

# City of North Charleston

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scanning the ground for them, organizing, and reorganizing them. While doing so, she thinks about the “chapter” she’s working on, considering which items will provide the visual vocabulary necessary to tell its story. “Artist Pam Carriker once described creating an assemblage as ‘like writing a story with found objects to invite the viewer in to unearth their meaning’,” Anderson says. “This is what I hope to do with my artwork.”

For as long as she can remember, Anderson has been a collector, a storyteller, and an artist. Her assemblage work allows her to combine these passions. Her sculptures have most recently been shown in the *SC Palmetto Hands Fine Craft Exhibition*, presented as a component of the annual North Charleston Arts Fest, and The Saul Alexander Gallery at the Charleston County Main Library.

Judy Blahut’s paintings are lyrical expressions of natural forms and environments, with color palettes that are a direct reflection of her studio surroundings alongside a salt marsh with a tidal creek running through it. Her work is an invitation to reimagine nature through fracturing, color, and the exploration of a subject. *Social Circles* features paintings from two of Blahut’s ongoing series - COVID and Marsh. These series seek to interpret the relationships and boundaries set by social groups of humans or animals, exploring the interrelatedness of all life.



Work by Judy Blahut

“The circles in my work are connectors and interrupters. Life is circular. Circles in our social and environmental experiences exist in true form and in theory, illustrating our interconnectedness with one another, the planet, and the universe,” explains Blahut. “Using acrylic paint



Work by Jacqueline Anderson

and sometimes charcoal, I fracture and interrupt the painting as I work. It is an interactive process between myself, the subject, and the paint. The outcomes are somewhat abstract, allowing the viewer to understand more about the subject than its actual appearance.”

Blahut has been a painter nearly her entire life. She is formally trained in painting, with a BFA from Syracuse University. Her fortunate and full life has given her many opportunities for using her creativity and artistic abilities. She has had numerous professional experiences including art teacher, Montessori teacher, head of school, college faculty member, and mother. Her work has been exhibited in numerous festival and group exhibitions throughout the Lowcountry. Blahut is a member of Pluff Mudd Gallery in Bluffton, SC, and the Art League of Hilton Head.

The Park Circle Gallery is located on Jenkins Avenue in North Charleston, SC. Admission is free and free street parking is available on Jenkins Avenue in front of the gallery, as well as on the adjacent streets and in parking lots close by.

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings, call the gallery at 843/637-3565 or visit ([www.northcharleston.org](http://www.northcharleston.org)).

## Charleston Artist Guild in Charleston, SC, Features Works by Jen Spaker

The Charleston Artist Guild in Charleston, SC, will present *Beaches and Marshes*, an exhibition featuring a collection of coastal artwork by Jen Spaker, on view in the Guild Gallery from Aug. 1 - 31, 2023. A reception will be held on Aug. 4, from 5-8pm.

Spaker has been painting landscape and still life art for over 20 years. “Plein Air” painting is her favorite way to paint, which means taking your easel outside to complete most of the painting in one or two sessions. It’s a hard and challenging way to paint, but she says it has made her a stronger artist.

South Carolina has been Spaker’s home for the past 12 years - first in Fort Mill and now in the coastal area of Mt. Pleasant, near Charleston. She states, “There is so much beautiful scenery in the Lowcountry! Now that I live near the marshes on Horlbeck Creek, and the Wando River, I have fallen in love with the colorful marsh sunsets and the big skies over the water.”

Originally from Pittsburgh, PA, Spaker also lived in Buffalo and Rochester, NY,



Work by Jen Spaker

for 20 years before moving south. She feels she has always been an artist, even as a kid. She is a committed painter who is mostly self-taught, but has taken many workshops over the years.

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings, call the gallery at 843/722-2425.

## Editorial Commentary

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Check out the Events page to see a list of upcoming events this year and beyond. The Seagrove Potters have studios listed and examples of their work on this page at

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(<https://discoverseagrove.com/studios/>).

I can’t wait to return this fall for the Annual Celebration of Seagrove Potters. See you there. But you don’t have to wait.

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