

# Aiken Center for the Arts in Aiken, SC, Features Works by Bailey Mennetti and Sunny Mullarkey McGowan

The Aiken Center for the Arts in Aiken, SC, will present an exhibit of works by Bailey Mennetti and Sunny Mullarkey McGowan, on view in the Center's Main Gallery, from Aug. 1 through Sept. 5, 2025. A reception will be held on Aug. 1, from 6-8pm.

Bailey Mennetti offered the following statement, "I am a passionate artist who wields graphite on 100% cotton paper as my chosen medium. I began enduring my passion through art classes at a very young age to further my skill. I was accepted into Rollings Middle School of the Arts where I focused heavily on art as my core class. During high school, I completed advanced placement art courses, which fueled my desire to pursue my passion."

"My artistic journey continued at the renowned Savannah College of Art and Design, where I honed my skills and cultivated a deep appreciation for the power of visual storytelling," adds Mennetti. "I graduated with a Bachelors of Fine Arts with a major in illustration. My artistic focus is brought to life through the delicate strokes of graphite creating an artistic dance between light and shadow. I have found an endless passion where I have discovered comfort, joy, and purpose. Bailey was born and raised in South Carolina, currently living in Denver, Colorado."



Work by Bailey Mennetti

Join us for an Artist Talk with Mennetti on Friday, Aug. 2, at 1pm in the main gallery.

Sunny Mullarkey McGowan is a fine artist residing in Greenville, SC. Growing up in the sea islands of the Lowcountry in Beaufort, SC, McGowan was accepted into the Governor's School for the Arts for Visual Art in high school. She later attended Anderson College and the University of South Carolina. She now resides in Greenville, SC, with her husband and three



Work by Sunny Mullarkey McGowan

children, where she is active in the local artists community.

McGowan's body of work includes the mediums of printmaking, painting, mixed media, and mural painting. She creates fine art pieces in her studio located in the arts district of the Village of West Greenville, and has completed several murals around the city of Greenville, expanding into Spartanburg and Anderson.

Her work has been displayed in exhibits in Georgia, Florida, and both North and South Carolina, and locally exhibited in events in partnership with the Metropolitan Arts Council and Artisphere. In the summer of 2020, McGowan was selected to paint a mural in Nashville by the The Women's Suffrage Centennial Commission (WSCC), to celebrate the 19th Amendment's 100 year anniversary. The mural was painted live in Nashville, TN, in Centennial Park, then displayed at the Hermitage Hotel, and then installed permanently in the WorkHouse Arts Center as a permanent feature at the historical site.

"Constant curiosity helps me discover and create fanciful, abstract worlds, and gives a passion to my work to experimentally recreate a sense of purposeful chaos seen from unexpected perspectives," says McGowan. "I create boldly colored and textured designs that flow playfully through movement and invite you to explore the vibrant layers within each piece. I cultivate art that ignites your imagination and moves you to feel the spark of curiosity and life within you."

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings, call the Center at 803/641-9094 or visit ([www.aikencenter-forthearts.org](http://www.aikencenter-forthearts.org)).

# Aiken Center for the Arts in Aiken, SC, Offers Works by Sharon Taylor Padgett and Patricia Vincent Sharp

The Aiken Center for the Arts in Aiken, SC, will present an exhibit of works by Sharon Taylor Padgett and Patricia Vincent Sharp, on view in the Aiken Artist Guild Gallery, from Aug. 1 through Sept. 5, 2024. A reception will be held on Aug. 1, from 6-8pm.



Work by Sharon Taylor Padgett

Sharon Taylor Padgett offered the following statement, "If I can see it, I can paint it. We've each been given talents to help others and mine is not only to paint, but to break it down step-by-step and demonstrate in a patient, methodical way how to do it. It's taken me many years and much brush mileage to reach the place where I am confident in my artwork and it 'has a voice.'"



Work by Patricia Vincent Sharp

Peaceful, serene and calm landscapes are my subjects. When I pick up a brush, put on soft background music, I go to a better place; not in this world, but on canvas."

Patricia Vincent Sharp offered the following statement, "Color is important in everything I do; it reflects who I am. I'm attracted to bold, primary colors and enjoy painting nature and animals especially. We never stop learning and developing in our creative journey and I always have a painting in the works. It gives me great pleasure

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to fill my home with art and have only been showing my oil paintings for two years."

For further information check our SC

Institutional Gallery listings, call the Center at 803/641-9094 or visit ([www.aikencenter-forthearts.org](http://www.aikencenter-forthearts.org)).

# 701 Center for Contemporary Art in Columbia, SC, Features Works by Daniel Esquivia Zapata & Jordan Sheridan

The 701 Center for Contemporary Art in Columbia, SC, will offer a Gallery Talk with Daniel Esquivia Zapata, in the Center's 2nd Floor Gallery, Aug. 3, from 1-3pm.

