

Presbyterian College in Clinton, SC

continued from Page 16

making, the work is on its own now and so people bring their own meaning and, more importantly, their own meaningfulness.”

Rico grew up on military bases across the United States and has lived on both coasts and along both borders. He earned his undergraduate degree from the University of Memphis in 1995, followed by an intensive series of studio art and art history courses at PC from 2003 to 2005.

In 2016, he received his Master of Arts from Clemson University. Rico has exhibited internationally in Australia, England, and Germany; in regional art museums in South Carolina; as well as in commercial galleries in New York City, Atlanta, and New Orleans. Rico is represented by Lyons Weir Gallery and Bill Lowe Gallery.

Although closed for public viewing due to the Pandemic, the Harper Center Gallery hosts four exhibitions annually - two exhibi-



Work by Christopher Rico

tions of work from nationally and internationally recognized artists, the *Senior Art Major Exhibition*, and the *Annual Student Exhibition*.

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings or contact Ann Stoddard at 864/833-8635.

Artists Collective | Spartanburg in Spartanburg, SC, Features Works by Janis McElligott

It's taken self-taught artist Janis McElligott nearly a lifetime, but her first public exhibition of acrylic paintings, *Acrylic Moments: Emotions Remembered*, will be on view at Artists Collective | Spartanburg in Spartanburg, SC, from Oct. 6 - 31, 2020. A reception will be held on Oct. 17, from noon-2pm. All social distancing protocols to prevent the spread of COVID-19 will be observed.

McElligott will present about 25 paintings, which will vary in size and subject matter, and will include images of beloved pets, buffalo standing in snow, peaceful but abandoned homes, waves crashing, World War II debris, and lighthearted Halloween and Easter moments.

“I'm excited, nervous, and happy,” McElligott said. “This is a wonderful opportunity to share my work.” She has been a member at ACS for nearly a year.

“On behalf of Artists Collective | Spartanburg, we are thrilled to be Janis's choice of galleries for her first exhibit,” Collective President Beth Regula said. “Her work is very accessible. She has a lot of images that people can easily relate to on an emotional level. Although the work appears to be simple and straightforward, there is a deeper level of connection there for the taking. She has a way of capturing the moment.”



Work by Janis McElligott

personal connection is made.

“I do a lot of work on commission, capturing a moment in time for people,” she explained. “I paint what they want. They don't describe the painting to me when I deliver it. What they do is tell me the way it makes them feel. And the way they feel tells me I captured their moment.”

The self-taught artist has practiced her love of drawing for a lifetime: She carries a sketch pad with her wherever she goes to either capture a moment or escape from one. In her retirement, her sketching expanded to acrylic painting adding color to life's moments.

“James Baldwin once said ‘All art is a kind of confession.’ These acrylic paintings are mine,” McElligott said. “They are things I saw or emotions I shared, all put on canvas as my declaration to loving life's moments. The simplest sights can help the heart remember what's important. Whether it be a loving pet remembered, a little girl feeling the crash of an ocean wave or the silence of snow; all these things provoke a wide range of emotions. These varying emotions are captured by using the gaiety of vivid colors to the solemnness of grayscale. I hope you feel the moment.”

“This is the first time I will be exhibiting my work, and I can't imagine a better place to take this step with my art,” she said. “Everyone at ACS makes themselves available with gentle guidance and fellowship. The range of artistry at the ACS serves as a creative motivator for me.”

Artists Collective | Spartanburg is a membership-based art venue that provides affordable studio space to local artists who are juried into the organization. Most of the artists are visual artists, however, some are performing artists. It has about 30 member studios, more than 50 members, three galleries, two stages, a printery, and a pottery studio. Normally, it hosts three art exhibitions each month, showcasing members' and guest artists' work. Housed in what was once a Baptist church, it is one of Spartanburg's leading art agencies.

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



Work by Janis McElligott

“There is a large range of moments captured on canvas, from pets to crashing waves,” the 64-year-old Massachusetts native said. She now lives in Taylors, SC. “I hope there is a painting for everyone to reflect on and maybe — just maybe — feelings remembered. These are things that I've seen or that others have shared with me that stirred gentle emotions in me. Things that seemed important to remember and share.”

Some of the work will be for sale, ranging in price from \$40 to \$240. “I hope they find a painting that leaves them with a good feeling,” McElligott said.

Although McElligott's work leans heavily toward realism, it gives a deeply personal and contemplative message by adding a bit of impressionism to the subject matter. Her style does not shy away from the viewer, and many of the subjects — even those without eyes — seem to stare unblinkingly at the patron, as if to hold attention until a

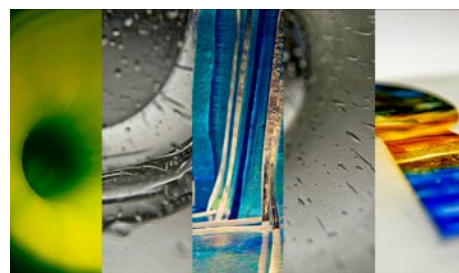
Artists Collective | Spartanburg in Spartanburg, SC, Offers Works by Thomas Koenig and Judy Martin

The Artists Collective | Spartanburg in Spartanburg, SC, will present *Big In Glass*, featuring collaborative works by photographer Thomas Koenig and fused-glass artist Judy Martin, on view from Oct. 6 - 31, 2020. All social distancing protocols will be practiced to prevent the spreading of COVID-19.

