

Greenville Center for Creative Arts in Greenville, SC, Features Works by Virginia Russo and Joseph Smolin

The Greenville Center for Creative Arts (GCCA) in Greenville, SC, will present *Invisible Planet*, featuring works by Virginia Russo and Joseph Smolin, on view in the Main Gallery, from June 2 through July 26, 2023. A reception will be held on June 2, from 6-9pm and an Artist Talk will be offered on July 11, beginning at 6pm.

Invisible Planet is an imaginary world that represents untouched beauty and the raw wonder of creation. Russo created "The Planet" which aims to be a refuge for neurodivergent people who suffer from sensory issues and overstimulation. This world in her work is a mysterious and ethereal land filled with mountains, cliffs, mushrooms, and an ever-present orange sun.

Smolin's experience growing up half-Jewish in the Deep South - Birmingham, AL - is reflected in his symbology and exploration of identity issues. His flamboyant and androgynous characters, as visitors on "The Planet", challenge gender norms and societal expectations. Smolin's work delivers condensed psycho-symbolic imagery that deals with themes of identity, religion, oppression, and conformity.



Work by Virginia Russo

Kara Virginia Russo is a visual, performance, and multimedia artist based in Greenville, SC. Upon her adulthood diagnosis of autism spectrum disorder, she embraced her inner imaginative world and the elements and symbolism that compose it. Endlessly combining circles, torn paper, and warm colors to create fantastical planet-scapes, she works similarly to a



Work by Joseph Smolin

jazz musician, repeating, deconstructing, rearranging, and piecing back together a theme. She has collaborated on musical projects, contributing visual art as well as live performance art, and her work has been shown in galleries in Charleston, Columbia, and Greenville.

Joseph Smolin, born and raised in Birmingham, AL, is a Jewish painter and multimedia artist. In 2020, he co-founded *Rattlesnake Art Magazine*, a journal highlighting underground art in the Carolinas. His contributions, both 2-D and 3-D, were an integral part of the immersive group exhibition *Candy Machine*. He has also shown work at Modal, Inchoate, Eighth State, and Carolina Bauernhaus. Smolin marries playfully grotesque characterization with bright, candy-colored aesthetics and a dry sense of humor. Smolin has lived in Greenville, SC since 2018.

Alongside the new Main Gallery exhibition, the Center has a new Loft Gallery exhibition featuring studio artist, Suzanne Harned.

Greenville Center for Creative Arts is a non-profit organization that aims to enrich the cultural fabric of the community through visual arts promotion, education, and inspiration.

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings, call the Center at 864/735-3948 or visit (www.artcentergreenville.org). Check out GCCA on Facebook (Greenville Center for Creative Arts) & Instagram (@artcentergv).

University of South Carolina Upstate in Spartanburg, SC, Features Works by Leah Mulligan Cabinum

The University of South Carolina Upstate in Spartanburg, SC, is presenting *reflect*, featuring works by Leah Mulligan Cabinum, on view at the Upstate Art Gallery, through Aug. 5, 2023.

Cabinum's unique work lures the viewer into a labyrinth of playful complexity. The relationship of materials, symbolism and concepts are intertwined as a process and as metaphor for growth and discovery. Cabinum said, "My work is a means for me to explore my identity. While it is inevitable that memories and perspectives shift and morph with time, I believe that self-reflection is a vital part of life. My hope is to offer an opportunity for the viewer a personalized experience."

This collection includes a combination of drawings and sculptural installations in which the tree is an iconic symbol, both literal and figurative. Drawings from the burn series mimic the recordings of heart monitors, illustrating the ups and downs of individual lives, and were inspired by tree rings. The reflect series depicts specific trees through highly textured mixed media imagery, and acts as markers of personal history.

Adapted from the original larger installation, *sow II*, is made from discarded



Work by Leah Mulligan Cabinum

paper products and wood, exhibiting the cycle from tree to paper and mirroring the relationship between humanity and nature. The largest installation, *clear II*, offers an immersive experience. Comprised of light-infused acrylic tubing and mylar, the viewer is invited to experience an ever-changing, morphed perspective from within a reflective environment. The repetition and physicality of this piece merges the form with the concept.

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Born in Athens, GA, Leah Mulligan Cabinum has practiced from her Clover, SC, studio since 2003 and has taught in the Fine Arts and Communication Department at the University of South Carolina Upstate in Spartanburg, SC, since 2019. She received an MFA in sculpture and drawing from Winthrop University in 2013 and a BFA in metals from the University of Georgia in 1990.

Cabinum has exhibited extensively in solo and group exhibitions at institutions including the Mint Museum and the Waters Gallery, Florence County Museum. In 2019 she was the recipient of an individual artist residency and solo exhibit at 701 Center for Contemporary Art in Columbia, SC. Her work is included in private and public collections including The Robert Hett Chap-



Work by Leah Mulligan Cabinum

man III Center for Philanthropy in Spartanburg, SC, and The Morris Museum of Art in Augusta, GA.

