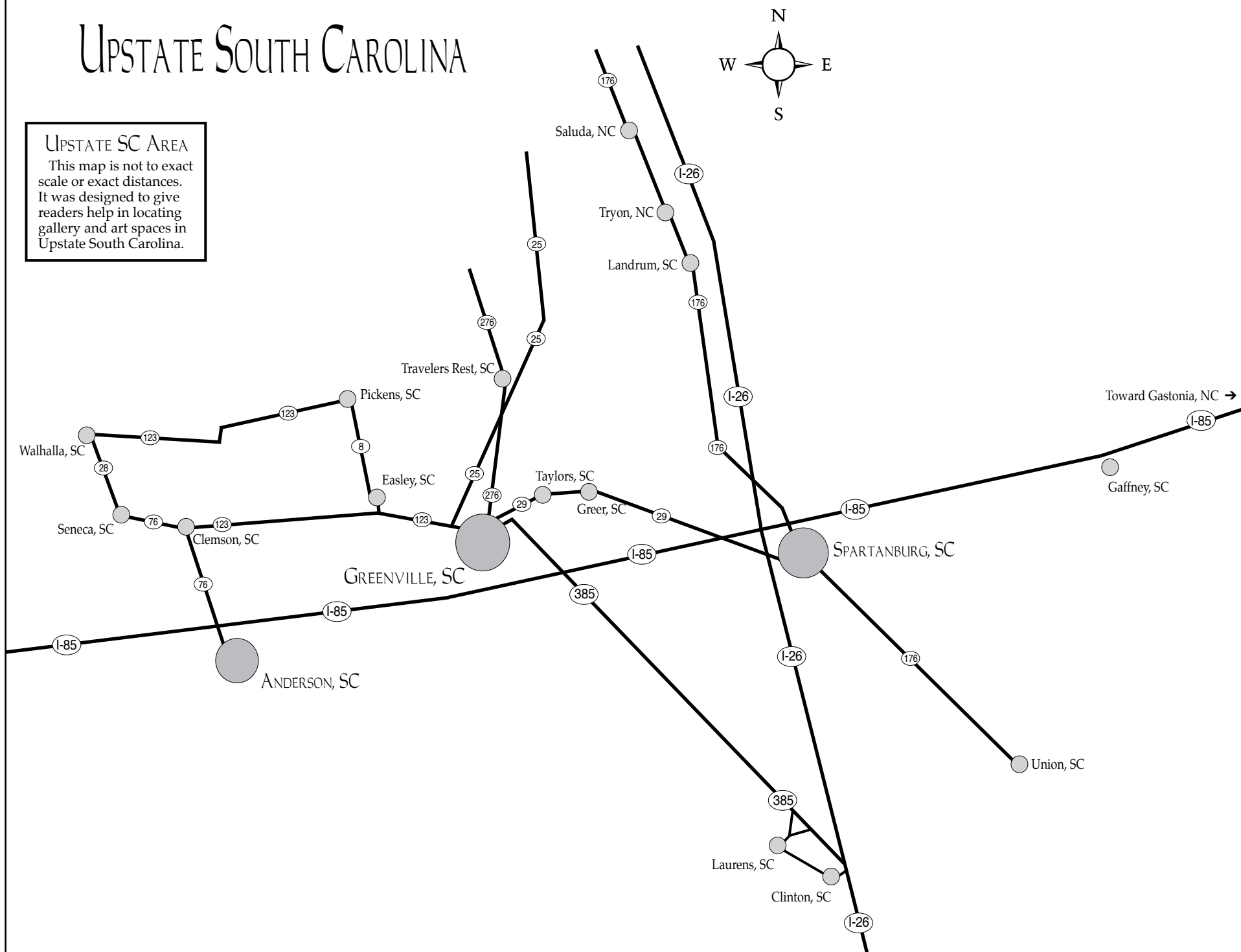


UPSTATE SOUTH CAROLINA

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.



Pickens County Museum of Art

continued from Page 22

years and distance, remain entangled around the land we worked and called home.

Denim was created to be abused, worn out, patched, stained, and burnt through with hot sparks. Its characteristics are mirrored in the people I choose to represent. Jeans remain supple, and with the right pair of boots can still go to the ball. I like that. Still, it is hard to make pictures out of it... I guess I like that, too."

Steven Bleicher, a tenured professor in the Visual Arts Department, is an Associate Dean in the Edwards College of Humanities and Fine Arts at Coastal Carolina University. He received both his BFA and MFA from the Pratt Institute in New York. He has worked and taught at the New York Studio School of Drawing, Painting and Sculpture, Brooklyn College and The Art Institute of Fort Lauderdale in addition to serving as the Assistant Dean of the School of Art and Design at the Fashion Institute of Technology.

