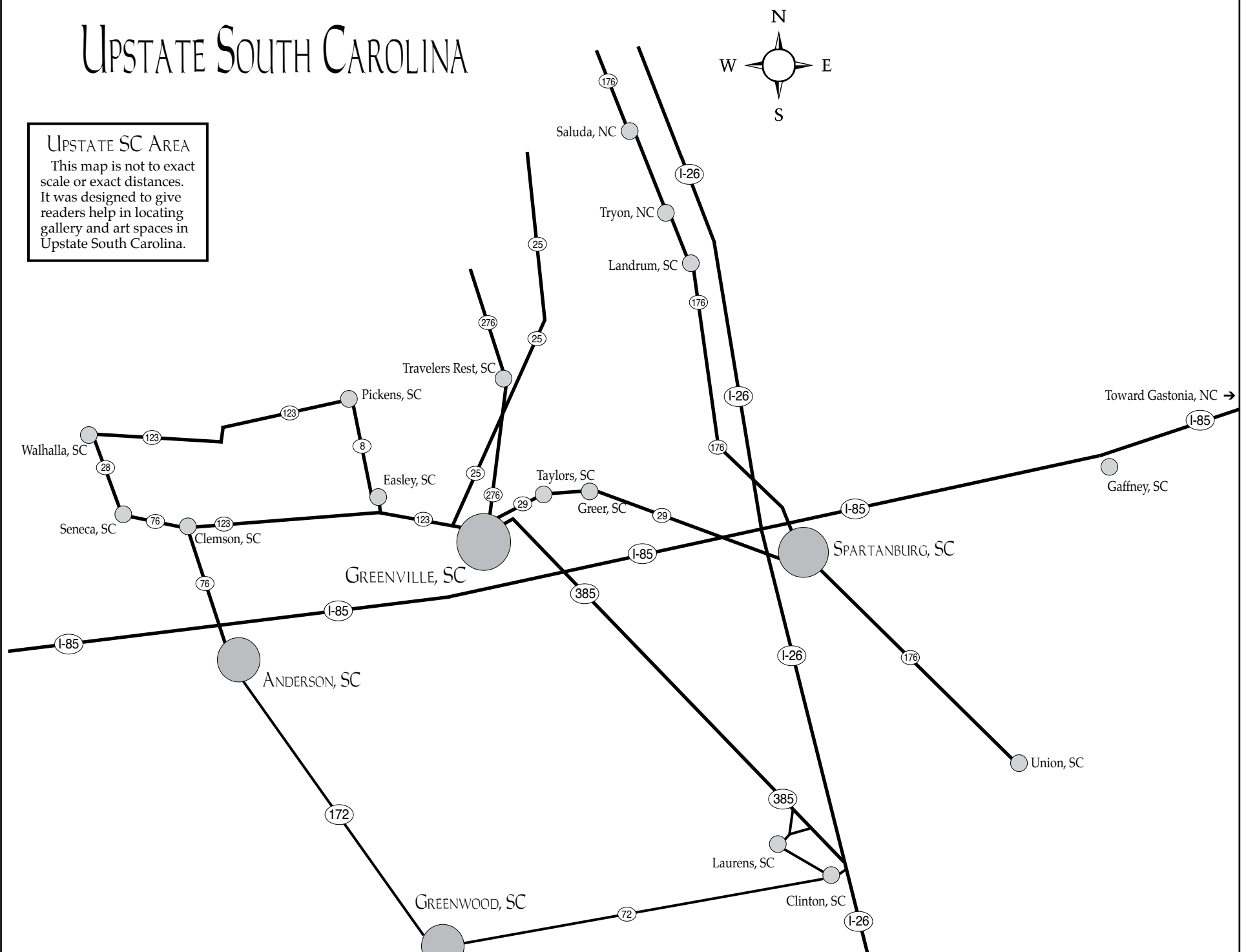


UPSTATE SOUTH CAROLINA

UPSTATE SC AREA

This map is not to exact scale or exact distances. It was designed to give readers help in locating gallery and art spaces in Upstate South Carolina.



