

West Main Artists Co-op

continued from Page 15 / [back to Page 15](#)

in depth. I'm curious about the narrative that each person attaches to the work just by looking at the eyes or expressions. My hope is that you see what they're trying to say to you. There are representations of loss, myth, pleasure, even vanity. There's a little bit of all us in each piece."

All of the artwork is either deconstructed or distorted in various ways to represent what really lies behind the guises, masks, pretenses, and veneers that individuals outwardly present. Some of the distortion are caused by the background, which is invasive, representing the influence of the environment on the individual. In some of the pieces outside pain is obvious, particularly in her "Asylum" series.

"Those pieces are based on a collection of photos I have from a 19th century insane asylum, and they are full of pain," Giaco said. "Through the use of color, harsh brushstrokes or the gesture of line, I hope to convey the sense of pain, apathy

or escape, mostly evident in the eyes. We all wear masks and construct facades as protection. In the end though, either through body language, expression or something in the eyes, we usually give ourselves away."

Giacco is the volunteer Marketing Chair for West Main Artists Co-op and a member of Tryon Painters and Sculptors. More of her distorted ink renderings and paintings may be viewed in her gallery-studio located at the Co-op in Spartanburg. One of her distorted portraits was chosen by Spartanburg Art Museum for the public art program "Lighten Up Spartanburg." The art bulb "Mawu-Sunlight" is now on display on Main Street Spartanburg in front of the Herald-Journal's building. Her work is also part of the permanent collection at Spartanburg Art Museum.

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings or visit ([WestMainArtists.org](#)).

West Main Artists Co-op in Spartanburg, SC, to Exhibit 44 Members' Artwork

West Main Artists Co-op in Spartanburg, SC, will present *Open Doors*, featuring works by 44 member artists, on view from Nov. 16 through Dec. 30, 2017. A reception will be held on Nov. 16, from 5-9pm, during Spartanburg's monthly ArtWalk, where two dozen of the artists will be in their studios demonstrating how they create everything from jewelry and pottery to watercolor paintings and sculptures.

"This is our biggest and most important exhibit for the year," Chairwoman Beth Regula said. "We host different exhibits each month, most of which are by individual members, but some are by non-member artists who we invite to show in our large gallery, the Venue. This exhibit, however, will be our largest of the year. It is an opportunity for us to focus on all of our members at one time; to bring them and their work together; to show breadth and scope of the art being produced by local artists in one place. We asked our members to display their most recent and new works. On ArtWalk night, we will have many of our members in their studios creating. For some people it is real treat to watch an artist at work. It certainly can be insightful."



Work by Eugene Johnson

"At this time there is no event like this in Spartanburg," Glenda Guion, one of the exhibit's organizers, said. "Many cities have city-wide open-studio events. We hope our event might eventually include other artists' studios, similar to the Studio Trek in Tryon or Open Studios in Greenville. I was chairperson of the Greenville event for five years and participated for 10 years, beginning from its conception. Hopefully, teachers will encourage art students to visit the studios and talk to the artists about their journey that led them to the Co-op. Some members are 30-year professional artists, while others have recently become dedicated to making art. There is no other group studio space or open-studio event in the Spartanburg area."

At the heart of this exhibit is the Co-op's mission to give its more than 50 members as many opportunities as possible to produce, show, and sell their artwork. But the timing of this exhibit during the Holidays is no coincidence. "First, we want to bring in new visitors to view



