

# Society of Bluffton Artists

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into the depths of his subconscious, where dreams intertwine with reality. His process begins with a drawing that evolves into a vibrant canvas, filled with bold colors that echo the intensity of his dreams. This exhibit showcases the personal and intimate nature of his self-expression, allowing viewers to glimpse into his innermost thoughts and feelings.

Collichio's passion for art was ignited at a very young age. He recalls being deeply inspired by his art teacher, Mr. Eades, who introduced him to the works of Salvatore Dali and Picasso during a sabbatical in Spain. This influence is evident in Collichio's bold, dreamlike, and sometimes irrational paintings, which he describes as liberating.



Work by Anthony Collichio

*What Dreams Are Made Of...* is a testament to the originality and uniqueness of Collichio's work, born from his vivid dreams and nightmares. His creative process is akin to assembling a puzzle, meticulously piecing together sketches to form a cohesive whole on canvas. In addition to his striking paintings, Collichio's talents extend to sculpting, primarily in wood and bronze.

Now retired and residing in the "Low-country," Collichio finds joy in an active



Work by Anthony Collichio

arts community that fuels his passion. The upcoming exhibit at the SOBA Gallery promises to be an unforgettable experience, highlighting the depth and vibrancy of his work.

SOBA is the heart of the flourishing art hub in Old Town Bluffton's historic district at the corner of Church and Calhoun streets. As a non-profit art organization, SOBA offers regular art classes, featured artist shows, exhibitions, scholarships, outreach programs and more. The gallery is located on Church Street.

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings, call the Society at 843/757-6586 or visit ([www.sobagallery.com](http://www.sobagallery.com)).

## A Harriet Tubman Monument Has Been Installed at Tabernacle Baptist Church in Beaufort, SC

The Tabernacle Baptist Church has installed a Harriet Tubman Monument, created by sculptor Ed Dwight, located on the church grounds at 901 Craven Street in Beaufort, SC.



Harriet Tubman Monument, celebrating the Combahee River Raid, by Ed Dwight - Front

"This has been a long time coming. I still remember telling the church on Sunday morning in June 2016, which was around the anniversary of the Combahee River Raid, that we were going to build a monument for Harriet Tubman," said Kenneth F. Hodges, pastor of Tabernacle Baptist Church. "Our church is no stranger to preserving history, as our members got together and drafted a resolution thanking Abraham Lincoln for freeing us after the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation Jan. 1, 1863; that document is a part of the Abraham Lincoln papers. We also undertook the monument to Robert Smalls, and now we are preserving the history of Harriet Tubman right here in Beaufort."

Sculptor Ed Dwight's 14-foot-tall bronze sculpture will sit on church's grounds, where it is believed to be the church where Mrs. Tubman made a speech after the Combahee River Raid where contraband known as enslaved African men were inspired to become members of the colored regiment. The church raised nearly \$1,000,000 to complete the project, as they received donations from the faith community, individuals, and businesses. The project took 8 years to complete.

Pastor Hodges continued, "It took five



Harriet Tubman Monument, celebrating the Combahee River Raid, by Ed Dwight - Right side

years to raise the funds and three years to complete the sculpture. It was a hard sell because most people never heard the story of Harriet Tubman being in Beaufort. Everywhere we went, we told the story over-and-over again about her presence here and finally historians started to tell the story."

The monument commemorates the time Mrs. Tubman spent in Beaufort, SC, which is often left out of her story. History states Mrs. Tubman lived in Beaufort for approximately two years arriving in Spring 1862 based on orders from Massachusetts Gov. John Andrews, who thought she could be used as a spy, as she was a member of the New England Freedmen's Aid Society, an organization whose mission was to provide teachers and other aid for "the industrial, social, intellectual, moral, and religious improvement" of freedmen.

While in Beaufort, SC, she aided freed women teaching them how to run businesses such as selling food and doing the laundry of the Union soldiers, all while Mrs. Tubman held jobs as a nurse, scout, and cook. Her role in the Combahee River Raid in June 1863, under Col. James Montgomery, for which she freed 756 enslaved Africans is most notable.