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings or e-mail to (lcabinum@uscupstate.edu).

York County Arts Council in Rock Hill, SC, Offers New Exhibitions

York County Arts Council in Rock Hill, SC, is presenting several new exhibits including: *AnceSTORY*, featuring works by and an artist residency with Joyce Morrow Jones, on view in the Dalton Gallery, through July 8, 2023; *Dialing Out*, featuring works by Dylan Bannister, on view in the Perimeter Gallery, through July 8, 2023; and *Compass Prep Photo Exhibit*, featuring works by home-schooled students grade 9 through 12, on view in the Edmund D. Lewandowski Classroom Gallery, through July 8, 2023. A reception will be held on June 15, from 5:30-7:30pm.

An artist dreams and then pulls from the ethers stories, history, and symbols — then, as if by magic, creates what was envisioned. Primarily working with cultural references from Africa and the Diaspora, Joyce Morrow Jones creates 3D art forms that express many issues relating to the struggle and history of being African American.

Jones is not limiting her time here in York County to just the exhibition at the Center for the Arts. She is also participating in an artist residency to take place while she is in town for the installation of and reception for *AnceSTORY*. Programming during the residencies focuses on the creation of visual arts inspired by storytelling, and on Reclaiming Visual and Spiritual Power of the African Diaspora.

The first session of her residency, May 18 – 20, included Coffee with the Artist at FARMacy Community Farmstop, Family Storytime and an artist-led book discussion at the York County Library's main campus in Rock Hill, and a special discussion and multimedia presentation led by Winthrop University's Associate Professor of Art History Alice Burmeister in Emmett Scott Center's Community Room.

The second, June 15 – 17, includes a reception in honor of the exhibition at the Center for the Arts, Corn Husk Doll Workshops at FARMacy Community Farmstop, and Floral Crown Classes at The Mercantile. More information and registration details can be found at (<https://yorkcountyarts.org/2023ancestory#ancestoryevents>).

Special thanks to our programming partners: Clinton ConNEXTION Community Action Plan, FARMacy Community Farmstop, York County Library, Alice Burmeister, The Mercantile, and Victory Gardens International.

Jones graduated from the College of Wooster, with a double major in Sociology and Religion, with a concentration in Black and African Studies. After graduation, she began working with non-profit organizations and continued for 28 years in positions of program development, grant writing, communications, and fundraising. She has held artist residencies at the Museum of Contemporary Art in Cleveland, Ohio and Karamu House: A Room in the House. She is also a teaching artist, working at the Cleveland Museum of Art and Art House - Urban Bright Arts in Education Program & Orange Recreation Center.

On view in the Perimeter Gallery is *Dialing Out*, featuring works by Dylan Bannister. This exhibition consists of selected



Work by Joyce Morrow Jones

works from Dylan Bannister's ongoing Pay phones on Film series, in which he is photographically documenting the remains of public telephones, strictly using 35mm film. Most are in disrepair, some have been reclaimed by nature, though a select few still yield a dial tone. The resulting images are presented here as photo transfers on shaped panels.

Dylan Bannister is a visual artist whose multi-disciplinary works are based in memory, nostalgia, and antiquated tech. He maintains his studio practice in Rock Hill, SC, where he engages with the town's growing arts community. Bannister earned his BFA from Winthrop University in 2016, where he then taught as an Adjunct Instructor of Fine Arts for two academic years. Having exhibited throughout the southeast, he has also organized and curated exhibitions, designed web-based galleries, and assisted other artists.

In 2022, Bannister joined the ArtPop Street Gallery staff as Project Manager of its Inspiration Projects division, where he contributes to the nonprofit's mission to make art more accessible to the communities it serves, while bringing paid opportunities to local artists.

On view in the Edmund D. Lewandowski Classroom Gallery is *Compass Prep Photo Exhibit*. *Compass Prep* is a multifaceted environment where we partner with home-school parents to give students grade 9 through 12 a place to grow socially and intellectually. The structure of *Compass Prep* fosters growth and academic success, and also offers opportunities to encourage the whole person. Classes are provided by independent instructors and are at instruction levels needed for college preparation. Social activities for peer-group interactions are planned monthly alongside meaningful, community service projects throughout the year. This well rounded approach satisfies the home-schooled, high school students' need for independence and fellowship.

The Center for the Arts is located on East Main Street, in the Cultural District of Downtown Rock Hill, a state-recognized cultural district.

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings, call the Council at 803/328-2787 or visit (www.yorkcountyarts.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 June 24th for the July 2023 issue and July 24 for the August 2023 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).