

# Furman University in Greenville, SC, Features Works by Aaron Collier

Furman University in Greenville, SC, will present *Knowing in Part*, featuring works by Aaron Collier, assistant professor in the Newcomb Art Department at Tulane University, on view in Thompson Gallery of the Roe Art Building, from Feb. 28 through Mar. 28, 2019. A reception and artist's talk will be held on Mar. 28, from 6-7:30pm.

A visual artist living in New Orleans, Collier teaches drawing and painting at Tulane. Solo exhibitions of his work have appeared at Octavia Gallery, Cole Pratt Gallery, and Staple Goods, an artist cooperative in the St. Claude Avenue Arts District.

He has participated in recent group exhibitions at the Contemporary Arts Center and the Ogden Museum of Southern Art and has been featured in *New American Paintings*.

Collier's paintings are represented in such collections as the New Orleans Museum of Art, Iberia Bank, and the Boston Medical Center. He has enjoyed artist residencies at the Ragdale Foundation, the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts, the Joan Mitchell Center in New Orleans, ISCP in Brooklyn and OAZO in Amsterdam.

For further information check our SC



Work by Aaron Collier

Institutional Gallery listings or call the Furman Department of Art at 864/294-2995.

# West Main Artists Co-op in Spartanburg, SC, Features Works by Barbie Workman

West Main Artists Co-op in Spartanburg, SC, will present *Whispers of Stories*, visual stories by Barbie Workman, on view from Feb. 5 through Mar. 2, 2019. A reception will be held on Feb. 21, from 5-9pm.

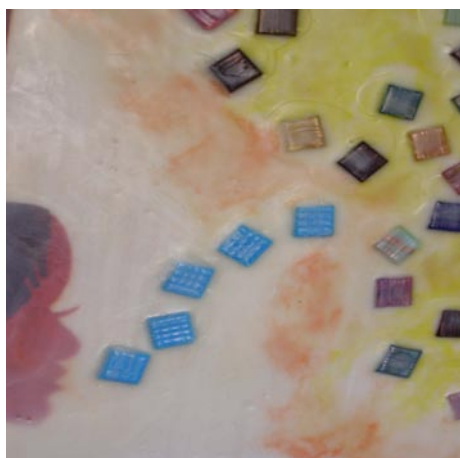
Workman will exhibit her latest collection of creative work using encaustic wax with mixed media. The 20 pieces will be representational abstractions that visually tell folk stories that Workman heard as a child from her American Indian grandparents.

"The message I hope to convey is the positive impact from oral history within families that teach morals and values to the next generation," the artist said. "My inspiration is derived from memories of the stories passed down to me by grandparents, from storytellers at pow wows through the years, and from Choctaw and Cherokee modern authors. Upon entering the exhibit, I hope people are enticed through the various assembled surfaces and visual compositions to contemplate the art and to experience the story."

Workman's work is often surreal and nonrepresentational, and *Whispers of Stories* reflects those influences. Here, however, she has included classic American Indian images - such as eagles and buffalos - and actual physical elements - such as broken teacups - into this exhibit in order to tell a relatable story to the general public.

In her artist's statement, Workman wrote, "Like a slow morning dew, the collection of images, shapes, and colors come together to tell a whisper of a story. To lead your imaginings on a path winding through memories and lofty ideals that carry you to a place of connection. Stories passed from the time of quiet reflection and intimate connection, there is a visual journey to share.... Two of the civilized tribes, Choctaw and Cherokee, utilize storytelling to teach life lessons, humorous folklore, and the values of their ancestors.... Each part of each composition is like a puzzle for the viewer to enjoy and assimilate into an inner connected story. Through this art show, I hope to open your mind's eye to the incredible value in teaching through visual, as well as audible, storytelling. I am Native American and have lived all over these United States. My family is a mix of Cherokee, Choctaw, and European. We actively seek to reclaim and restore our native traditions by storytelling, attending pow wows, and food traditions."