A sculpture depicting Harriet Tubman's heroic ventures will sit next to the 156 year old church on Craven Street in downtown Beaufort. Tabernacle Baptist is also the burial place of Robert Smalls, who was

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born a slave in Beaufort and became a Civil War hero and Congressman. A bust of Small is also on the church grounds.

Craven Street is steep in history. The old Beaufort Arsenal home of the Chamber of commerce's visitor's center and the Beaufort history Museum is a block east of the church. To the west is the Secession House, site of many informal discussions and formal meetings during the 1850's to discuss withdrawal from the Union.

For further information visit (<https://www.harriettubmanmonument.com/>) and follow on social media at ([facebook.com/htmonument](https://facebook.com/htmonument) and [instagram.com/htmonument/](https://instagram.com/htmonument/)).



Marsh Fog by Bill Winn

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Harriet Tubman Monument, celebrating the Combahee River Raid, by Ed Dwight - Left side

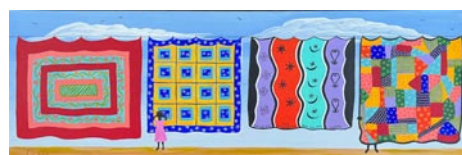
## Art League of Hilton Head on Hilton Head Island, SC, Features Works by Samantha Claar



Work by Samantha Claar

The Art League of Hilton Head on Hilton Head Island, SC, will present *Painting the Stories: Glimpses of Gullah* by Samantha Claar, on view in the Art League Gallery, from July 23 through Aug. 23, 2024. A reception will be held on July 24, from 5-7pm. Claar will also host a Gallery Walk on July 25, at 11am, where she will discuss her work, influences, and processes. The exhibit, reception and gallery walk are free and open to the public.

The boldly colored paintings, often painted on recycled or salvaged materials, are inspired by Claar's dreams or "nighttime roamings." "They visited and demanded that I paint what they were showing me...We argued about this for a long time because I had never painted a human figure...but they were very sure. That is how my love for the Gullah-Geechee and their unique culture was born."



Work by Samantha Claar

Claar is a self-taught artist who began painting in her 40s. She joined the art scene on Tybee Island in the 1990s, where she opened a gallery with a friend. Once she began dreaming of the Gullah-Geechee and their stories, she educated herself about the people and their history so she could better "paint the stories" and, in turn, educate the people who visited her gallery and had a desire to know more. In 2012, she opened Fine Folk Galleries, the first Gullah art market in Savannah's City Market.

Claar celebrates the Southern lifestyle that can be traced back to Gullah contributions. The cities were built with their labor, their foods, their knowledge of the sea and tide, of fishing methods and sustainable use of land and sea. "Trace our 'Southern roots' and there you find the G-G as the root system that made it all possible," she says.

"I want you to take this with you: Wow! I never realized, assimilated, or understood just how much my life was impacted by the introduction of the Gullah-Geechee and the rich, vibrant culture that they crafted in the midst of unspeakable conditions...While looking at my work: I want you to experience the joy of being a fellow human with these remarkable people."

Art League of Hilton Head is the only 501(c)(3) nonprofit visual arts organization on Hilton Head Island with a synergistic art gallery and teaching Academy. Art League Academy welcomes artists and students in all media at all skill levels, including true beginners. Taught by professional art educators, students can choose from many art classes and workshops that change monthly.

The Art League Gallery features local artwork in all media created by more than 250 member artists. All artwork on display is for sale and exhibits change every month. Located mid-island inside Arts Center of Coastal Carolina, next to the box office.

"Inspiring visual arts for our community and its visitors through exhibitions, education and partnerships" is Art League of Hilton Head's mission.

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings, call the League at 843/681-5060 or e-mail to ([director@artleaguehhi.org](mailto:director@artleaguehhi.org)).

Check us out at ([www.carolinaarts.com](http://www.carolinaarts.com)) or e-mail to ([info@carolinaarts.com](mailto:info@carolinaarts.com))