

# Furman University in Greenville

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The Jury put together an exhibition that connects in several beautiful, meaningful, and unexpected ways. *Found Family* is a deeply significant conceptual experience thanks to their concerted consideration, says Mandravelis.

“More broadly, the contributions of Kylie Fisher and her 2024 Summer Undergraduate Student Researcher, Alex Aradas (FU ‘26) merit particular commendation. Dr. Fisher and Aradas spent many hours over the Spring, Summer, and Fall 2024 leading the planning of the exhibition, interviewing artists, researching associated themes, writing interpretations, undertaking marketing initiatives, in addition to many other tasks. *Found Family* would not have been possible without their curatorial vision and organizational direction. Its current form is a direct reflection of their care and commitment to the amplification of Queer voices.”

“It was a deeply rewarding experience to work alongside them. I would also like to sincerely thank the exhibition’s generous financial supporters, specifically Furman University’s Department of Art; Office of Undergraduate Research; Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee; and Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies program, as well as the dedicated faculty, staff, and students who graciously volunteered their time and labor throughout the development and installation processes. Their selfless work truly embodied the ideals of *Found Family*.”

“Finally, thank you to all the artists who



Work by Brad Silk

have so openly and willingly shared their work and - through it - some of their most personal experiences, hopes, joys, fears, and dreams. The other organizers and I sincerely appreciate you joining us for *Found Family*’s celebration of Queer art in the South. We hope that it provides genuine enjoyment, invites stimulating reflection, and inspires actionable empathy within the found family of our broader community,” added Mandravelis.

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings, contact Stephen Mandravelis by calling 864/294-2282 or e-mail to ([stephen.mandravelis@furman.edu](mailto:stephen.mandravelis@furman.edu)).

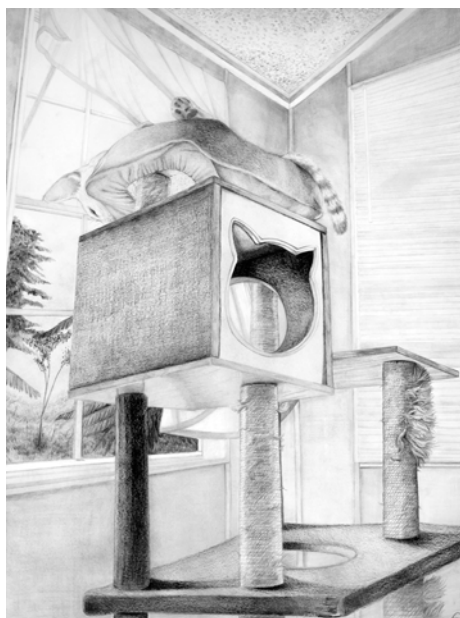
## Greenville Technical College in Greer, SC, Features Annual Student Exhibition

Greenville Technical College in Greer, SC, will present the *2024 Visual Arts Annual Student Exhibition*, on view in the Benson Campus Galleries, on the Greer campus of Greenville Technical College, from Nov. 4 through Dec. 9, 2024.

The Department of Visual Arts (DVA) curriculum comprises multiple disciplines in fine art and applied art. Most of these disciplines are showcased in VAASE. For high school students considering furthering their studies in art, come see this exhibition to discover the many studio possibilities at Greenville Technical College. VAASE provides a glimpse of many of the fine arts (painting, drawing, and printmaking, for example) as well as applied arts such as web design, graphic art, photography, typography and animation. VAASE speaks to DVA’s goals of preparing students to move directly into the workforce or on to four-year institutions.

VAASE is a celebration of the persistence and accomplishments of all DVA students, especially the more than 40 students who made the time and demonstrated the professionalism to enter the competition. The Halloween Costume Gala celebrated VAASE and the VAASE Awards on October 30 with Halloween costumes, a costume parade, and costume portraits. Students, faculty, staff, friends, and family feasted on pizza, subs, and treats as all anxiously awaited the awards presentations. Once all had explored the exhibition, Shane Howell, DVA Chair, presented the awards. Each award winner had a moment in the spotlight, with many cheers, much applause, and a cash award.

Many thanks to the *2024 VAASE* juror, Jessica Scott-Felder from Wofford College. Scott-Felder took a morning out of her busy schedule to spend on the Benson Campus. She determined the works that comprise the *2024 VAASE* and chose the works that received awards. Jessica is a visual and performance artist from Atlanta, GA. She is currently an assistant professor and teaches drawing, design, figure drawing, painting and printmaking at Wofford College. She completed her undergraduate studies in Studio Art from Spelman College, received an MFA in Drawing, Painting and Printmaking



Work by Abby Le Compte, 2023 Best in Show from Georgia State University and studied experimental printmaking at the Santa Reparata School of Art in Florence, Italy.

