

Furman University in Greenville, SC

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launched his professional career in the 1970s while studying under South Carolina artists Carl Blair, Emery Bopp and Darell Koons. In 1982, he earned his MFA in painting from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. A year later, he moved to New York City, where most of his work was created. During that time, he built a family and watched his career climb to new heights, exhibiting in 14 solo and 30 group shows. He relocated in

2006 to Travelers Rest where he designed and fashioned a home/work studio on an acre of land and worked until his death in November 2018.

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings, contact Diane Fischer by e-mail at (diane.fischer@furman.edu). Or contact the Furman News and Media Strategy office at 864/294-3107.

Greenville Center for Creative Arts in Greenville, SC, Features Works From the SC State Art Collection

The Greenville Center for Creative Arts in Greenville, SC, is presenting *Contemporary Conversations*, curated by Eleanor Heartney, featuring select works from the 466-piece SC State Art Collection, on view Jan. 27, 2021. You can view a virtual tour of this exhibit online at (<https://www.artcentergreenville.org/scac-virtual>).

Heartney, a New York-based contemporary art critic and author, is the curator for *Contemporary Conversations*. She will give an artist talk Tuesday, Jan. 12, 2021, from 6-7pm at the gallery.

Heartney offers the following statement about the exhibit: "The works in this exhibition can be seen as a series of conversations about the place of art in contemporary life. Works address such questions as: how important are beauty and craftsmanship to contemporary artists? What is the meaning of abstraction? What responsibility does an artist bear toward the public? Can art serve as an agent of social change? What is the role of place in an artist's imagination?"

"Numerous debates and movements have roiled the art world over the last fifty years. These selections reflect that rowdy history. Thus, for instance, works from the 1960s and 70s suggest the once pitched battle over the primacy of realism or abstraction that preoccupied artists and curators during that period. In the 1980s, artists began to blur long-established categories of medium, style, and format in keeping with the pluralist tendency known as postmodernism. Meanwhile, the period from the 1960s to the present saw fundamental changes in the hierarchy and make-up of the art world. Narrow definitions of art that had often served

to exclude women, artists of color, and members of various ethnic minorities gave way to movements like feminism, multiculturalism, and globalism. All these developments are reflected here."

"For five decades South Carolina Arts Commission has been collecting and promoting the work of the state's artists in the belief that art is a public resource to be shared by all. The region's rich artistic heritage is a reminder that a society that nurtures the arts is one that cherishes the values and meanings of human life."

The State Art Collection is supported in part by the SC Arts Foundation. To find out more about the State Art Collection and the South Carolina Arts Commission, visit (www.SouthCarolinaArts.com).

Established in 1967 as one of the first programs of the SCAC, the State Art Collection has grown to include 466 works in a variety of media and styles by 288 South Carolina contemporary artists. It serves to encourage, support, and promote South Carolina's creative visual artists (#SCartists) and is of historic and cultural importance to the people of the state. Small exhibitions featuring work from the collection are organized on a regular basis for rural and isolated areas inside and outside of the state. For further info about the collection contact Visual Arts Program Director, Harriett Green by calling 803/734-8762 or e-mail to (hgreen@arts.sc.gov).

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings, contact Gallery Manager, Ben Tarcon by calling 864/274-0354, e-mail to (ben@artcentergreenville.org) or visit (www.artcentergreenville.org).

Greenville Technical College in Greer, SC, Features Works by Patrick Owens

Greenville Technical College in Greer, SC, will present *Alabama, Y'all*, a collection of Alabama photographs and sculptures made by an Alabama collector, Patrick Owens, on view in the Benson Campus Galleries, from Jan. 11 through Feb. 19, 2021.

Owens' Alabama fascination began with childhood family trips to the home place in Tuskegee. Though never an Alabama resident, he was bred of Alabama stock. His people, his roots, his family stories and myths are all Alabama born. Now and particularly over the past decade, Owens makes intentional, frequent trips to Alabama to glean the landscape for images and detritus to bring home to his South Carolina studio. Each image, each discarded bit has its own origin story and its own history of usefulness. Owens has reimagined these stories making them his own.

The provenance of Owens' photographs is mysteriously vague. The barbecue arrow, does it point to mouthwatering dinner for tonight or is it a eulogy for a long-gone mom and pop diner? The parlor chair, though threadbare and hemorrhaging cotton stuffing, has the presence of a dais in the wilderness or the happenstance destination of a discard. Even many of the storefronts he photographs could be just closed for the day or closed years ago. Owens honors and preserves the history of these destinations as



Work by Patrick Owens

he incorporates them reverently within his myths.

Owens' wall hung assemblages are closer kin to quilts than relief sculptures or paintings. He has pieced together bits of detritus from his Alabama scavenging with the whimsy of an outsider artist but also with deliberate and learned precision. In speaking of these works, Owens says, "These collections stem from a desire to preserve the memory of authentic lived experiences, and their stories lend evidence to our existence in this world." *Alabama, Y'all* proudly takes us on a fun trip of visual joy through an

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undetermined era in a very specific location but not just to make fun or have fun. *Alabama, Y'all* reminds us that memories and storied myths once abandoned lose us in the current cultural quagmire of dissension, greed, and grief.

Owens is a Greenville Tech Department of Visual Arts alumnus and is currently DVA's Studio Manager/Gallery Assistant. He recently completed his BFA degree Magna Cum Laude from Clemson University in sculpture. His photography has been included in exhibitions across the US including Rayko Photo Center in San Francisco, CA; the Midwest Center for Photography in Wichita, KS; Redux Contemporary Art Center in Charleston, SC; and Mobile Museum of Art, Mobile, AL. He has photographs in the Looking at Appalachia project of the Archive of Documentary Arts at Duke University, Durham, NC. He continues to make regular trips to Alabama, the home of



Work by Patrick Owens

generations of his family, to photograph and collect.

Face coverings are required on campus.

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings, call Fleming Markel, Gallery Director or Pat Owens, Gallery Assistant at 864/250-3051 or visit (www.gvltc.edu/dva).

Artists Collective | Spartanburg, SC, Offers Works Focused on Surviving COVID-19

The Artists Collective | Spartanburg, in Spartanburg, SC, will host *The Art of Survival*, an art exhibition on tap for Jan. 5 through Feb. 27, 2021, that will explore how regional artists have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and expressed its influence creatively.

The exhibit will have more than 70 visual artists from Upstate South Carolina participating. All pandemic safety protocols will be observed when entering the building.

"This exhibition was conceived in early April of this year when I was sharing on Facebook with some fellow artists how it felt to get motivated to work when all else was falling apart due to the pandemic," the Collective's Board Chair Beth Regula said. "The discussion led to motivating each other to continue to work and create. Knowing that motivation to make art comes sometimes when an exhibit is scheduled, I proposed that we encourage each other



"Hope" by Carol Cole Czczot, oil. "This painting sat unfinished in my studio until COVID-19 emerged. As the pandemic amplified political and societal stresses, I felt led to complete it as an expression of hope. We, like sunflowers, yearn to turn from darkness toward the light of better days."

in the community and then come together at Artists Collective | Spartanburg for an exhibit."

Regula's idea took root with the Col-

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