It has taken Workman more than five months to create this exhibit, and the pieces will be for sale, ranging in price from \$75 to \$900. "I feel that *Whispers of Stories* is characteristic of the current path of surreal encaustic mixed media that I have been developing for a couple years," she said.



Work by Barbie Workman

"My previous works have been described as ethereal textural abstraction."

Workman has been a member of West Main Artists Co-op since 2017. "I really appreciate the opportunities presented by being a member," she said. "I have developed more in my art career in this past year and learned the many facets of working toward a productive art career by being actively involved in WMAC."

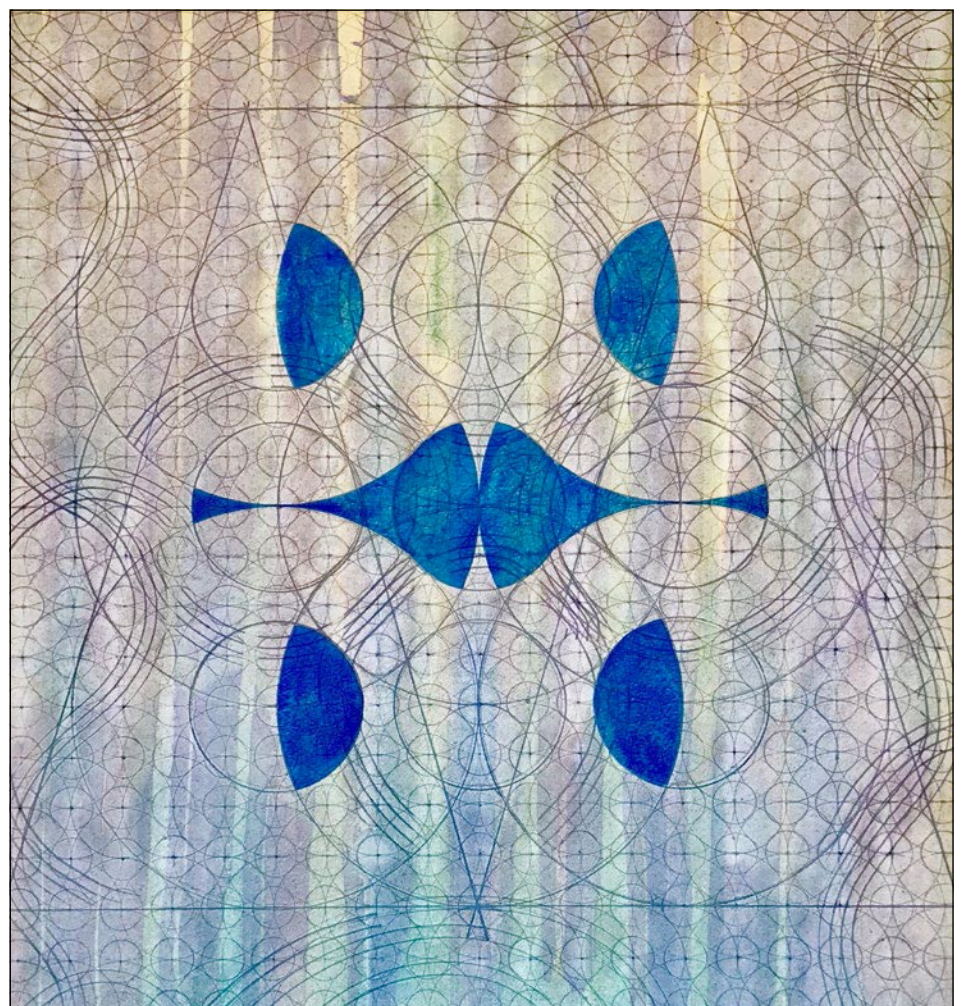
Workman began her art career after a long journey of discovering her artistic expression and talent. Her love for the art movements of fauvism, impressionism, and surrealism inspires and influences the development of her own artwork. With a unique eye for color and formation of movement through many layers, she discovered the encaustic process. Her work explores the relationship between nature's textures through the use of color and form. "Using the mixed media encaustic process there is no limitation to movement of the composition and surreal visual feel of each individual artwork," she said.

