

Wofford College in Spartanburg

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conventional mixed media art of folk, self-taught, and community-trained artists from the American South. While many of these artists never intended for their creations to fill the walls of galleries and museums, their talent, long overlooked by the mainstream art world, was noticed by Asheville- and St. Simon's Island-based artist and collector Randy Siegel. His collection, as seen in this exhibition, showcases various ways in which artists interpret and express the unique culture of their Southern communities.

Deeply rooted in African diasporic traditions, the artworks on view convey a heterogeneous Southern culture through both materiality and subject matter. The varied materials used - textiles, tin, household items, and wood - are as integral to the works as the stories they tell about family, religion, local gatherings, and fluid expressions of Southern identity. Found objects and everyday materials become extraordinary, imbued with the artists' personal visions, idiosyncratic iconographies, and diverse heritages, once illegible to orthodox "high art" institutions. While some of the makers included in the exhibition have been referred to as "outsider artists," the central theme of community present in their works belies this designation, prompting viewers to ask how outsider and insider status shifts depending on who is looking, and where.

The majority of the objects in the exhibition were chosen from the Siegel collection by students in Dr. Gillian Young's History of African American Art course in the Spring of 2024. Students in this course



A view inside the exhibition

researched and wrote object labels for their selections.

Featured artists include: Z B Armstrong, Hawkins Boulden, Adam Brandau, Thornton Dial, Sam Doye, Minnie Evans, Howard Finster, Carlton Garrett, Bessie Harvey, Lonnie Holley, Clementine Hunter, Anderson Johnson, George Kornegay, Charlie Lucas, Ethel Maw Matthews, J.T. "Jake" McCord, Gertrude Morgan, Nellie Mae Rowe, Lorenzo Scott, John Serl, Mary T. Smith, Lizzie Wilkinson, Purvis Young, and Malcah Zeldis.

The Richardson Family Art Museum sustains a diverse collection of art and works of cultural significance. It supports the academic curriculum and the cultural life of the college, which enhances the larger mission of the college, providing superior liberal arts education that prepares its students for extraordinary and positive contributions to society. The museum strengthens, supports, and contributes to the academic research on campus and beyond, serving the college community of students, faculty and staff, alumni, and the region's general public.

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings, call the Museum at 864/597-4180 or visit (www.wofford.edu).

Wofford College in Spartanburg, SC, Offers Exhibition Focused on Southern Artists of The Arts Students League in NY

Wofford College in Spartanburg, SC, is presenting *The League of Extraordinary Artists: The Art Students League of New York and Its Impact on Southern Art Presented by the Johnson Collection*, on view in the Richardson Family Art Museum in the Rosalind Sallenger Richardson Center for the Arts, through Dec. 13, 2024.

Since its inception 150 years ago, the Art Students League of New York has been a leader in defining and nurturing American art. Many of the country's brightest luminaries have been formed in its Manhattan halls, and it remains a prestigious proving-ground for artists. Eschewing formal degrees or a standardized curriculum, the Art Students League instead employs the classical atelier method, where instructors mentor and collaborate with students in small studio groups.

Artists with ties to the American South have been pivotal in building the brand, the reach, and the reputation of the Art Students League. For example, at a time when formal arts instruction was largely barred to artists of color in the South, North Carolina-born Charles Alston sought artistic freedom in New York, becoming a pioneer of the Harlem Renaissance and the first African-American instructor at the League. Reciprocally, the imprimatur of the League helped propel the careers of many practitioners, who in turn established their own art institutes and academic departments across the American South.

Edmund Yaghjian, for example, who was first a student and then an instructor at the League, eventually migrated to the South to become the longtime chair of the art department at the University of South Carolina, Columbia, bringing from New York the sensibilities of celebrating local vernacular to our region.

Spanning a period nearly as long as the life of the League itself, the twenty-five paintings featured here - selected from



A view inside the exhibition

among the hundreds of League-related works in The Johnson Collection - celebrate the legacy of the Art Students League and the dynamic exchange it has historically facilitated between Northern and Southern art communities. This exhibition offers a cross-section of the diversity, longevity, and reach not only of the Art Students League but more broadly of the extraordinary impact of American art.

Featured artists include: Sigmund Abeles, Charles Alston, Carroll Cloar, Josephine Couper, Sidney Dickinson, Lamar Dodd, Jeanet Dreskin, Anne Goldthwaite, Marie Hull, Rockwell Kent, Margaret Law, Blanche Lazzell, Norman Lewis, Blondelle Malone, Mabel Pugh, Haywood Rivers, Oli Sihvonen, Theodoros Stamos, Eugene Thomason, Edmund Yaghjian, and Rufus Zogbaum.

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Artists Collective | Spartanburg, SC, Offers Works by Andy Donnan

The Artists Collective | Spartanburg, in Spartanburg, SC, will present *Andy's Gone Native: Art Based on Native American Shell Carving*, featuring works by Andy Donnan, on view in Gallery III, from Nov. 5 - 30, 2024. A reception will be held on Nov. 21, from 5-8pm, as part of the Spartanburg ArtWalk.

Upstate artist Andy Donnan is using his acrylic paintings to interpret shell carvings from Native Americans in the hopes of reminding us "that complex societies are fleeting."

The 20 pieces in the show will be offered for purchase with prices ranging from \$150 to \$300. All profits from the sale of artworks will be donated to the Osage Nation Foundation.

"Lack of compassion can wipe out societies and then we can forget them over time, this should never happen," says Donnan, a native of Frederick, MD, and a retired board-certified physician assistant. "This exhibition is in a different style than my usual work. It is based mostly on indigenous shell carving from Arkansas and Mississippi. Most of the shell carvings were done on conch shells and depicted important moments, images and people in their society. The carvings had no color; therefore, the color was my interpretation. Spiro mound artifacts were incomplete due to their being looted from 1933 to 1935 by treasure hunters. These paintings are based on preserved artifacts at the University of Arkansas."

Donnan says he hopes viewers of the show will "reflect on the terrible looting that occurred. This site was considered one of the worst archaeological tragedies in history, and many people do not know about it."

Donnan became inspired to create the works by his son, an archeologist. "When he showed me the carving at the University of Arkansas from this society dating to about 1000 C.E. and the fact that theirs



Work by Andy Donnan

was a complex society I was in awe. I want people to come away with a sense that there was a complex society that came before us and that art, carvings and spirituality were important to them."

Donnan adds, "Art is a way to escape the daily slog that we all walk through. Art gives us a chance to look into our past, both good and bad, and express the way we feel about it. When viewing art, it should arouse something within us, hopefully challenging or encouraging to us. Art should have an effect on our walk through life and the way we perceive life."

Donnan is a self-taught artist who began painting in the early 1990s. He has been a member of the Artists Collective | Spartanburg since 2017. His art was accepted by the Albany Artist Guild Juried Show and the Spartanburg Library Show. This is his third exhibition at ACS. He and his wife, Sarah, maintain the Collective's grounds and flowers.

"I'm excited about showing at the Col-

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The deadline each month to submit articles, photos and ads is the 24th of the month prior to the next issue. This will be Nov. 24th, at 5pm for the December 2024 issue and Dec. 24, at 5pm for the January 2024 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).