

# Newberry College in Newberry, SC, Offers Works by Robert Matheson

Newberry College in Newberry, SC, is presenting an exhibition of recent artworks by artist Robert Matheson, on view in the Wessel Gallery, through Oct. 31, 2019.

The exhibit covers work that Matheson has produced since moving to Newberry several months ago. The mediums that Matheson employs in the exhibit are diverse and range from photography to acrylic and mixed media to an installation piece created from a wooden display cabinet, stool, and wooden crates filled with a plethora of objects (mainly objects that local Newberrians have given to Matheson since his arrival).

The exhibit may appear to have a somewhat eclectic look until one reads the artist's statement describing how the concept for the show evolved. I suppose it's a southern charm thing, but often southerners will give gifts to a newly arrived citizen of their town or neighborhood and that is the case here. Matheson was given nearly all of the elements, objects, substrates, paint, etcetera, that he used to produce the works for the show.

The idea that guided Matheson through conceptualizing the show was to make use of as many of these gifts as he could in the production of the artwork. With that in mind, eclecticism is clearly and intentionally at the heart of the exhibition. Someone



Work by Robert Matheson

gave him some linen milled in Newberry, he painted on it, someone gave him some eco-friendly acrylic paint, he painted with it, someone gave him some rocks that were collected on a vacation to Utah, he put them in the installation, the list of gifts goes on and they are accorded some contribution to the show.

Matheson's exhibition, apart from highlighting the work of a diverse and creative artist, brings to light the generosity of a small southern town – Newberry, SC.

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings or call 803/321-5229.

# Upstairs Artspace, Tryon, NC, Presents ArtTrek 2019 - Oct. 5 & 6

Upstairs Artspace, Tryon, NC's contemporary art gallery, will host ArtTrek 2019, public tours of local artists' studios, Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 5 and 6, 2019. An exhibit of the artists' works will be on display at the gallery from Oct. 4-18, 2019. This is the 11th year of the tour.

"ArtTrek has become one of the community's most anticipated annual art events," gallery President John Walters said. "This gives patrons the opportunity to not only see art but to see where it was actually made - the artists' studios, which are very often in the artists' homes. It's a fun event with patrons starting at the gallery in downtown Tryon for some morning refreshments and then heading out in all directions to visit artists in their natural environments. The artists are always very hospitable, and this gives people a behind-the-scenes look at how artists actually live and work."

This year, there are 18 local artists participating in the tours. They and their locations are: David Zacharias, Tryon, Bob Neely, Tryon, Diana Gurri, Tryon, Vicki Van Vynckt, Tryon, Keith Spencer, Tryon, Lori Heckelman, Tryon, Christine Mariotti, Tryon, Denise Cwik, Saluda, Mark Holland, Tryon, Becky Hyatt Rickenkaker, Tryon, David Cedrone, Landrum, Toby Wolter, Landrum, Kristen Mode, Saluda, Ron Robbins, Landrum, Hague Williams, Landrum, Merry-Beth Noble, Landrum, Grace Lertora, Landrum, and Samantha Oliver, Columbus.

ArtTrek is an annual open-studios touring event that allows the general public to get an inside look at how and where artists make their creative works. The participating artists have samples of their work in the gallery, and patrons are encouraged to also visit the artists' studios throughout the community and the gallery in Tryon.

The gallery exhibition will be held from Oct. 4-18, and tours will be held for two days, Saturday, Oct. 5, 10am to 5pm, and Sunday, Oct. 6, noon to 5pm. The opening reception and start of the silent auction of participating artists' works will be Friday, Oct. 4, from 5-7:30pm.

There is no cost for patrons to see the exhibit or take the tours. They are encouraged to start their tours at the gallery in downtown Tryon on Saturday, Oct. 5, with coffee and refreshments, 9-11am, or on Sunday, Oct. 6, 10am to noon. Patrons will be given a map to the artists' studios, as well as other helpful and insightful



Hague Williams at work in his studio

information about the artists.

The closing reception and last day of the exhibition will be Friday, Oct. 18, 5-7:30pm, at which time the silent auction ends and artwork awarded to the highest bidders.

"This is one of those events that really give people a feel for this community," Tryon Downtown Development Association Executive Director Jamie Carpenter said. "People who live here in the Carolina Foothills appreciate it because many of the artists are their friends and neighbors. Also, it is a draw for visitors and tourists, who want a casual, easy, and artsy overview of the community. It's a great way to see our small towns and the countryside. Many people make a full day of the experience, seeing art, eating at local restaurants, meeting people, visiting businesses along the way, and driving through the foothills on a fall day. Art has always been an important influence on this community, and Upstairs Artspace's ArtTrek is our most-established and well organized studio-tour event."

All of the participating artists are within easy driving distance of the gallery in Tryon.

Founded in 1978, Upstairs Artspace is a nonprofit contemporary art gallery in downtown Tryon at S. Trade Street. It exhibits two- and three-dimensional art and craft by leading artists of the Southeast, particularly in the Carolinas, as well as artists nationally and globally. There is no charge to visit and see the exhibits. Upstairs Artspace is supported by public and private donations, sales of art, grants, and fund-raising events. It is supported in part by the Polk County Community Foundation, the Mary F. Kessler Fund, and public and private donations.

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

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