In April 2011 the second edition of Bleicher's book *Contemporary Color: Theory and Use* was published by Cengage Press. It is considered the most comprehensive text on color theory and use. His new book *Art and Design Foundations* will be published by Pearson-Prentice Hall later this year.

Bleicher is also an accomplished artist whose work is included in many major collections. His artwork is widely exhibited both nationally and internationally in numerous solo and group exhibitions.

When asked about the work in *American Drive*, Bleicher said, "My body of work has an underlying theme of Americana. Currently, I'm using the subject matter of great old highways such as Route 66 and the Dixie Highway as a point of departure. So much of American life has been and continues to revolve around our mobility, highways, and their effect on our lives. These themes are essential to my work."

Bleicher continued, "The central images in these works are a continuation from earlier work. They are a combination of

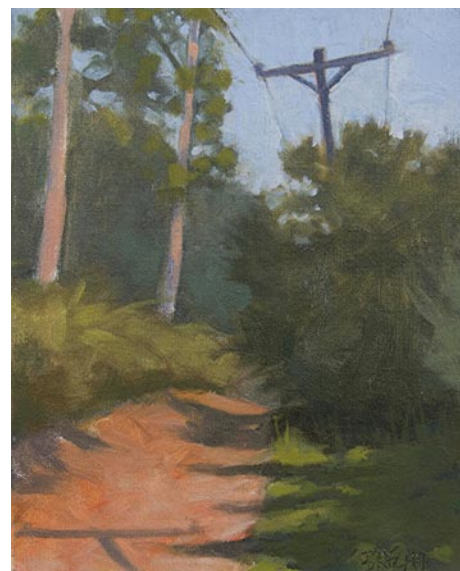


Steven Bleicher's *Cadillac Ranch*, graphite with mixed media

graphite and digital elements, starting with photographs or sketches from the selected landscape or site. I then couple these images with maps and souvenirs or mementos from the local area. While many of the items have a kitsch quality to them, they are not meant to have a condescending tone, but are really celebrations of our uniquely American zeal for collecting, bringing back souvenirs from our travels and vacations. These items directly relate to the imagery and maps adding additional components or layers of meaning to the work. The souvenir elements augment the images giving a more complete sense of place. In addition, they provide an editorial or narrative component to the work and are also another means for viewers to be able to engage the work. The pieces are displayed in shadowbox frames that are large enough to hold both the two and three-dimensional elements in a confined and unified space. My work is about remembrance and recollection. It's about our human need to capture a space in time, a fleeting moment and preserve it."

John Brecht is a native of Michigan
continued above on next column to the right

and former resident of Baltimore, MD. He presently lives in Aiken, SC, and has done so for nearly 27 years. He is a Principal Video Producer for Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, LLC. Brecht graduated with honors from the Maryland Institute College of Art in Baltimore. He is also an alumnus of the Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture in Skowhegan, ME. Brecht enjoys going into the environment to paint on location.



John Brecht, *Red Clay Road*, oil

About his work, Brecht refers to Helen Frankenthaler's quote, "There are no rules. Let the picture lead you where it must go." He continues, "In that, I believe our best works happen - create themselves. It is what I strive for in my work; to let it guide me. I am a facilitator for the art. If I respond honestly and instinctually to what resonates with me, the work will guide me. The best I can do it to let it happen, the worst is to get in the way. That being said, the struggle is to let it happen. All too often an artist over thinks or over executes, killing its spirit and its strength. All art comes out of struggle - and magic."

Cathy Zaden Lea, a southern painter who works primarily in oils, has spent decades considering and creating a sense of place. Raised in southern Florida, Lea received a degree in Arts Administration

from the University of Alabama and then pursued a graduate degree and studies with Hawthorne-trained professors from the Cape Cod School of Art. Her attention to the details of art and place led to work in arts administration and then to a career as an acclaimed event planner, but she remained at heart, a painter.

About her work, Lea says, "When I paint, I'm trying to capture the true sense of a natural moment and place - from the subtle asymmetry of a cloud to the meandering flow of a stream or path."

Now a full-time artist residing in Greenville, SC, Lea's paintings still reflect the discipline and restraint characteristic of her training in the classical, Cape Cod style - yet they impart a warmth and grace that is decidedly southern. Whether plein air landscape or traditional still life, her work does convey the intended, and compelling, sense of place.

Carla Padgett, now living in Liberty, SC, is a native South Carolinian who grew up in Columbia, SC. She began her appreciation for the arts at a very young age, studying music, drawing and painting, and dance. She took classes in art at school and participated in occasional summer courses taught by local professional artists or at the University of South Carolina. Padgett graduated from the University of South Carolina where she earned a BS degree in 1989 and a MS in 1991, both in Statistics. She has lived and worked mostly on the east coast of the United States, but has spent a fair amount of time traveling, particularly in Europe where she developed an appreciation for French

continued on Page 24

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