Each artist is contributing 10-12 pieces of work. Martin will present a collection of fused glass creations especially made for this exhibit; Koenig will use macro photography to present highly enlarged details of Martin's work, giving the viewer a different perspective.

“This is truly exciting,” Collective President Beth Regula said. “Collaboration between artists is something that we wholeheartedly encourage and support. Both of these members are respected in their individual field. Together, they are presenting a new kind of art exhibit. You'll see Judy's beautiful fused glass creations, and you'll see how Thomas has captured details of her creations through his creative eye, in large size prints. I commend them for their efforts, their spirit of collaboration, and for producing something new in Spartanburg's art world.”

“Judy and I spent hours together going through and testing materials and shapes that make an interesting object through shape, color, and texture,” Koenig said. “In this aspect, this show is a step further in the process between glass art creation and the detail that is portrayed in the picture. The original attraction was the idea of presenting something new, way bigger in size. We both learned from the experience and widened our horizon. We experimented. We had happy accidents and we took a second look, and often found beauty in it.”



A cross section of photos by Thomas Koenig of glass works by Judy Martin

Martin hopes patrons will see this exhibit as “a different way of looking at things, not just glass. And, it is glass like it hasn't been seen before in photography.” Koenig hopes “it will challenge the visitor to look at things a different way and to experience a material, its color and texture differently. You could say it's when details in glass enter another medium.”

It took the artists a year to experiment and produce the works for this exhibit, and all of them will be for sale. The 24 x 36-inch photographs will sell for \$225 each. Martin's work will range in price from \$55 to \$1,200.

For both artists, creating this exhibit has been a learning experience and changed how they work. Koenig: “It is a departure for both of us, because we went through the experience of collaborating, including abandoning traditional techniques and accepting other viewpoints as new standards.” Martin: “My glass is going from my well-known method and style to trying new ways of making art from glass.”

Martin's profession has been in sales and management, but about 14 years ago while unemployed, she scratched a creative itch and took a local class in stained glass. “I worked in that medium for a couple of years and then found full-time employment again,” she said. “And once more my creative urges had to take a back seat for a while. When I found myself unemployed



Thomas Koenig photographing glass work by Judy Martin

once again, glass art was still calling me. I don't remember how I even found glass fusing but boy oh boy, did it hook me! I started eating, sleeping, breathing glass fusing, and I felt as if I'd finally found my niche!”

Because Martin could not find any local educational opportunities in fused glass, she educated herself through reading, online investigation, “and probably most importantly good ol' trial and error, learning the hard way what works and what doesn't.” Since then, her work has been juried into the prestigious ArtFields art show in Lake City, SC, as well both of the Collective's juried shows in 2019 and 2020.

Martin's commissioned pieces have included Christian crosses, wedding centerpieces, sports pieces, and outside installations. She has taught fused glass at Tryon Arts and Crafts School, Spartanburg Art Museum, and her studio in Lyman, SC.

Thomas Koenig's career in communications and design spans more than 30 years and two continents: North America and Europe. Born in Greensboro, NC, Koenig's youth was spent in Germany, where he earned a degree in Prepress Production from a traditional apprenticeship program and a diploma in Communication Design and Photography from the University of Applied Science in Wiesbaden. He has done research in semiotics and practical semiotic applications at the University of South Carolina as part of the School of Journalism and Mass Communication's graduate program.

Koenig has lived in Spartanburg since 1997 and been the creative lead at AGE K Media LLC, a local communications agency. In 2009, he had a solo art show at Spartanburg Art Museum. He has been in several group shows in both the USA and Germany. In 2019, Koenig was awarded an art grant by Chapman Cultural Center for a photography project. He and his camera traveled extensively in the US, England and Germany.

Martin has been a member of the Collective for three years, and Koenig has been a member for five years. “Diversity is key,” Koenig said. “ACS has given me opportunities to exhibit my work with close to no limitations or restrictions, and the support from the artists at ACS as a community has been priceless.” Martin said, “Interacting with the other members has been great for me. Talking with others, I can learn and get ideas for my glass art through what they have done.”

Artists Collective | Spartanburg is a membership-based art venue that provides affordable studio space to local artists who are juried into the organization. Most of the artists are visual artists, however, some are performing artists. It has about 30 member studios, more than 50 members, three galleries, two stages, a printery, and a pottery studio. Normally, it hosts three art exhibitions each month, showcasing members' and guest artists' work. Housed in what was once a Baptist church, it is one of Spartanburg's leading art agencies.

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

Having an exhibition?

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 2020 issue and November 24th for the December 2020 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).

Got something to promote?
You can contact us by calling 843/693-1306 or by e-mail at - info@carolinaarts.com
but do it before the 24th of the month prior to our next issue.