Also on view in the Center's Main Gallery, will be *Womb Rooms*, an installation by Artist in Residence Jordan Sheridan, on view from Aug. 22 through Oct. 6, 2024.

Daniel Esquivia Zapata will give a gallery talk about the body of work he has created during his summer residency. Explore the themes behind the intricate portraits of his family members, and drawings of plants, and hummingbirds.

Learn firsthand about Esquivia Zapata's creative process and the inspirations behind his latest series, which delves into the concept of domestic 'places of memory' within our bodies. He addresses the complexities and beauty of family relationships amidst historical legacies and personal narratives. Attendees will have the opportunity to ask questions directly to the artist and follow along with the group conversation to learn about the materials and techniques used to create his art. Admission is free. Donations accepted and appreciated.



Work by Daniel Esquivia Zapata

Don't miss this chance to explore the powerful narratives within Daniel Esquivia Zapata's work.

*Womb Rooms*, an installation by Artist in Residence Jordan Sheridan, who investigates the intricate realms of motherhood and identity through her unique blend of textile installations. Born in Northeastern Arkansas in 1989, Sheridan's artistic trajectory has been deeply shaped by her experi-



Work by Jordan Sheridan

ence as a mother, particularly since the birth of her son Samuel in 2017. Her pursuit of an MFA degree at the University of South Carolina marked a pivotal moment in her artistic evolution, catalyzing a shift from 2-D painting to large-scale textile installations.

During her residency, Sheridan has immersed herself in the creation of a series of "womb rooms" using crocheted textiles, which will be featured in her upcoming exhibition at 701 CCA. These rooms will serve as a labyrinth within the gallery space, inviting visitors to engage in a tactile exploration of maternal identity. Through interactive sculpture, audio, and light, each room will offer a unique sensory experience, reflecting Sheridan's profound narrative on the journey of motherhood.

701 CCA is a dynamic hub for contemporary artistic exploration, experimentation, and engagement.

Founded in 2007, CCA functions as a catalyst for outstanding contemporary art, engaging diverse communities and diverse artists in meaningful dialogue. 701 CCA produces five to six contemporary art exhibitions annually, free to visit and open to the public five days a week; offers year round cultural programming, including performances, workshops, and classes embracing theater, dance, music and the visual arts; and creates opportunities in the professional sphere through comprehensive internships, training and volunteer programs.

701 CCA is located on Whaley Street, 2nd Floor, Columbia, SC 29201.

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings or visit ([www.701cca.org](http://www.701cca.org)).

# Tryon Fine Arts Center in Tryon, NC, Offers Works by Phyllis Allen Eifert

The Tryon Fine Arts Center in Tryon, NC, is presenting an exhibition of works by the late Phyllis Allen Eifert, featuring paintings, drawings, bronze and paper mache sculptures, on view in the JP Gallery, through Sept. 14, 2024.

Beloved Tryon artist Phyllis Allen Eifert (1932-2018) left an indelible mark that still captivates audiences. Her pieces reflect evocative and sometimes whimsical creativity that refuses to settle for a single form of expression. It is said that when you experience Eifert's work, you are reminded that art is not conceived in a moment, but is the result of decades of study, hours of practice, trial and error, and passion that pours forth in her work.

For Eifert, the world of horses has played a major role for the past sixty years. Born in Lynchburg, VA, in 1932, Eifert began to ride at the age of six. On Pearl Harbor day, Dec. 7, 1941, after taking riding lessons and attending lectures and a clinic given by Capt. Vladimir S. Littauer she rode in one of her first horse shows. According to the artist, "From then on whenever there was an opportunity she hunted with the Bedford County Hounds and showed her horse in local horse shows".

After graduating from high school Eifert went to Penn Hall in Chambersburg, PA, and majored in Art History. It was there that she gained experience riding under the coaching of Fritz Kleeman who taught Littauer's method. During this time, after



Work by Phyllis Allen Eifert

schooling everyday, Eifert showed in inter-collegiate shows, hunted with Plunket Stewart's Cheshire Hounds and rode in the Harrisburg National.

After receiving her BFA, she continued her art education at Moore Institute of Art, The Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts and the Barnes Foundation. At this time horses were not in the picture and it was not until after she was married that she was given a gift of a lovely three year old gelding from her husband. There was a lot of work for her to bring this "green horse" along and she needed help from a professional. Living, at the time, in Bedford, NY, there were quite a few good horsemen from which to choose.

Each week Eifert would van her horse to Cedar Lodge Farm in Connecticut and take lessons from Hugo-Vidal. The excellent schooling under a well-known trainer paid

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