Artists Collective | Spartanburg in Spartanburg, SC, Offers Group Exhibit Focused on the Chair

Four guest artists will explore the complex nature of chairs in the exhibition *A Seat at the Table: The Chair as Aesthetic and Social Construct* at Artists Collective | Spartanburg, SC, on view from Jan. 7 through Feb. 29, 2020. The exhibit of about 40 pieces of art will be housed in the facility's newly renamed and largest gallery, The Solomon Gallery. It will feature the work of Janet Kozachek, Janet Orselli, Lee Malerich, and Nathaniel Wallace. The exhibit's reception will be held on Jan. 16, from 5-9pm, during the city's monthly ArtWalk.

In the proposal the artists presented to the Collective, they said: "The chair, in all its various permutations, serves as a poignant symbol of the human condition. It can invite the guest into the fold of company. The chair can validate a person's sense of community belonging, as the expression 'having a seat at the table' implies. Yet, the chair constrains as well, with its subtle imperative not to rise but to 'stay seated.' A chair can even frighten or intimidate as a possible item to be bound to. An empty chair can serve as a reminder of solitude and loss in its haunting vacancy. This four-person exhibition presents the chair as an object that transcends its utilitarian function as a seat in order to serve as an impetus to conversations about inclusions, constraints, place, and time. Janet Kozachek, Janet Orselli, Lee Malerich, and Nathaniel Wallace use their artistic visions and technical skills to bring to life their own personal interpretations of this common object along with its philosophical and ethical significance."

"This will be a multi-layer exhibit," Collective Chair Beth Regula said. "There is a great deal of depth and understanding at the foundation of this exhibit. And, yet, it will be very accessible to even the most casual patrons. Some of the chairs will stretch the imagination, some are humorous, and others are deeply personal and thought provoking.



Work by Janet Kozachek

The artists put a great deal of care and planning into this thematic exhibition. I believe people will be very surprised to see how a single simple concept as 'a chair' can have so many different perspectives."

These artists are not members of Artists Collective | Spartanburg, but rather guest artists presenting a thematic exhibition. All of the work will be for sale and will range in price from about \$300 to \$4000.

Janet Kozachek is an internationally trained and exhibited artist. "Art is often that one grounding thing in a world of perpetual change that has come frequently and dramatically to me," she said. She holds a master's degree in Fine Arts in painting and drawing from Parsons School of Design in New York and a certificate of graduate study from the Central Academy of Fine Art in Beijing.

In addition to her painting, Kozachek is a well-known mosaic artist and was the Founding President of the Society of American Mosaic Artists. Her work is in a number of museums and private collections, and she is the recipient of the Category Award in Drawing from Artfields (2018), a Puffin Foundation Award, National Endowment for the Arts awards, a Heritage Foundation Award, and a Humanities Council Award. She has published several articles, essays, and poetry. Her chapbook, *My Women, My Monsters*, was scheduled to be published in autumn 2019. She resides in Orangeburg, SC.

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Lee Malerich has been making art for more than 50 years. "My current work is created from parts of damaged chairs. They are reconfigured and most of the time retain their identity as a chair because the viewer can see recognizable chair parts. The work is topical in political terms and represents the notion of a person somewhat rattled but still standing through our chaotic present," she said.



Work by Lee Malerich

Malerich has been awarded three South Carolina Fellowships in Craft, and a Regional National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship for her narrative embroideries commenting on personal life events. These

included events referring to the status of women and personal healing from cancer. Six years ago, Malerich began working in wood and reclaimed waste, but the work still examines women and their lives within the national #MeToo discussion. Malerich is from the Midwest and came to South Carolina as a professor of art at Columbia College.

Janet Orselli is a multi-disciplinary artist who creates assembled sculptures, drawings and site-specific installations. "Chairs, like most everyday objects, carry many associations—much baggage! They are personal, unique, and have very human attributes—arms, legs, seats, backs. They are substitutes for the figure that speak of a human presence or absence. I choose old, worn and broken chairs perhaps because they have a certain character; they seem somehow vulnerable and have come in such close contact with us in the most intimate of places," she said.



Work by Janet Orselli

Orselli holds a master's degree in Fine Arts from Clemson University and has been chosen for artist residencies at Anderson Ranch, CO; Spring Island, SC; and Kaiserslautern, Germany. Orselli has received three Regional Artist Project Grants from the North Carolina Arts Council and was awarded a national Pollock-Krasner Foundation Fellowship in 2005. She has had more than a dozen solo exhibitions, including O.K. Harris Works of Art in New York City and the Gibbs Museum of Art in

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