

# Upstairs Artspace in Tryon, NC, Offers Three New Exhibitions

Upstairs Artspace – the contemporary art gallery in Tryon, NC – will host three new exhibitions, on view through Dec. 2, 2022, featuring artists Eleanor Baugnies, Phil Garrett, Hague Williams, Barbara Fisher, Libby Skamfer, and Estell Osten. The exhibits will present monotypes, abstract paintings, and pottery. The three exhibits were curated by Tryon citizen and long-time gallery founder and patron Nancy Holmes.

Baugnies, Garrett, and Williams will have monotypes (one of a kind prints) in *Singular Impressions*. Fisher and Skamfer will present abstract paintings in *Dark, Light, Soft, Bright*. And, Osten's ceramics will be featured in *A Pottery Discovery*.

Upstairs Artspace was founded in 1979 and has since become one of the leading contemporary art galleries in Western North Carolina and Upstate South Carolina. It specializes in contemporary art or "art of today" that is generally produced by living artists. Upstairs Artspace is an official nonprofit agency, governed by a Board of Directors, composed of local citizens.

Eleanor Baugnies was born in New Orleans and studied fine art at the College of Santa Fe, Louisiana State University, University of Nebraska Omaha, and Loyola University New Orleans. She also attended a ceramics program at Penland School of Craft in North Carolina. She lived in France for 10 years raising her two children, and returned to New Orleans in 2000 to design jewelry and work with clay. During the Covid pandemic, she discovered gel printing and painting with watercolors.

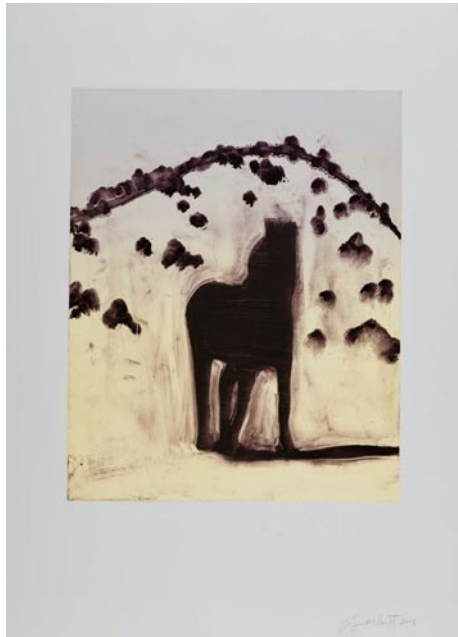
"This body of work is a form of print-making, using a gel plate and acrylic paints and occasionally inks," Baugnies said, describing her work in *Singular Impressions*. "Once the paint is applied to the gel plate, it is then manipulated with objects at hand, such as forks, bottle tops, fingers, and spatulas. Each piece is made with lots of love and always music blasting, and with the simple pleasure that I get creating a piece that hopefully provides the viewer with joy."

Phil Garrett, a graduate of The San Francisco Art Institute, has completed numerous artists' residencies, including The Sam and Adele Golden Foundation residency in New Berlin, NY. He is the Founder of King Snake Press, and his prints and paintings are in public and private collections in the USA, Europe, and Japan, including The SC State Museum and Greenville County Museum of Art in South Carolina. He joined the Golden Artist Colors Working Artist Program in 1998 and the Williamsburg Oil Independent Artist Program in 2016. In October 2005, 2006, and 2007, he lectured and taught workshops on Acrylic Painting Methods in Art Schools in the cities of Osaka, Tokyo, Nagoya, Kyoto, and Fukuoka in Japan, sponsored by Golden Acrylic and Turner company of Osaka. He is the author of the book *Inside Acrylics* published by North Light Books in August of 2013.

"My Work is informed by nature, a kind of mythical nature," Garrett said. "The power of storms, the spiritual quality of the elements, the beauty, grace and ferocity of plants and animals.... Something greater than myself, something I can't comprehend. Painting and making monotypes are my search for the mystery within the subject, within myself."

Hague Williams is both an artist and arts educator. He received his master's degree in fine art from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and taught for 10 years as an Assistant Director for the Prague Studio Program. Before moving to Chicago in 2001, Williams received a bachelor's degree in art and another bachelor's degree in multimedia arts from the University of North Carolina in Asheville. He has exhibited in Chicago, Los Angeles, Czech Republic, Tweed Museum of Art, Duluth MN, Stedelijk Museum De Lakenhal, Leiden, Netherlands, and performed at Carnegie Hall, NY. Now located in Landrum, SC, he is the Chair of the Fine Arts Department at Landrum High School.

"Transformation and the catalysts that precipitate change over time are primary sources of motivation for my work," Williams said. "The mechanisms of visual persuasion, such as flags, logos, and em-



Work by Phil Garrett

blems: referencing anthems, rituals, and other social-bonding experiences, become the organizing principles for my work. As a printmaker and artist, I am predictably interested in such change methods: Process is an integral part of my work. I am searching for the following translation, the next transformation. With a background in media and design, I weave complex and multi-layered compositions that address formal concerns. At the same time, I infuse meaning by using contemporary symbols of power, branding, advertising, and signifiers that blur the distinction between governments, religion, and corporations. These source images are re-contextualized into motifs and patterns that overlap and interact to present the viewer with something chaotic and intricate yet, at the same time, familiar."

