

Anderson Arts Center

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Work by Marilyn Murrell

School and Tri-County Technical Colleges. In 1994, she began teaching classes at the Anderson Arts Center and served in that capacity for nearly 25 years. She, too, is a cancer warrior currently fighting the

battle against this disease.

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings, call the Center at 864/222-2787 or visit (<https://andersonarts.org>).

West Main Artists Co-op in Spartanburg, SC, Offers First Juried Exhibition

West Main Artists Co-op in Spartanburg, SC, is presenting its first regional juried art exhibition, *WMAC 2019*, on view through Oct. 19, 2019.

The show was open to all adult visual artists in South Carolina, North Carolina, Georgia, and Tennessee. The first-place winner will receive \$2,500; second-place, \$1,000; third-place, \$500; and merit awards will total \$500. Two-hundred-forty-one (241) artists from the four states applied, and 66 were admitted into the show based on the judgement of jurors Ann DerGara and Mike Vatalaro.

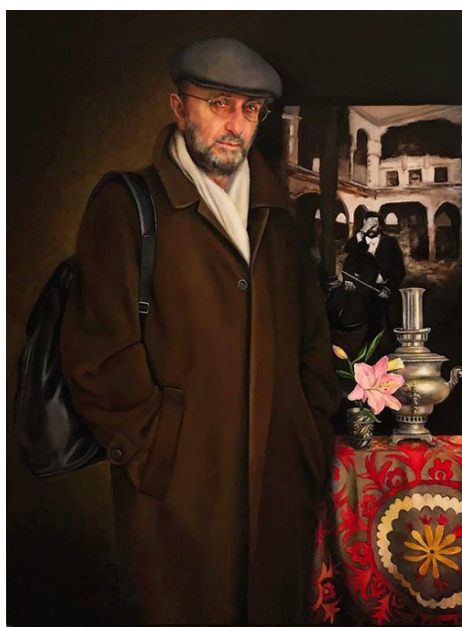
These jurors also worked together to pick the final winners, who were announced on Saturday, Sept. 21, during a reception and awards ceremony. Seventy-four (74) works of art will be on display.

"This exhibit has been a goal of West Main Artists Cooperative for several years," Co-op Chair Beth Regula said. "We are celebrating our 10th anniversary this year and felt the time was right. What better way to celebrate our hard work than to open our doors to artists from four states and let them celebrate with us? Spartanburg is becoming a cultural destination, and this exhibit will only enhance that reputation. We are grateful for the support from this community. As Spartanburg grows and thrives, so do we. When artists and a community work together – we all benefit."

Work accepted into the exhibition includes painting, pastel, drawing, sculpture, ceramics, glass, photography, fiber arts, original hand-pulled fine art prints, jewelry, weaving, basketry, and wood. Nearly all of the work will be for sale.

Ann DerGara began her formal education at Georgia State University. In 1978, a printmaking course at Atlanta College of Art led her to Dick Williams and the innovative and contemporary Odyssey Studio. The artist first pursued etching, collagraphy, and serigraphy printmaking techniques. In 1990 she began her exploration of monoprinting.

Roger Caplan of Soho Myriad Fine Art has written, "Looking back on a career that has seen her work exhibited in Europe, Japan and Australia as well



Work by Cindy Shute, 1st Prize

as the United States, one is struck by the constant and apparently effortless development of imagery and technique which has left Ann DerGara three steps ahead of familiar imitators."

A practitioner of both abstract and realistic styles, DerGara is the owner of the Red Wolf Gallery in Brevard, NC.

Mike Vatalaro has more than 40 years of experience as a professor and studio artist. His work, which includes wood-fired stoneware thrown vessels as well as large terra cotta sculptural forms, has been exhibited nationally and internationally. In 1998, he participated in the IWCAT Workshop and Ceramics Exhibition at Cera Gallery in Tokoname, Japan, and was an Artist Resident at Tainan University of the Arts in Taiwan (2008).

Vatalaro's work has been recognized with several grants and awards such as the South Carolina Arts Commission Fellowship for Crafts (1994-1995 and 1983-1984), the Walter Gropius Visiting Artist Fellowship in Huntington West Virginia, and the Watershed Center for Ceramic Art Residency at Newcastle, ME (2004).

"Coordinating *WMAC 2019* has been in the making for more than a year,"

continued above on next column to the right



THERE'S A FINE LINE BETWEEN PRICELESS AND WORTHLESS.



Artist Diane Falkenhagen's Texas studio — destroyed by flooding during Hurricane Ike, 2008

What would you do if you lost your work, your tools, your images, and a lot more to a flood? Metalsmith Diane Falkenhagen knows what five feet of contaminated saltwater can do to a jewelry studio. CERF+ can help you learn how to protect your career from crossing that fine line.

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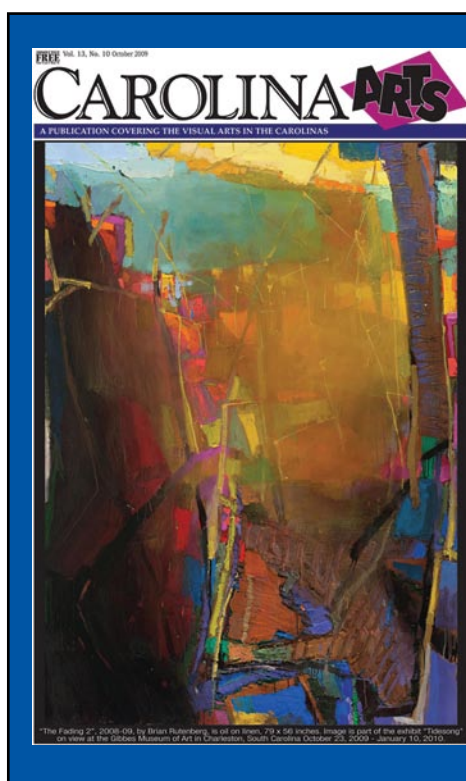
Regula said. "Having a regional juried exhibition is something we believe is very important in the advancement of the Co-op and in the advancement of the arts in Spartanburg. Art has become a vital force to be reckoned with in Spartanburg, and West Main Artists Co-op is leading the way for regional artists. Our membership includes some of the region's most noted artists. Our exhibits include artists from many different regions of the southeast. I invite everyone to see this very important exhibition, knowing it is the product of much work and high standards. It will have some of the best art to be found in the four states. As the name implies - *WMAC 2019* - we plan to make this an annual event!"

West Main Artists Co-op is a non-profit and membership-based arts agency, housed on West Main Street in Spartanburg in a converted three-story church. It has more than 50 active members of which about 30 have studio space in the venue. Each month, it hosts three art exhibits and is one of the more-popular venues to visit during the city's monthly ArtWalk. In addition, it has three galleries, two performance stages, a ceramics studio, a printery, and the most extensive collection of for-sale and locally made art in Spartanburg.

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings or visit (www.WestMainArtists.org).

The deadline each month to submit articles, photos and ads is the 24th of the month prior to the next issue. This will be October 24th for the November 2019 issue and November 24th for the December 2019 issue.

After that, it's too late unless your exhibit runs into the next month. But don't wait for the last minute - send your info now. And where do you send that info? E-mail to (info@carolinaarts.com).



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