Work by Rosemary McLeod

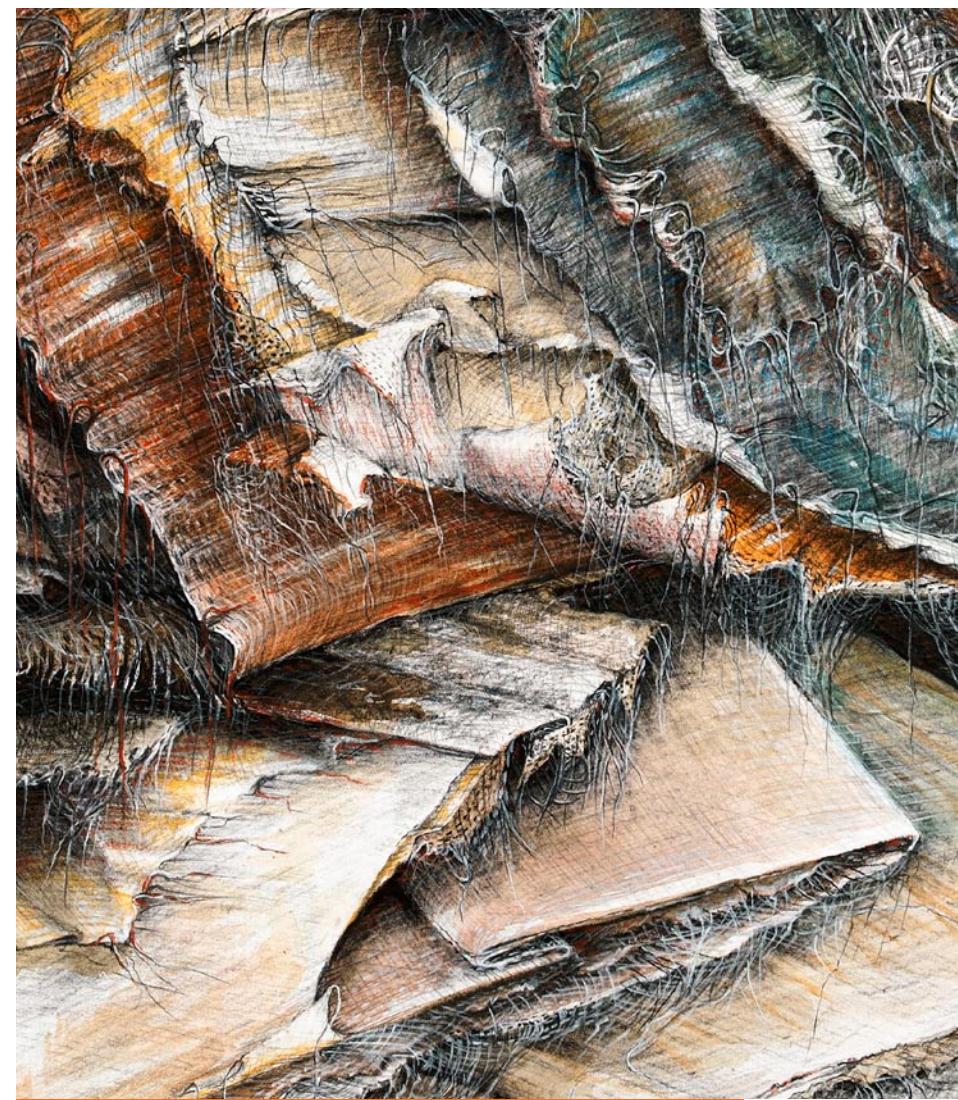
the artwork, and to open the studios and educate the public about what a gem they have right here in Spartanburg!" Guion said. "I can't believe how many people ask me 'what is that place?' We would like to remove the mystique of what goes on in our spaces and to invite people to visit us anytime during our business hours, not just on this night.

"And this is perfect timing for Christmas shopping," she continued. "There is a wide range of artwork at every price point. There is everything from handmade jewelry, quilts and pottery to original paintings, sculpture and photography." She expects each of the 44 participating artists will have two to eight new works of art to show. In total there will be hundreds of pieces throughout the multi-story building, meeting an unmet need to make locally created art available on daily basis. Because of the scope of this exhibit, no other exhibits will be open at West Main Artists Co-op during this time, which normally has individual monthly member exhibits.