Workman has worked on commissions for beach landscapes, contemporary works, and encaustic mixed media. "I found my art groove at a pivotal time in my journey, and I am blessed every day to be able to live in this creative world of imaginings," she said. "It is a passion of my life and beauty that I find overflowing into physical expressions that I am fortunate enough to share."

Workman began her art education at the University of Central Oklahoma, then later at the University of West Florida with the focus of painting and sculpture. Her encaustic mixed media work has been previously displayed in galleries, artisanal boutiques, and retail stores in Florida and South Carolina.

West Main Artists Co-op is a nonprofit and membership-based arts agency in Spartanburg. It houses working studios and public galleries in a large converted church. It also has the largest collection of for-sale

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## A PATIENT SEARCH: PAINTINGS BY TOM DIMOND

Brooks Center Lobby

Jan. 15–Aug. 8  
M–F, 1–5 p.m.

Artist Talk & Reception

F, Mar. 1  
5:30–7 p.m.



locally made art in Spartanburg.

For further information check our SC

Institutional Gallery listings or visit ([www.WestMainArtists.org](http://www.WestMainArtists.org)).

# West Main Artists Co-op in Spartanburg, SC, Features Works by Thomas Koenig

West Main Artists Co-op in Spartanburg, SC, will present *Lines and Structures*, featuring works by communications professional and artist Thomas Koenig, on view from Feb. 5 through Mar. 2, 2019. A reception will be held on Feb. 21, from 5-9pm, during the city monthly ArtWalk.

The exhibit is constructed around architectural photography and how lines shape the skylines of cities and define structures. "Often the lines, shapes, and structures of buildings create textures in a city's landscape," Koenig said. "It can be one individual detail on a building or the combination of different line systems on different buildings that create interesting content. Color can intensify the lines of architectural structures and build its own texture, but color lives from the reflection of light, so the light positioning on a building creates its own lines, shape and textures. Signage, too, represents its own system of lines and structures and can destroy or accommodate a cityscape."

"With this exhibit, I will try show how these lines can shape classic textures and structures on buildings near and far," Koenig said.

Koenig is the creative lead at AGE K Media LLC, a Spartanburg-based communications agency that specializes in corporate design and identity, brand building, corporate literature, marketing communications, media planning, web design, trade show design and planning, and public relations. "I have been a graphics communications professional and communication designer for all of my adult life and have

worked for more than 25 years on two different continents and in two different languages. In addition to my professional work, I have chosen photography as my artistic outlet with several exhibits in South Carolina. Art, photography, and graphics communication for me are not only a profession, they are personal."

Koenig was born in North Carolina but has spent the bigger part of his life in Germany. He holds a degree in prepress production from a traditional German apprenticeship program and a diploma from the University of Applied Science Wiesbaden, Germany in communication design and photography. He has lived in Spartanburg since 1997. In 2009, Koenig had a solo art show at Spartanburg Art Museum and has since been in several group shows in the US and Germany. "I would be a very happy camper if I could spend my entire professional life behind the camera," he said. "I became a member of the West Main Artist Co-op to explore creative collaborations and to go back to my craftsmen roots in print."

West Main Artists Co-op is one of the leading arts agencies in Spartanburg. It is a nonprofit and membership-based organization that is located in a converted church on Main Street. It houses several working studios, galleries, a gift shop, a printery, and a pottery studio. Its collection of for-sale and locally made art is the largest in the city and county.

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings or visit ([www.WestMainArtists.org](http://www.WestMainArtists.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 Feb. 24th for the March 2019 issue and Mar. 24 for the April 2019 issue.