

CURTIS R. HARLEY

ART GALLERY



Gary Webber Raku Variations

AUGUST 18-SEPTEMBER 24, 2017

ARTIST RECEPTION - SEPTEMBER 7, 4:30 p.m.

The USC Upstate
Visual Arts Program
includes Bachelor
of Arts programs in:
Art Studio (graphic
design emphasis)
Art Education
Art History (minor)

Harley Gallery:
The Gallery is one of three
art galleries at USC Upstate,
located on the first floor of the
Humanities & Performing
Arts Center, is free and open
to the public from
9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Mon.-Fri.

To learn more:

Find Us Online:
www.uscupstate.edu/harleygallery

UpstateGalleryArt @uscupstategalleryart
 uscugalleryart

Or Contact:

Mark Flowers
Gallery Coordinator
(864) 503-5848
mflowers@uscupstate.edu

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Gallery Director
(864) 503-5838
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UPSTATE

University of South Carolina Upstate

Converse College in Spartanburg

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portunities, leading national debate teams, study abroad and internship programs, and a 10:1 student/faculty ratio differentiate the Converse learning community. Converse competes in NCAA Division II athletics—the highest level of any women's college, is the only women's college on the All-Stein-

way School roster, and is consistently top ranked by *US News & World Report*.

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings, or contact Kathryn Boucher, Milliken Art Gallery Director for Converse College, by e-mail at (kathryn.boucher@converse.edu).

West Main Artists Co-Op in Spartanburg, SC, Offers Works by Susan Eleazer and Christina Dixon

The mixed-media and ceramic work of Spartanburg artists Susan Eleazer and Christina Dixon will be on display at West Main Artists Co-Op (WMAC) through Sept. 17, 2017, in a dual exhibit entitled *Full Circle*.

The artists dubbed their exhibit *Full Circle* for both personal and professional reasons, noting how they found insight into their lives as they created these pieces of art. They conceived the idea for this exhibition in 2016, while working at WMAC as full-time studio members and friends. Each sees this exhibit of her work as an opportunity to show the healing effects of making art.

"I had the incredible luck to have a childhood of joy and playfulness rooted in simplicity. Things that I grew up with have stayed with me buried under layers of formal education and adult responsibility," Eleazer said. "My works in this exhibition are my artistic attempt to return 'Full Circle' to joy and playfulness. I began this work with research into microscopic images of Alzheimer's, Psoriasis of the liver, and colon cancer, all diseases that have taken a toll on the foundation of my life by affecting my parents and other close family members. Through this research, I was able to begin to see these as patterns of color, texture and shape. With a little digging into my father's barn, the one I'd grown up in rolling in



Work by Susan Eleazer

trucks of soybeans, I was able to retrieve a treasure trove of rusted farm implements. Equipped with these materials and my research, I worked organically, letting the joy of layering paint, dye and wax lead the way. Circular shapes appear in all the works and serve as a metaphor for this journey back to joy. It is my intention within these works to simply create from within, allowing my child's eye to guide me without the restriction of reason or explanation. For me, the work is done; the act of creating in this manner has brought me full circle to a place where simplicity rules." Eleazer will have about dozen pieces of work in this exhibit.

"I chose a rather personal interpretation of 'full circle,'" Christina Dixon said. "The term encompasses not only the return to a place or idea, but an arrival at the opposite

of said original place or idea. I was most intrigued by this relationship between the original and the opposite. Thus, I chose to explore the upward and downward swings of my own mental well-being, which tends to settle into a cycle of good days and bad days. A large portion of the collection is saggar-fired raku, where flashes of color form through the chemical reactions of ferric chloride and aluminum. Other pieces are glazed Western raku, and others are carved stoneware. This collection also marks my first venture into wall sculpture. Color is strategically at work here, from the oranges and reds of empowered energy to the deep grays and blacks of deep depressive despair. Take a walk around the gallery and observe the balance shift from color to darkness. Change directions and observe the opposite. So symbolizes my periodic journey from okay, to not, and back again."

Eleazer was born and raised in rural Sumter, SC during the late 1950s and '60s, an environment that gave her a deep appreciation of nature and the use of her senses to experience it. She is a graduate of Columbia College with a bachelor's degree in art education. She first taught middle school art in McCormick, SC, where she met her husband Hal. Until 1998, they lived in LaGrange, GA, where she continued to teach and started her own family. Returning to South Carolina — Spartanburg — she did volunteer work with the schools and her church. In 2004, she started teaching at Dorman High School, eventually becoming a full-time visual arts teacher in the fine arts department. "Nurturing children as a mother and a teacher, I am deeply interested in interpersonal relationships and nonverbal means of communication," she said. "In 2014, I retired early from teaching art to pursue studio art full time. I became a member of WMAC in 2016 and participated in my first art exhibit in 2017."

Dixon is a native of Nashville, TN, a city, she said, has endless creativity everywhere and anywhere. Her love of art started



Work by Christina Dixon

with her mother, who was an art dealer, and who made it a point to expose her daughter to the visual arts and music. An accomplished flute player, Dixon majored in art at Furman University and graduated in 2015. While at Furman, she was introduced to horsehair raku, which is her favorite firing technique. After graduating, Dixon and her husband moved to Spartanburg, and she joined WMAC in 2015. Since then, her ceramic work has been seen in galleries in South Carolina and Georgia. She will have 18-25 pieces of work in this WMAC exhibit, some of which will be for sale. Her website is chDixonPottery.com.

Founded in 2009 as a non-profit organization housed in an old church near downtown Spartanburg, WMAC is the community's leading grassroots arts agency, providing affordable studio and gallery space. Currently, there are more 50 members, most of whom have studio space at the 20,000-foot facility. All of WMAC's members are local and practice a wide variety of art, from traditional canvas paintings and sculptures to quilting and videography. WMAC and its members are supportive of new and emerging artists. In addition, there are continuous exhibits, workshops, tours, open studios, and a gift shop stocked with only locally made art.

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

The deadline each month to submit articles, photos and ads is the 24th of the month prior to the next issue. This will be September 24th for the October 2017 issue and Oct. 24 for the November 2017 issue.