

# Wofford College in Spartanburg, SC, Features Work by Sheridan Kate Murray

Wofford College in Spartanburg, SC, will present *Dying on the Vine*, featuring works by Sheridan Kate Murray in the 2017 Whetsell Fellowship Exhibition, on view in the Richardson Family Art Gallery in the Rosalind Sallenger Richardson Center for the Arts, from Nov. 7 through Dec. 21, 2017.

When Murray was a first-year student at Wofford College, she found herself captivated by muscadine grapes she spotted one day during her environmental studies lab at the college's Goodall Environmental Studies Center on the Lawson's Fork Creek at Glendale, SC.

The Whetsell Fellowship, designed to support and promote the visual arts at Wofford, is a summer fellowship established in 2006 by Dr. William O. Whetsell in memory of his brother, Dan Whetsell.

"I remember being captivated by the grapes and their perfectly imperfect circular forms, appreciating the way they cascaded over each other with a lack of control that has never been prevalent in my own life," says Murray, who is from Candler, NC. "This image, always present in the back of my mind, is one that I often find myself rendering in sketches or doodles as a method of relaxation and comfort. Depicted with varying levels of control and tightness, the constancy of the organic muscadine-like forms found in these pieces represents the consistent force of natural inspiration in my life as well as my continuous journey to coax myself into letting go and embracing chaos."

Murray says she attempts to explore this same subject matter in both large and



Work by Sheridan Kate Murray  
small works, "in as many different unique and unusual ways as possible."

"The repetition of similar forms evokes a sense of harmony within the works as a whole while the inclusion of graphite pencil calls to mind the doodling process utilized by many as a method of escapism," she says. "Though all branching off from the same initial design, each work explores different facets of nonrepresentational organic shapes in a manner that mirrors my own self-exploration and introspective journey. The repetitive shapes utilized make each work feel cohesive while the abstraction allows for the viewer to apply their own thoughts and feelings to the work."

Murray will give a gallery talk at 7pm on Nov. 16, in the Richardson Family Art Gallery.

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings, call Laura H. Corbin, Director of News Services Office of Marketing and Communications, at 864/597-4180 or e-mail to (laura.corbin@wofford.edu).

## Sumter County Gallery of Art in Sumter, SC, Features Works by Deane Ackerman and Terrell Clark

The Sumter County Gallery of Art in Sumter, SC, is proud to present *The Art of Deane Ackerman and Terrell Clark: EYES of Havana* on view from Nov. 16 through Jan. 12, 2018. A reception will be held on Nov. 16, from 5:30-7:30pm. Terrell Clark will give an artist talk the night of the opening.

Deane Ackerman, a native of Illinois, attended Northwestern University for one year, and then continued her college work as a sculpture major at the School of the Art Institute in Chicago. Married, with 3 children and 3 grandchildren, she has been a Sumter resident since 1965 and is a charter member of the Sumter Artist's Guild, which was founded in 1972. She worked almost exclusively as a sculptor until 1980, producing many pieces now found in private collections across the country. Though she has worked in a variety of mediums, her focus for the past 30 years has been colored pencil drawing, for which she has won numerous awards.

In 1993 Ackerman became a member of the newly founded Colored Pencil Society of America. The original organization, started by a small number of artists working exclusively in colored pencil, has now expanded to include approximately 1800 members, with chapters in 10 other countries. Each summer the CPSA has an international exhibit in a different city in the United States, and this year marked her 11th time being juried into the annual exhibit, and her 3rd time as an award winner.

In January 2005, the Sumter Gallery of Art presented a Deane Ackerman Retrospective with the emphasis on Ackerman's sculptural works. Executive Director Karen Watson and Curator Gardner Cole Miller were both enthusiastic about revisiting Ackerman's work, this time with an emphasis on her colored pencil drawings.

Ackerman artist statement: "My interest in art began in early childhood. Moving from one medium to the next, I first discovered sculpture in my high school



Work by Deane Ackerman  
art class. I found the three-dimensional form fascinating and it has continued to be apparent in most all of my work throughout the years. After years of working as a sculptor, I had the desire to move toward color, and also back to the basics of all art, drawing; pencil on paper. When I discovered colored pencil about 30 years ago, it was just by chance, browsing through a bookstore. Seeing the colorful spine of a book titled, 'Colored Pencil', I knew before I had pulled it from the shelf that I had found 'IT'! That was the starting point of a very exciting and challenging journey that I have been on ever since."

"A lot of thought goes into my decisions on subject matter and composition because I know it will be an investment of months of time," says Ackerman. "I'm always looking for 'the light', because between light and dark is the drama of the piece. Objects that are transparent or reflective are particularly fascinating to me, especially those elements that are viewed through glass and water. Being able to examine and capture that special moment, in time and light, with all of its intricate depth and detail, is what I find so satisfying and colored pencil drawing offers me just that."

"Reflecting on what has held my interest and driven me to express myself as an artist over almost all the years of my life,

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