"This is the first time since the grand opening of the Co-op seven years ago that almost all of the artists will be opening their studios for the public," Guion said. "Each artist will be available to answer questions about their work and process. During the past two years there are more than 20 new members. We hope that people will come to visit our long-established Co-op members and meet our newer artists. There have been lots of changes in just the past year, both in membership and our physical space. The participating artists hope to educate the public about where and how they create artwork, to showcase our workspace, art community and what we create."

Participating artists include: Elizabeth Bagwell, Jeanne Brown, Wadette Cantrell, Brannon Carter, Rachel Child, Robin Childers, Deede Cohen, Amanda Dawkins, Patrick DeCrane, Craig Denesha, Christina Dixon, Addam Duncan, Susan Eleazer, Dennis Evans, Marcy Fedalei, Nathan Galloway, Annette Giaco, Ashley Gilreath, Glenda Guion, Lois Ann Hesser, Al Hofmann, Rita Howard, Eugene Johnson, Tom Johnson, Carol Kelly, Thomas Koenig, Elliott Leader, John Lever,

continued above on next column to the right



UPSTATE 8: SC WOMEN FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENTS

Oct. 2-Nov. 8
M-TH, 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

The participating artists are Alice Ballard, Patti Brady, Diane Hopkins-Hughes, Terry Jarrard-Dimond, Ellen Kochansky, Linda Williams McCune, Jane Allen Nodine, and Susan Wooten.

This exhibition is supported by the South Carolina Arts Commission, South Carolina Arts Foundation and First Citizens Bank.

Lee Gallery
Exhibit Reception: Oct. 5, 6-8 p.m.
Panel Discussion: Oct. 19, 6-7 p.m.



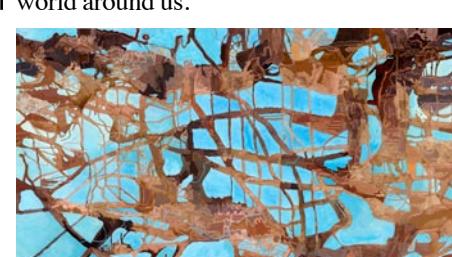
Tenant, Brandi Tucker, Joan Wheatley, Nancy Williamson, and Patty Wright.

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings, call the Co-op at 864/804-6501, or visit ([www.WestMainArtists.org](#)).

USC-Upstate in Spartanburg, SC, Features Works by Mary Robinson

USC-Upstate in Spartanburg, SC, will present *Finding Language*, featuring art of Palmetto State resident Mary Robinson, whose dreamlike works evoke images of chaos and elemental forces, on view in the UPSTATE Gallery on Main, from Nov. 9 through Dec. 30, 2017. A reception will be held on Nov. 16, from 5-8pm, during the Spartanburg Artwalk.

Drawing upon our complex and tumultuous relationship with nature, Robinson's artworks invoke both the fluidity of the natural world and the intermittent - and at times dramatic - reconfigurations due to natural disruption and renewal. Often mixing and remaking printmaking matrices along with cutting up and reconstructing prior paintings and drawings, the resulting enigmatic and dream-like images echo the interplay and chaos of elemental forces at work in the world around us.



Work by Mary Robinson

"My work is deeply inspired by natural forms, particularly the branching systems of trees, roots, rivers and human arteries, as well as the elaborate chaos of tangled vines. I observe complex patterns of flowing, twisting fibers, and nature's mode of creating variety within repetition," Robinson



Work by Mary Robinson

said. "These forms, along with more geometric, often-architectural structures, have become part of a visual vocabulary I use to relay my experience of existence - from conveying the pulse of nature to mirroring humans' capacity for creation and destruction."

Robinson is an associate professor of art and head of printmaking at the University of South Carolina. She received a BFA in studio art from the University of Colorado, an MA in art history from the University of Wisconsin and an MFA in printmaking from Indiana University. Her work was recently included in *Independent Spirits: Women Artists of South Carolina* at the Columbia Museum of Art and has been exhibited broadly in the United States and internationally.

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings, call Jane Nodine at 864/503-5848 or e-mail to (jnodine@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 2017 issue and Dec. 24 for the January 2018 issue.