

Artists Collective | Spartanburg, SC, Presents Works by Kimberly Christopher-Rodriguez

Artists Collective | Spartanburg, SC, will present *Bounce & Sway: A Celebration of Community and Life*, featuring works by Kimberly Christopher-Rodriguez, on view in Gallery II, from Aug. 8 through Sept. 2, 2023. A reception will be held on Aug. 17, until 8pm, part of the ArtWalk Spartanburg.

Christopher-Rodriguez says the exhibition of her hand-pulled prints, drawings, and installation art are “meant to be fun, colorful, thoughtful, and immersive. The artwork invites visitors to experience the spirited bounce of colorful prints and soft sway of the installation.”

The artwork includes a 9-foot-tall by 22-foot-wide installation “meditating on community and identity ... a melody of color orbs prints celebrating pattern, hue, and life” and a 5-foot-tall triptych of minimalist woodcuts “reflecting on collective identity and life cycle,” Christopher-Rodriguez says.

The show offers viewers a “glimpse of community, life and identity that is searching, beautiful and enigmatic,” she adds.

Her inspiration for the exhibition came from “thinking about the importance of community, and how collective and personal identity is defined,” Christopher-Rodriguez says. The installation art took shape through “thinking back to formative years and exploring how the cornerstones for collaborative community are taught and learned values but also traits we actively choose throughout life.” As a jovial counterpoint to the reflective portion of the show, the color orb print series is “a celebration of a vibrant, spirited and eclectic family member who embodies the playful and fun side of art and artmaking.”

Christopher-Rodriguez describes her body of work as: “Like a foggy morning



Work by Kimberly Christopher-Rodriguez, detail

spent exploring nature, my work aims to bring mystery, contemplation and quiet delight with an elusive simplicity that offers both serenity and a breath for curiosity. My art explores the play between abstraction and realism, and I enjoy blurring the line of where they meet. I value the timelessness of black-and-white yet equally look to harness the beauty and expression of color. My inspiration rises from the natural world, language and literature, the body, spirituality and religion, and the rich heritage of artists and creators who came before me.”

An artist for 16 years, she “grew up exploring the woods of the Spartanburg area, finding a love for art, nature, and learning at an early age and pursued art throughout school.” She went on to study a breadth of disciplines, including ceramics, photography, drawing, painting, printmaking, sculpture, art history, gallery studies and digital art, at Clemson University before concentrating in printmaking to complete her BFA in studio art with honors. Her current practice focuses on printmaking, photography, sculpture, installation, painting and drawing “with a keen interest

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in art history and the dream of sharing my love of printmaking with others,” she says.

The 20 pieces in the exhibition will be offered for purchase, with prices ranging from \$75 to \$1,500.

“I am honored to be awarded a solo show at the Artists Collective and have enjoyed the challenge of creating a new body of work for myself and my community,” Christopher-Rodriguez says. “It has transformed to my practice to be a part of a nonprofit artists collective. I am part of a rich community of artists

from all mediums and backgrounds, have access to incredible facilities – especially for printmaking – and have a venue that opens up the opportunity to give back to my community through the arts.”

The Artists Collective | Spartanburg, located on W. Main Street, provides a forum and home for the arts and creative population of Spartanburg, providing facilities and services to artist members for exhibits, performances and creation.

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings or visit (artistscollectivespartanburg.org).

Artists Collective | Spartanburg, SC, Features Works by Gale Roberts and Patrick DeCrane

Beauty is all around for everyone to appreciate, even as they view the same things differently and even as artists portray them differently using various media and canvases. Upstate friends and artists Gale Roberts and Patrick DeCrane show this in a joint exhibition at the Artists Collective | Spartanburg, with *A Moment in Time*. The exhibit will be in Gallery III, from Aug. 8 through Sept. 2, 2023, with an artists’ reception during the Aug. 17, ArtWalk Spartanburg, until 8pm.

The exhibit is composed of works in watercolors by DeCrane and acrylics by Roberts – “Paintings of things you might take for granted,” Roberts says. “We want people to see that there is beauty all around us, that we need to stop and really open our eyes to it and enjoy it. Also, that we can paint the same painting and it looks so different.”

The two artists have been friends for nearly 30 years, painting together for six. “Patrick introduced me to the Artists Collective, and we have shared shows in the past,” Roberts adds. “We have enjoyed collaborating together for this exhibit and when you walk out of the gallery you can say you enjoyed the artwork.”

DeCrane says he has used several wa-



Work by Gale Roberts

tercolor techniques to produce his works. “While most are painted on standard watercolor paper, several are painted on black paper with a varnish coating over the painting to give the illusion of canvas. A couple of the paintings are on canvas, which gives the painting a soft texture.”

He says he and Roberts want the viewers of their works “to be present in the moment and enjoy what you see. I hope people will walk away with a sense of pleasure and satisfaction. My own goal of being present and conscious of what is in front of me is my inspiration for the exhibit.”

DeCrane, a native of Cleveland, OH, [continued on Page 16](#)

Tiny Landscape Series by Meredith B Skinner

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