converse College and a master's degree in fine art from Clemson University and has participated in numerous exhibitions throughout the South. Her professional work includes adjunct professorships at numerous colleges and universities, including Wofford College, Converse College, and USC Upstate.

Williamson is a well-established potter in Upstate South Carolina, with a reputation for producing quality functional pottery. This exhibit represents a departure from her usual work. "People most often describe my functional stoneware pottery as extremely well-made, serviceable, well-proportioned and having a beautiful surface," she said. "I take pride in making well-balanced pieces, with lids and handles that fit, and I employ a wide variety of surface design treatments such as carving and slip trailing. My functional stoneware is designed to stand up to ease of everyday use, and to withstand the microwave and dishwasher, while also being food-safe."

"For this exhibition, I've gone in a totally different direction, deciding to have a bit of fun with the sculptural form of the totem," Williamson explained. "I've given myself a little time to play with my chosen medium of stoneware clay, employing a lot of the same techniques and surface treatments that I use in my everyday work along with some new forming methods learned from two mentors, Richard Lafean and Gary Huntoon. Without the constraints of usefulness and food-safe glazes, I was able to use one of my favorite surface treatments, terra sigillata. It's an ancient super-refined slip used to seal the surface of the pottery. Versions of this slip date back to at least 1000 BC in the Middle East with the finest examples dating to the Greek and Roman empires. It gives just the kind of soft sheen that I wanted for this work."

"I think it is essential when you learn new skills to put them into practice as quickly as possible and then to spend time exploring the possibilities in order to find a way for your own voice to come through," Williamson said.

"This show was the perfect opportunity to do just that. Most of the funky, irregularly shaped totem pieces actually started off on the potter's wheel, thrown 'off the hump,' as perfectly round, symmetrical closed forms that were then paddled into irregularity. For the totem pieces, I was inspired by the look of stacked rock cairns and the art of rock stacking as well as memories from my childhood of time spent playing on the river rocks in the streams and rivers in west central Georgia."

O'Dell-Keim described her work as "expressive oil paintings, employing bold colors, with emphasis on mark-making, and energetic brush strokes. Works range from representational landscape and tree imagery to abstracted organic shapes and forms. Emphasis on application of paint and the painting process create a rich and somewhat



Work by Nancy O'Dell-Keim

textural surface. Technique, immediacy of the application of paint, along with the use of lines along with variations of light is expressive conveying a range of moods. This light, often created through thin or wiped out areas of paint, hints to the element of time, or a sense of place. This sense of place inspired by memory refers to the spirit or soul of a place."

"Although these new works are part of two ongoing series I have been working on for five or more years, 'The Spirit of Place' and 'Four Directions', in which the landscape as subject matter is explored, there are differences in theme and technique," O'Dell-Keim explained. "The paintings created for Primordial Voices spiraled from the belief that art and the process of creating art are essential, fundamental, and primal and has the power to transcend leading to the concept of transcendence as a theme in the new work."

All of the work in this exhibit will be for sale within a wide range of pricing.

As professional artists associated with West Main Artists Co-op, both Williamson and O'Dell-Keim feel the organization plays an important role in the community. "WMAC provides a culturally significant role to further establish the character and image of Spartanburg as a city with a vibrant arts scene," Williamson said. "I think the arts bring people together, and WMAC provides a safe place for folks of different ages, from different backgrounds and from different socioeconomic levels to come together to share art and ideas. And selfishly, it's great for me to have a local place where my friends and clients can stop by anytime to pick up a piece of my work."

"I am proud of my role as one of the founding members of the WMAC," O'Dell-Keim said. "I believe in the importance nonprofits play in the role of supporting the arts, but I particularly appreciate the fact that WMAC was formed by a small group of fellow artists, with the goal of not only supporting local artists, but with the hope of creating a unique space to serve as a hub for a variety of artists to work, exhibit, collaborate, and thrive. Because I have a studio, I have the space to work and to exhibit where I am often inspired by my fellow studio mates."

West Main Artists Co-op is one of the leading nonprofit arts agencies in Spartanburg. As a membership-based agency, it provides affordable studio and gallery space in what used to be a Baptist church. It has four galleries and hosts three new exhibits each month. In addition, it has the city's largest collection of locally made art available for purchase.

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings or visit ([www.WestMainArtists.org](http://www.WestMainArtists.org)).

## Arts Council of York County in Rock Hill, SC, Offers "29th Annual Juried Competition Exhibition"

The Arts Council of York County in Rock Hill, SC, will announce the awards Page 14 - Carolina Arts, August 2018

for the 29th Annual Juried Competition at *continued above on next column to the right*

a free, public reception at the Center for the Arts, on Aug. 16, at 5:30pm. Works accepted to the Juried Competition are on exhibition in the Dalton Gallery at the Center for the Arts through Sept. 9, 2018.

Each year, the *Annual Juried Competition* is open internationally to artists 18 and older. Only original work, created in the last two (2) years, and not previously shown at the Center for the Arts, Dalton Gallery is accepted. All forms of media are eligible, including video.

This year's juror was Liz Rundorff Smith, Art School Director, Greenville Center for Creative Arts in Greenville, SC.

