

# Upstairs Artspace in Tryon, NC, Presents Three New Exhibitions

The Upstairs Artspace in Tryon, NC, opens the new year with three powerful exhibits featuring painting and sculpture by five highly respected and established artists from North and South Carolina - Fleming Markel and Dabney Mahanes, of Greenville, SC; Margaret Curtis of Tryon, NC; Veronika Hart of Hendersonville, NC; and Daniel Nevins of Asheville, NC. The opening reception is Jan. 28, from 6 to 7:30pm. with a Walk & Talk program by the artists at 5pm. The three exhibits continue through Mar. 12, 2017.

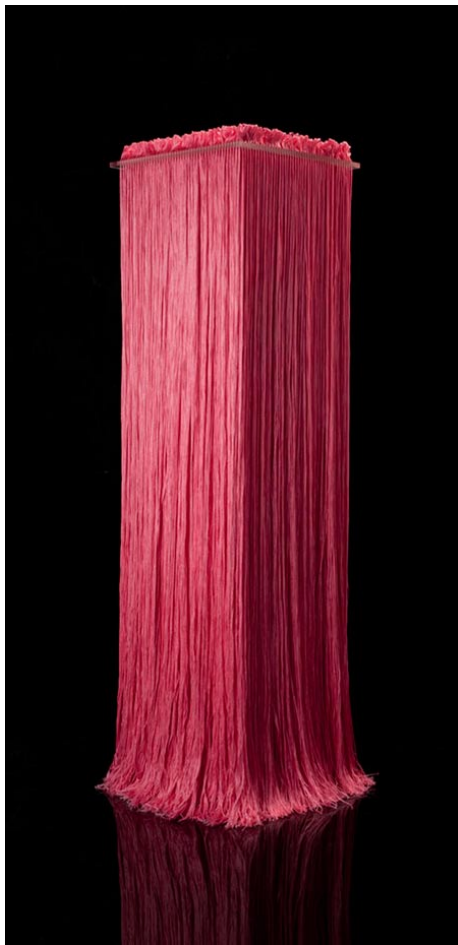
Fleming Markel's solo exhibit, titled *Pent-up Pink*, addresses cultural myths, especially those seeking to marginalize women. She achieves this with human-sized, 3D assemblages made with plexiglas, steel, mirrors, women's crafting materials, household objects, girls' toys and more. The well-constructed, totemic forms are intriguing, funny, and most of all, thought provoking. Markel is currently the director of the Riverworks Gallery at Greenville Technical College.

Veronika Hart and Dabney Mahanes had not met before their exhibit, but *Tripping The Fantastic* joins two painters whose hallmarks are bold color and deft brushwork in the creation of dramatic canvases. Hart says of her work: "I strive to build aesthetic tension and engage the viewer through visual narratives with images of reality and fantasy." Growing up in South Africa, then living in New York as an adult before moving to NC, has provided her with rich story material for her art.



Work by Veronika Hart

Mahanes' subject interest is the human figure. Her work in *Tripping The Fantastic* focuses on the feminine archetypes of maiden, mother and the mature woman -- along with the symbolism that helps define women in the journey through their stages of life. Both Mahanes and Hart have exhib-



Work by Fleming Markel

ited widely and enjoy being in many public and private collections.

In their two-person exhibit *Twisted*, Margaret Curtis and Daniel Nevins present different bodies of work, yet they share an emotionally charged landscape between the human and natural worlds.

Curtis's current painting explores feelings of being a white American woman responding to the complex, often suppressed, history of our culture. To make points, she might mimic the engravings of historical illustrations, maps and newspapers through quill pens and hand-carved rubber stamps.

Nevins says his paintings are an exploration of embodiment, or to quote Walt Whitman, "urge and urge, always the procreant urge of the world." With all of his images, he aims for the viewer to feel more connection. The two artists are well known throughout the Southeast and beyond, with Curtis recently having a show in St. Croix. She has also been in many NYC galleries.

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, call 828/859-2828 or visit ([www.upstairsartspace.org](http://www.upstairsartspace.org)).



Work by Ben Knight

studies, New York artistic influences and developing successful businesses in North Carolina straight from the artist himself. Please join us from 7-8:30pm, on Friday, Jan. 20 at his exhibit at NC Wesleyan College's Mims Gallery.

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings or call the gallery at 252/985-5268.