Barbara Fisher was born in New York City, educated in Colorado and California, and lived for many years on the West Coast before settling in Asheville, NC, in 1998. Her work has been exhibited in solo shows throughout the country, including the de Saisset Museum (CA), Bank of America World Headquarters (CA), The National Institutes of Health (MD), and The Washington Cancer Center (DC), as well as in many galleries. Her paintings have hung in group shows at the Asheville Art Museum (NC), the Alexandria Museum of Art (LA), the Sun City Museum of Art (AZ), the Chicago Cultural Center (IL), Highlands Museum of the Arts (FL), Hickory Museum of Art (NC), and the Mobile Museum of Art (AL). Her work can be found in the collections of Capital One (VA), Western NC University Art Museum, the Asheville Art Museum (NC), First Charter Bank (NC), Bank of America (CA), National Institutes of Health (MD), University of NC Hospitals, Mission Hospital (NC), the Coweta County Public Library (GA), the Electrolux Corporation (NC), and the Foundation for the Carolinas (NC).

"Transforming interior states into a visual language is what drives me as an artist," Fisher said. "Carl Jung said, 'In all chaos there is a cosmos, in all disorder a secret order.' I am willing to embrace chaos in the hopes of finding/creating my own secret order. Each painting hints at a narrative based on the way I envision energy, ideas, matter, psychic states, memories and other elements interacting. A shape may be trying to reach or move through an area, encountering visual and/or psychic roadblocks; an image might disintegrate and be transformed into something new."

Libby Skamfer lives in Columbus, NC, and she is an abstract painter who uses acrylic and mixed media. She is inspired by nature, music, and life experiences. Among her exhibitions since 2017, she has presented in Flat Rock, Tryon, ArtFields (Lake City, SC), and Beaufort, SC, and has exhibited her paintings in juried international online exhibitions. Her work hangs in many private homes across the US and Mission Hospital (NC). After a lifelong career as a European trained master goldsmith, Skamfer began painting in 2017 after a sudden and tremendous personal loss. Initially, the materials she experimented with were oils

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**THROUGH DECEMBER 2, 2022**



LIBBY SHAMFER (DETAIL)

**upstairs**  
[artspace]

## SINGULAR IMPRESSIONS

Eleanor Baugnies  
Phil Garrett  
Hague Williams

## DARK, LIGHT, SOFT, BRIGHT

Barbara Fisher  
Libby Skamfer

## A POTTERY DISCOVERY

Work by Estell Osten

## OPEN STUDIO TOUR

Visit printmakers in "Singular Impressions" on Sat, Nov 12, 12-5pm. Prints for sale plus demonstrations.

Upstairs Artspace  
49 S. Trade St, Tryon NC  
828.859.2828

[upstairsartspace.org](http://upstairsartspace.org)

Hours: Tues – Sat  
noon – 5pm

and cold wax but drying times frustrated her and she shifted to acrylic and various mixed media painting on both canvas and cradled wood panels. Her process is continually evolving as she allows the paint to lead her to the next stage of development knowing that uncertainty and accidents are essential to the evolution of her work in its final form.

"My process is intuitive, unplanned and involves coaxing materials in layers, allowing chance and mistakes to hold importance ultimately steering me toward what I consider to be resolution within balance," Skamfer said. "I am drawn to taking risks, finding fresh ways to continue to open spaces and explore contrasts in value, edges and texture. As a new body of work emerges, I discover a deeper cultivation of my own spiritual nature. I draw on all life experiences and especially music, nature and emotions for inspiration. I paint at the intersection of intuition and emotion. My paintings record my life's journey in visual form representing who I am better than words can describe. If my paintings have caused you to feel or think then our spirits have met."

Originally from New York, Estell Osten worked for the United Nations for 35 years. She spent nine of those years working for UN Headquarters in Vienna, Austria, for the UN Office on Drugs and Crime as Program Manager and then Drug Control Officer. The exigencies of service demanded all her time and made it impossible for her to explore her creative side. In 2009 she retired to Tryon. It was only through fortunate happenstance that she met her first mentor, Mary Lou Diekmann, who taught her the art of drawing, painting, and started her off in pottery at the Tryon Arts and Crafts School. It was quite a surprise at this late stage to find that she had any ability in the arts. Since taking up painting and pottery, Osten has had her pieces included in juried shows and exhibitions in the local area., including



Work by Libby Skamfer

April 2014 *Craft Tryon Juried Show*, Artist of the Month Feb. 2015 at Tryon Arts and Crafts School, *3rd Annual Juried Exhibition* of the Spartanburg Libraries, Tryon Painters and Sculptors *15th Regional Juried Show* in 2015, and Tryon Arts and Crafts's *Spring Celebration of Craft Juried Show*. Osten gives credit to her teachers for their guidance and encouragement. These include Mary Lou Diekmann, Gary Huntoon (RIP), and Ron Ponce.

"Color, form and detail are what drive me in my work with ceramics," Osten said. "I get a thrill when I can produce a piece that encompasses both functionality and beauty. The ceramic art is infinite in its possibilities. There is something new to be discovered around every corner. I am always seeking the whimsical and the eclectic. This keeps me in a constant state of development and fully engaged everyday. Painting was my first interest in the world of art. As a painter, I take the opportunity to incorporate painting skills together with the physicality of working with clay. To this end, my ceramic pieces become a canvas."

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, call 828/859 2828 or visit ([UpstairsArtspace.org](http://UpstairsArtspace.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 November 24th for the December 2022 issue and Dec. 24 for the January 2023 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](mailto:info@carolinaarts.com)).