

# UPSTATE



## Gallery on Main



### Mary Robinson Finding Language

NOVEMBER 9 - DECEMBER 30, 2017

ARTIST RECEPTION- NOVEMBER 16, 5-8 p.m.

Upstate Gallery on Main is dedicated to contemporary original works of art and exhibitions sponsored by the University of South Carolina Upstate. One of three galleries at USC Upstate, the Upstate Gallery on Main joins the Curtis R. Harley Gallery and FOCUS Art Education Gallery to support the mission of offering exhibitions and activities that cultivate an understanding of art as a discipline, the relationship of art to life, and the historical and societal role art plays for the educated individual.

172 E. Main St, Spartanburg, SC 29306.

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Spartanburg, SC 29306

Gallery hours:  
Tuesday through Saturday  
from 12 – 5 p.m.

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University of South Carolina Upstate

## Central United Methodist Church

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imagery.” Both Simmons and Williamson make pottery to withstand daily use, the dishwasher, the microwave, and with certain precautions, can be used in the oven for baking.

Simmons’ pottery includes: brie cheese bakers, berry bowls, mugs, olive dishes, cabbage-design platter and bowls, beer bread bakers, spoons rests, and other similar items. Williamson will offer everyday items ranging from large platters and pitchers to small cups. Both potters emphasize their work is both dishwasher and oven safe.

“I make utilitarian pottery. I love that I can make beautiful, functional, everyday objects that are a pleasure to use,” adds Williamson. “It is a joy to me to hear that one of my cups is someone’s favorite and that it is used daily. I’m an avid gardener and oftentimes my gardening and pottery-making intersect to inspire a piece of pottery for the garden. I enjoy the process of working in clay, exploring the limitless possibilities of the medium and the joy of discovery. The more I learn about pottery-making, the more I discover I will never know it all.”

Heike Tonhaeuser is a German-born ceramic artist, who now lives in the Upstate. She started learning to make pottery six years ago at Spartanburg Art Museum and has since continuously improved her skills by taking workshops with artists such as Nick Joerling, Steven Hill, and Gary Huntoon who influenced her work immensely. Her pottery varies from flowing forms inspired by nature to precise, clear porcelain vessels.

Libby Wood’s pottery is made with low-fire earthenware and then hand-painted in the majolica style of decoration. “I have a lot of fun decorating the pottery I create!” Wood said. “First I apply a shiny white base coat of glaze and then I paint colorful images of things like leaves, bees or flowers.” She adds, “No piece is ever exactly the same, but they all have plenty of color, lots and lots of bright color! My hope is that



my pottery brings a bit of joy to the owner.” Wood’s offerings are food safe, and she recommends hand washing the decorative pieces.

Wilma Younkman, who is also a photographer and watercolor artist, brings those artistic skills to her pottery. Most of her work is hand thrown from white clay called “Half and Half” that’s been blended from porcelain and stoneware. Younkman searches through decades of her own nature photography for images to use as inspiration while she paints images of birds, butterflies and such on her pottery. “And then I usually tear up the photograph, so I don’t repeat myself,” she said. “Every piece is one-of-a-kind.”

“Our hands and hearts have been very busy getting ready for this event,” Williamson said. “We invite the public to come out on Saturday, Nov. 4, and do a little holiday shopping. And having a frozen casserole is always a good thing during the holidays.

Think beyond the holidays — many of our ceramic offerings would make wonderful wedding presents, teacher presents, hostess gifts, office gifts, and then of course, a gift for yourself or your home! Everything we have is special from the pottery to the jewelry to the food. Plus the atmosphere is so casual, so like the old church bazaars of yesteryear — only bigger and with really nice stuff.

In addition to their to-go items the circle will be selling coffee and pastries, so feel free to linger and enjoy a little treat!

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Central United Methodist Church is located at 233 North Church Street in Spartanburg, SC.

For more information, call the church office at 864/582-7263.

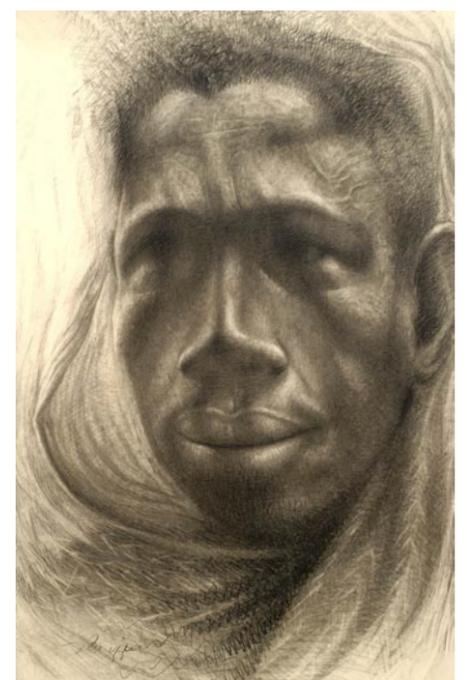
## Johnson Collection in Spartanburg, SC, Features Works by Southern African American Artists

Johnson Collection in Spartanburg, SC, is presenting *To Teach Is To Learn: Lessons in African American Art of the South*, a new exhibition celebrating African American artists of the South, on view in the TJC Gallery, through Dec. 22, 2017.

This new powerful presentation spans centuries and styles and is both an exhibition and an educational tool. Now on view at the Johnson Collection’s exhibition space, TJC Gallery, this curated presentation of 30 objects illuminates how African Americans have continuously participated in, pioneered, taught, and transformed American art, in the South and beyond - from the traditional nineteenth-century portraiture of Joshua Johnson to the groundbreaking Abstract Expressionism of Alma Thomas. The exhibition includes both formally trained and self-taught artists such as Benny Andrews, John Biggers, Selma Burke, Edwin Harleston, Clementine Hunter, William H. Johnson, Lois Mailou Jones, James Porter, Leo Twiggs, and Hale Woodruff.

Education plays a significant role in the Johnson Collection’s mission. In college classrooms and community forums, at local venues and national museums, through scholarly publications and traveling exhibitions: we seek to illuminate the rich history and diverse cultures of the American South as borne out in the region’s various visual art forms. In keeping with that commitment, this exhibition engages upper-level art history students from Wofford College with selected works created by African American artists - transforming gallery space into classroom and learners into teachers.

One of this nation’s finest teachers, Dr.



John Biggers (1924-2001), “The Man”, circa 1955

Martin Luther King, Jr., believed that “the function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically.” Throughout the fall semester, students will be asked to think deeply and critically about African American art and Southern connections. Their discoveries will, in turn, become instructive tools for gallery visitors in the form of explanatory wall labels and public presentations.

The exhibition was organized by TJC’s curator Dr. Erin Corrales-Diaz, who also serves as the Johnson Collection Visiting Scholar at both Wofford and Converse Colleges. Corrales-Diaz believes that “the

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