# NC Wesleyan College in Rocky Mount, NC, Features Works by Ben Knight

NC Wesleyan College in Rocky Mount, NC, will present an exhibit of works by famous restaurateur and painter Ben Knight, on view in the Mims Art Gallery, from Jan. 13 through Feb. 26, 2017. A reception will be held on Jan. 20, from 7-8:30pm.

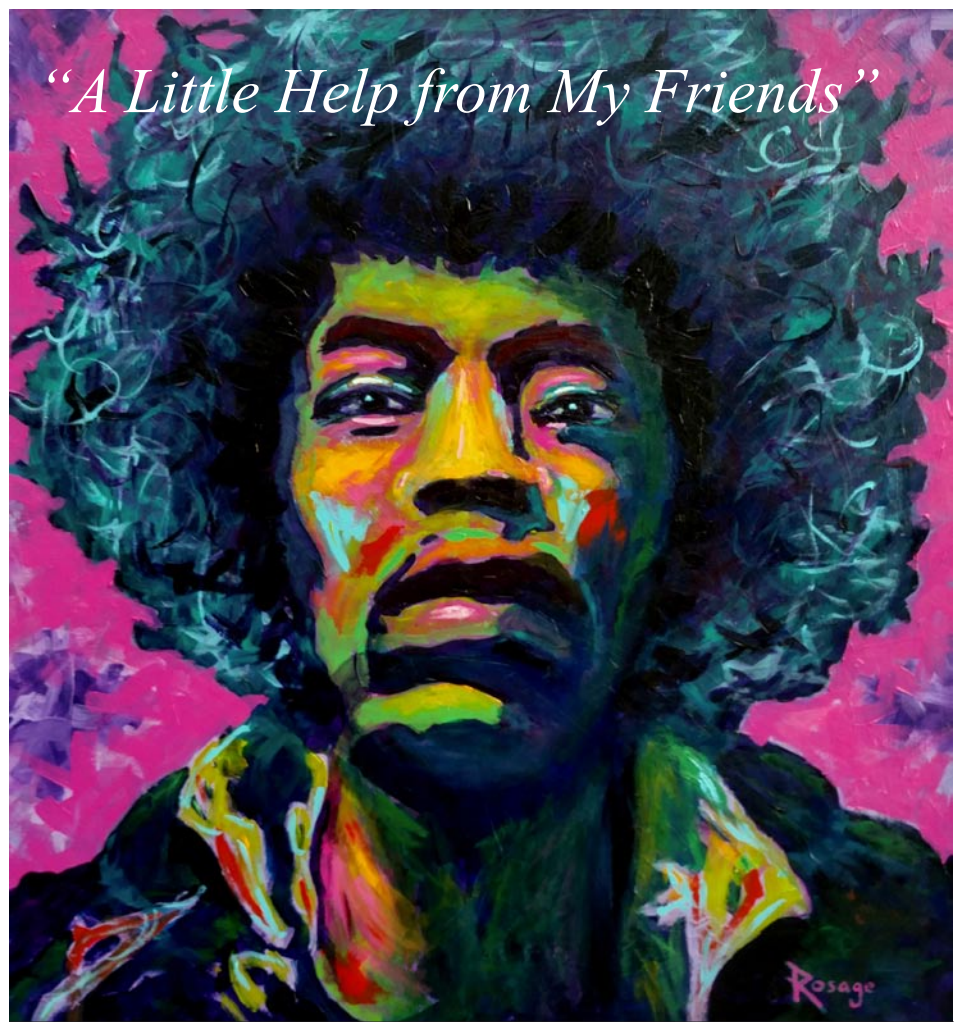
Knight, a North Carolina celebrity artist and co-owner at the renown Chef & the Farmer restaurant in Kinston, NC, and co-star with his wife on the Peabody award winning PBS series "A Chef's Life".

Knight grew up in Chicago and moved to New York to pursue a career in art, so rural Eastern North Carolina seems like a strange place for him to settle. But he enjoys country living with his family and business here in eastern Carolina. "He's so comfortable here in fact, his wife often jokes that he should run for mayor."

In 2014 Knight and his wife built a studio in their backyard which gives him the perfect space to fulfill the growing demand for his large colorful, texturally rich impasto paintings. He trowels and scrapes on color with a plaster knife to accumulate bold layers of color that in their uneven application reveal under layers of contrasting color. You can find his work at Chef and the Farmer as well as numerous galleries in the South.

It's best to hear Ben Knight's story of art

You can contact us by calling 843.693.1306.



"Jimi" by Bernie Rosage

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