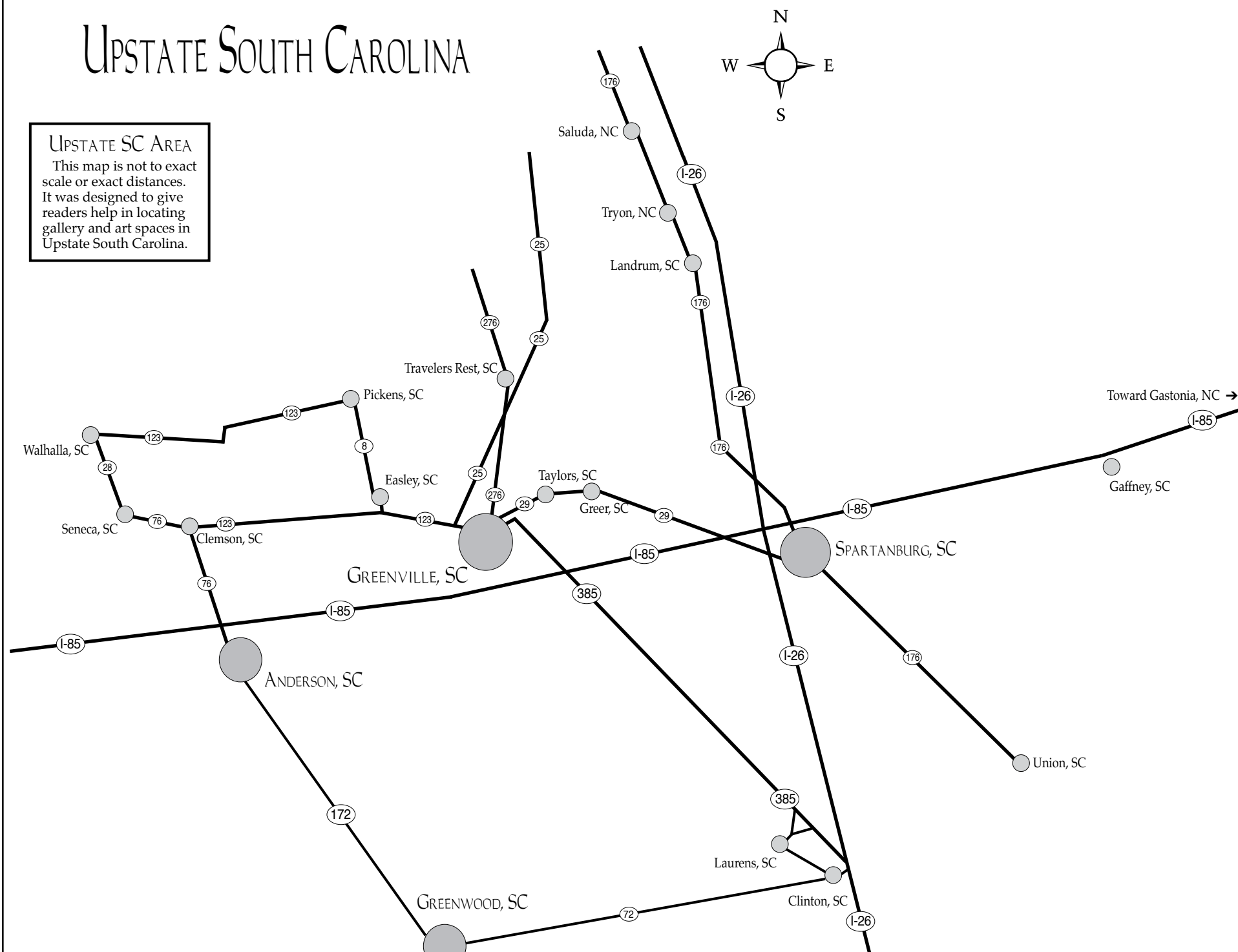


# UPSTATE SOUTH CAROLINA

## UPSTATE SC AREA

This map is not to exact scale or exact distances. It was designed to give readers help in locating gallery and art spaces in Upstate South Carolina.