Smith received a BA in Studio Art from the College of Wooster in Wooster, OH, in 2000. She studied abroad at The Marchutz School of Painting in Aix en Provence, France in 1998 and The British Institute of Florence in Florence, Italy, in 2004. From 2000 to 2003 she served as Program Director of the Hoyt Institute of Fine Arts in New Castle, PA, where she developed and organized exhibitions and educational programming. In December of 2005, she received an MFA in Painting from Edinboro University of Pennsylvania.

Smith moved to Greenville in 2006 to serve as Program Director for the Artisphere

## Central Piedmont Community College in Charlotte, NC, Offers Works by Katie St. Clair

Central Piedmont Community College in Charlotte, NC, will present *Fruiting Bodies*, featuring works by Katie St. Clair, on view in CPCC's Ross Gallery, from Aug. 15 through Oct. 10, 2018. An Artist Lecture will be offered on Sept. 12, from 10:30-11:30am with a reception from 5:30-7:30pm.

St. Clair's latest work not only focuses on the natural decay of life and the beauty found within, but also on the complex processes of physical and spiritual healing through visualization of plants and fungi in the Carolina landscape. Abstraction of these forms allows St. Clair to express the subtle relationships of non-linear ecosystems.

While researching, harvesting and consuming wild edibles, St. Clair's understanding of flavor and the healing potential of her subjects expanded and evolved. She developed new ways of looking at the natural world, not only for inspiration and form, but also for the pragmatic considerations of pigment, texture and creative constraint. She incorporated new materials into her pieces, including natural dyes collected from the native ecosystems, through botanic, fungal and mineral extractions.

*Fruiting Bodies* will feature a series of melting ice sculptures that are an experimental part of St. Clair's painting process. These melting sculptures called "spheres" contain pigments, mushrooms and other organic materials foraged by the artist during her hikes through different parts of the North Carolina landscape. The delicately constructed spheres are suspended above canvases and slowly melt over a period

arts festival until July of 2016. During her tenure with Artisphere, the festival gained national recognition and top industry rankings. She currently serves as Art School Director for the Greenville Center for Creative Arts, an organization whose mission is to enrich the cultural fabric of our community through visual arts promotion, education and inspiration.

Smith lives in Travelers Rest with her husband Brad and daughters Piper and Tessa and continues to exhibit her work in solo and group exhibitions.

There were 162 entries by 74 artists from 32 cities and 5 states. Of those entries, Smith selected 35 works to be displayed in the 29th Annual Juried Competition exhibition in the Dalton Gallery at the Center for the Arts.

O'Darby's Fine Wine & Spirits is the presenting sponsor of the 29th Annual Juried Competition.

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

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings, call the Arts Council at 803/328-2787 or visit ([www.yorkcountyarts.org](http://www.yorkcountyarts.org)).



Work by Katie St. Clair

of 24 to 48 hours. The ephemerality of this process echoes the cycle of life: birth, growth, death and decay.

St. Clair received a Bachelor of Fine Arts, Magna Cum Laude, from the Art Academy of Cincinnati, and her Master of Fine Arts from the Stamps School of Art and Design at the University of Michigan. She is currently the Assistant Professor of Art specializing in painting and drawing at Davidson College.

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, contact Megan Lynch by e-mail at ([megan.lynch@cpcc.edu](mailto:megan.lynch@cpcc.edu)). Follow us on Instagram and Facebook at CPCC Arts and our blog at (<http://blogs.cpcc.edu/cpccartgalleries/>).

## Central Piedmont Community College in Charlotte, NC, Takes a Look at the Past & Present in Exhibition

Central Piedmont Community College in Charlotte, NC, will present *Past & Present*, featuring a multimedia exhibition of CPCC Alumni Studio Art students and current Visual Arts Studio faculty members, on view in the CPCC's Pease Gallery, from Aug. 15 through Oct. 3, 2018. Artist Lectures will be offered on Sept. 6, from 12:30-1:30pm and Sept. 13, from 11am-12:15pm in LVI 2150, Levine Campus. A reception will be held on Sept. 6, from 5-7pm.

The exhibition which is part of a celebration to commemorate the many years of the college's beloved Pease Gallery, located on its Central Campus will showcase 12 CPCC Visual Arts Studio faculty members and 14 CPCC Studio Art alumni, many of whom exhibited their creations for the first time in Pease Gallery through the years. This exhibit will celebrate the decades of creativity developed through CPCC's Visual Arts

programs.

Participants will include: CPCC Alumni: Rachel Baranowski, Anderson Carman, Douglas B. Davis, Kelsi Elcorabarutia, Kelly Elliot, Sarah Goski, Samantha Maxwell, Don Peeler, Paige Reitterer, KC Roberge, Julie P. Smith, Laura Truman, Sarah B. Wiley and Tashonda Wright.

Also included Faculty Members include: Danny Croco, Carolyn Jacobs, Ashley Lathe, Nancy Nieves, Isaac Payne, Elizabeth Ross, Paula Smith, James Spence, Jason Stein, Richard Thomas, Alvaro Torres and Jennifer Zito.

CPCC's Pease Auditorium and Gallery will permanently close in January 2019 after more than 50 years of memorable productions, performances, gallery exhibitions and events. Pease, and the aging building that surrounds it (the Hagemeyer Learning

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