VAASE awards are made possible by a generous contribution from the Metropolitan Arts Council (MAC) with funds received from the City of Greenville, BMW Manufacturing Company, SEW Eurodrive and the South Carolina Arts Commission. The MAC funds are matched by our 2024 corporate sponsors, APCO Plastics, Bennetts’ Frame & Art Gallery, Suburban Paint, and the Greenville Tech Foundation. Thank you all.

Greenville, BMW Manufacturing Company, SEW Eurodrive and the South Carolina Arts Commission. with funds received from the City of Greenville, BMW Manufacturing Company, Michelin North America, Inc., SEW Eurodrive, and the South Carolina Arts Commission. In addition, this year’s corporate sponsors include APCO Plastics, Bennetts’ Frame & Art Gallery, Suburban Paint, and the Greenville Tech Foundation. Thank you all.

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings, call Pat Owens, Gallery Assistant at 864/250-3051, e-mail Fleming Markel, Gallery Director at ([fleming.markel@gvltec.edu](mailto:fleming.markel@gvltec.edu)) or visit ([www.gvltec.edu/dva](http://www.gvltec.edu/dva)).

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## Spoonbill Gallery in Greenville, SC, Features Works by Tessa Pinner and April Schwingle

Spoonbill Gallery in Greenville, SC, will present *Forms of Eden*, featuring works by Tessa Pinner and April Schwingle, which symbolizes the artists’ shared exploration of nature through botanical representations on ceramics, on view from Nov. 1 - 15, 2024. A reception will be held on Nov. 1, from 6-9pm.

Tessa Pinner and April Schwingle collaborate on an artistic journey that captures the delicate balance between nature and craftsmanship through the technique of botanical casting on pottery. Each unique piece reflects a narrative of transience and permanence, blending plant life’s fleeting beauty with ceramic art’s lasting elegance. The exhibition highlights the artists’ shared passion for nature, celebrating the delicate interplay between organic forms and the enduring qualities of ceramics. The exhibit aims to immerse visitors in the beauty of nature and the artistry of handmade pottery.

Pinner, whose sculptural work is deeply rooted in her love for gardening, reflects on her process: “My passion for gardening and horticulture inspires my sculptural work. I grow and gather plant material from my garden - leaves, buds, flowers, and fruit - transforming them into casts that preserve their delicate details. These impressions are not mere decorations; they embody the essence of life, capturing a moment in time. The tactile quality of the clay enhances this connection, inviting the viewer to engage with both the botanical forms and the ceramic medium.”

Adding her perspective, Schwingle explains her approach: “Building on this foundation, I focus on the interplay of texture and color. By incorporating glazes that reflect the natural hues of the plants, I seek to create a dialogue between the organic and the crafted. Each piece is an invitation to reflect on the relationship between humanity and nature, emphasizing the beauty found in imperfection.”



Work by Tessa Pinner and April Schwingle

Together, Pinner and Schwingle’s work explores themes of fragility and strength, grounded in a shared vision. “Through our combined efforts, we aim to highlight the fragility of the botanical world while celebrating the strength of ceramics,” says Schwingle. *Forms of Eden* encourages a deeper appreciation for the natural world, with each creation serving as a fusion of



Work by Tessa Pinner and April Schwingle

the artists’ individual perspectives. Their work stands as a testament to collaboration, showcasing the timeless connection between art and nature.

Tessa Pinner is a gardener, designer, and artist. From a young age, she knew that she would be an artist, and that guiding desire has taken several expressions. In 2012, she graduated from Bob Jones University with a BFA in Sculpture, after which she ran a luxury wedding cake studio for six years. In 2015, she discovered a passion for plants and gardening, first embarking on Clemson’s Master Gardener Program before earning an AS in Horticulture from Spartanburg Community College in 2020. Pinner has spent time gardening professionally at world-class gardens in England and Pennsylvania. Her career in garden design began at local design and landscape construction firm Dabney Collins, where she worked for five years before transitioning into private consulting and returning to fine art in 2023. Pinner lives in Greenville, SC, with her husband, Brian, and two sons.

April Schwingle is a potter and full-time professor. Her journey in clay is as much about nurturing future potters as it is about shaping each piece into its final form. With 25 years of teaching experience on the collegiate level, she is dedicated to sharing the transformative power of pottery, guiding students from their first touch of mud to the moment they discover their unique artistic voice. Schwingle earned her master’s in arts in 2002 and serves as Department Head of Art at Bob Jones University. She oversees a vibrant pottery studio. She resides in Greenville, SC, with her husband, David, and three sons.

Spoonbill Gallery is vibrant and experiential providing a unique and immersive art experience for the Greenville, SC, community and beyond. Founded by nationally award-winning artist, Joseph Bradley, and located adjacent to his studio, the gallery’s collection features a variety of national artists complemented by a showcase of rising talents. Spoonbill Gallery is dedicated to fostering a deeper appreciation for art and

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