## West Main Artists Co-op - Ambuhl

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July 18, from 5 to 9pm, during the city's monthly ArtWalk.

"My art is an outward expression of the passion inward I feel for life," Ambuhl said. Whether he's painting florals, animals, people, landscapes, or abstracts, the bold use of color is the unifying factor for Ambuhl. His work is done in oils and acrylics and usually described as "fun and colorful." When people see his work, he wants them to "find the joy that I experience when creating this art!"

It took Ambuhl about 18 months to create the exhibit. Each piece will be for sale, ranging in price \$400 to \$900. The 55-year-old artist is also an interior designer and a hair designer. His inspiration is "things that make me happy," he said, and added that he hopes when people see his work, they will see the "energy and crazy imagination" that went into creating it.

The New York native has exhibited his work in Greenville, and in salons, restaurants, and hotels throughout the USA and France. "My grandparents came from

Europe as artists and interior designers," he added.

As a guest artist at WMAC, Ambuhl said the most important aspect about people seeing his art is that "it makes you smile." He added that he is both excited and honored to be a guest artist at the Co-op.

WMAC is one of the leading arts agencies in Spartanburg. It is a membership-based nonprofit agency that has more than 50 members, most of whom are visual artists. Some are performing artists. Each month, it sponsors three new monthlong exhibit by its members and by guest artists. In addition to its public galleries, it also has about 30 working studios for its members, two stages, a printery, and Spartanburg's most extensive collection of locally made artwork for sale on an ongoing basis.

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 Work by Patrick A. DeCrane

West Main Artists Co-op in Spartanburg, SC, will present *Vintage and Classic*, featuring watercolor paintings of classic cars and buildings by Greer, SC, artist Patrick A. DeCrane, on view from July 2 through Aug. 3, 2019. A reception will be held on July 18, from 5 to 9pm, during the city's monthly ArtWalk.

In keeping with his established style of using intense colors, there will be more than 18 paintings of cars and buildings, inspiring a new appreciation of architecture and vehicles from the past.

"I have always had an interest in old cars and old buildings," DeCrane said. "There is a story behind every vintage building and classic car. As they say, 'if walls could talk, what story would they tell us?' I believe that everyone who attends will find something they can relate to from their past."

It took DeCrane about 10 months to paint this collection. All of the works will be for sale, ranging in price from \$60 to \$250.

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In his artist's statement, DeCrane said, "I have been painting and drawing most of my life. Art helps me to both escape and cope with life. While I enjoy painting with acrylics and pastels, I find watercolors the most challenging and enjoyable. I generally use intense colors. I also find great satisfaction in drawing with pencil and charcoal. My subject matter varies yet generally my art work includes flowers, trees and still life."

Born in Cleveland, OH, DeCrane began his formal art education in high school. During his military career, he traveled and studied art at numerous colleges, earning an associate of science degree from Park College in Park, MO. After retiring from the US Army, he worked for the Military Officers Association in Alexandria, VA, for 11 years. Prepared for a new adventure, he then opened, owned, and operated a bed and breakfast in Blowing Rock, VA, for 10 years with his life partner, Michael Thomas. Ready to retire after three careers, DeCrane continued to expand his art skills by taking classes in pastels and watercolors. After retirement he was Chairperson of the Bowling Green (VA) Arts Commission. During this same period, he set up and managed The Sidney King Art Center, and coordinated three art events a year.

The 69-year-old now lives in Greer, SC, and has been a member of WMAC since 2017. "WMAC provides an excellent opportunity for me to exhibit my



Work by Patrick A. DeCrane

work at an affordable price and with good visibility," DeCrane said. "Our board and marketing personnel work hard to give us visibility to the public. It is a pleasant and encouraging environment, [offering] good healthy interaction with other artists."

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Looking for info on the next juried art show in the Carolinas, an opportunity to show & sell your work at the next festival taking place in the Carolinas or do you want to know who the new director of an art museum in the Carolinas is - just check out our Blog, "Carolina Arts News" at (<https://carolinaartsnews.wordpress.com/>).

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