

## USC Upstate in Spartanburg, SC, **Features Works by Its Art Faculty**

USC Upstate in Spartanburg, SC, will present the USC Upstate Art Faculty Ex*hibition*, on view in the Curtis R. Harley Gallery, from Nov. 7 through Dec. 4, 2014. A reception will be held on Nov. 13, from 4:30-6pm.

With more than 130 art majors in the graphic design and art education programs, the Upstate Art faculty has grown to include more than a dozen working artists. The 2014 exhibit will include photography, print and web design, painting, installation, mixed media and illustration.

Thirteen faculty members will participate in the 2014 exhibition. All of them are expected to attend the reception.

Covering a wide variety of media, members of the USC Upstate Visual Arts faculty also cover a broad geographical region with extensive experience in fine and applied arts.

Mary Lou Hightower, Art Education, is originally from Florida and spent more than 20 years as coordinator of the arts program for Spartanburg County School District Six.

Bryan Hiott, a photographer specializing in historical film and plates processes, lived in NYC before returning to his home in Greenville.

Bridget Kirkland, former designer for USC Upstate Communications, returned to school for an MFA from Winthrop.

AK McMillian, design/illustration, is from Spartanburg and worked commercially as an architectural illustrator.

Jane Allen Nodine, Assistant Chair of Fine Arts and Communication Studies, works in a variety of media and exhibits widely in the US and Europe.

Nancy 0'Dell-Keim, a Converse aduate, holds an MFA in painting from

## Artist's Guild of Spartanburg, SC, **Features Works by Annette Giaco**

The Artist's Guild of Spartanburg in Spartanburg, SC, will present Warped, featuring works by Annette Giaco, on view in the Guild Gallery, located at The Chapman Cultural Center, from Nov. 3 - 28, 2014. A reception will be held on Nov. 20, from 6-9pm.

Annette Giaco describes Warped as a show of distorted, sometimes abstract representations of the human form based on her collection of old photos.

After moving to the Spartanburg area from Virginia six years ago, Giaco returned to her artist roots fulltime, concentrating much of her energy on landscapes and the occasional portrait. "I love oil paint and canvas, but felt drawn back to my art school days and the simplicity of rendering the human form using graphite, pen and ink, and ink washes."

"It started with old family photos and some of the fascinating stories behind all of those stoic expressions. My mother and father loved to tell those stories. From there, I began combing the antique stores, collecting photos of unknown people. Although not all of the photos I chose were sad or scary looking, I was drawn to those that looked disconnected, overburdened, or arrogant. To me, most of them looked a little sad, so I picked up a pencil and started sketching, distorting them or warping them, based on the look in their eyes or their rigid facial expressions. My imagination took off and I started applying stories of my own based on the period costumes, crazy hair or military trappings. Some of the stories are sad, some are happy, most are complete fiction but they guided the direction of each drawing." "I read somewhere that disfigured drawings of the human form are often interpreted as an artist's individual expression of frustration, anger or fear," Giaco said. "I don't see these pieces in that way. For me, it was just a natural inclination to render the form based on what I read in their eyes or the



Work by Annette Giaco

notes scribbled on the back of some photos. They ultimately became tributes or shrines to forgotten souls, my memorials to them. But they also became a calming retreat for me because of the recent illness and death of my mother."

Using mixed media, the images were drawn or painted on clay-coated boards. co used a variety of tools, including sandpaper, printmaking tools and wire brushes used to clean electronics, scraping the media from the surface in order to create the "drawing", sometimes incorporating text as background texture. "After doing the initial sketch, these tools became my pencils and pens, distorting the image a little more," says Giaco. "I scraped away and then sometimes rebuilt on top of that with ink or acrylic washes, moving further from the original toward an abstract version; all the while referencing the ongoing narrative in my head." While Giaco hopes that the viewer will not take the "meaning" of these images too seriously, she does acknowledge that they may not be for everyone. "My grandchildren love them. One of the girls refers to them as "ghosts". Other members of the family either love or hate them. Recently, a writer with The Boston Globe visited my home on a completely unrelated story, wandered into my studio and was drawn to two of the pieces I was working on. He was interested in my interpretation of the continued on Page 35

Robyn Allwright, is an avid traveller and photographer with numerous years teaching all levels of art history.

Ansley Adams, holds an MFA from University of South Carolina and currently divides her teaching between Spartanburg and Charlotte, NC.

Kathleen Burke, joining Upstate in 2013, is a painter residing in Rock Hill, SC.

Matthew Donaldson, Graphic Design, is an assistant professor specializing in web and print design.

Mark Flowers, Painting, is originally from Greenville, SC, but most recently spent 23 years in Pennsylvania after teaching at Savannah College of Art and Design in Savannah, GA.

Clemson University.

Jessica Reynolds, new to the Upstate program, holds an MFA in Art and Design from Winthrop University.

Manuel Schmettau, originally from Germany, has recently joined the art staff after spending 35 years in fine arts auctions in NYC.

Each faculty member brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to USC Upstate and students are gaining recognition and success from this marvelous program.

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings, call Jane Nodine, Gallery Director or Mark Flowers, Gallery Coordinator, at 864/503-5848 or e-mail to (jnodine@uscupstate.edu) or (mflowers@uscupstate.edu).

The deadline each month to submit articles, photos and ads is the 24th of the month prior to the next issue. This will be Nov. 24th for the December 2014 issue and Dec. 24 for the January 2015 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).

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