

Artists Collective | Spartanburg

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numerous layers that build up over time, much like the layers that create our lives. These layers are added and then removed through various methods. Thus, my theme of opposition is represented in the artistic process itself – creation and destruction.”

Personal interactions within the environment – a bike ride, hike, trail run, park visit or some other outing in nature – often serve as his muse, Urban says. “The layering process I use when I paint is evolutionary; I never quite know exactly where it will take me visually or conceptually. The idea and the artwork grow, sometimes over several weeks depending on the size I’m working on, as I create the image. As I paint, more details emerge regarding the artwork’s meaning, thus finding me, so to speak. This way of working creates an element of surprise, which I find exciting.”

“Depicting the beauty of nature, even in a non-traditional way, reflects an obvious appreciation for what the natural world offers to us,” he continues. “Environmental concerns for Earth affected by human interaction, remain just below the surface of each artwork I create.”

Urban attended the South Carolina Governor’s School for the Arts, which he says allowed him to recognize his passion for art. “I knew then that art would be a major force in my life.”

His love of long-distance running, another of his “life’s passions,” influenced his appreciation for the outdoors. “Nature provided ample motivation for my creative pursuits,” he says. “Endurance sports also provided me with reflective time to meditate and the ability to look inward while taking in the beauty of the landscape.”

After earning his BFA in 1990 from the University of South Carolina, Urban packed his art supplies and moved to California. While there, he pursued graduate work in studio art at California State University at Sacramento and the San Francisco Art Institute. He returned to South Carolina and earned a master’s degree in art education and spent five years teaching in the Columbia area before accepting his



Work by Robert Urban

current position at Dorman High School in Spartanburg, where he has taught for the past 26 years.

In 2007 he was awarded the South Carolina Secondary Art Educator of the Year Award and the following year his work was selected for inclusion in the inaugural international art publication *Art Buzz: The 2008 Collection*. Once again in 2011, his artwork was selected for the fourth edition of *Art Buzz: The 2011 Collection*. Also in 2011, Urban was selected for the book *Artists Among Us: 100 Faces of Art in Spartanburg*.

In 2015, he was one of 18 Upstate South Carolina artists whose artwork was selected for inclusion of the interior of the Greenville Aloft Hotel. He was named Dorman High School’s “Teacher of the Year” in 2018 and was chosen as the Spartanburg County School District Six “Teacher of the Year” in 2019. Urban’s artwork is in collections throughout the Carolinas, the United States, Denmark, Switzerland and South Korea.

“I am thankful for the opportunity to present at the Artists Collective | Spartanburg, the largest body of new work I have ever exhibited,” Urban says.

The Artists Collective | Spartanburg, located on W. Main Street, provides a forum and home for the arts and creative population of Spartanburg, providing facilities and services to artist members for exhibits, performances and creation.

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings or visit (artistscollectivespartanburg.org).

Artists Collective | Spartanburg, SC, Offers Exhibit of New Members

Artists Collective | Spartanburg, in Spartanburg, SC, will present *In the Wood ... From the Earth*, featuring works by six new ACS members, on view in Galleries II & III, from Jan. 7 through Feb. 1, 2025. A reception will be held on Jan. 16, from 5-8pm, as part of the Spartanburg ArtWalk.

“The Artists Collective | Spartanburg is a welcoming and collaborative environment that inspires creativity for its members and visitors alike,” says Cassandra Stephens-Johnson, who is coordinating the exhibit. “We look forward to visitors seeing the beautiful and varied works by these talented new ACS members.”

The participating artists will be Darryl Jones, Garry Turpin, Tipton Jones-Boiter, Mariam Tucker-Jones, Karina Manukyan and Christine Blackburn.

Darryl Jones, a woodturner, says he seldom has a plan for his creations. Describing a piece that will be exhibited in the show, he says he worked on it multiple times, not satisfied each time he added or changed the piece. “This piece describes who I am as a creator because I very seldom have a plan,” he says. “I would have to almost describe the piece in reverse, from the end to the beginning, because I generally don’t have a plan and let the piece become what it’s going to be.”

An “IT guy” by profession, Jones was inspired to do woodworking by a history teacher’s collection of flutes the teacher had made. “I feel like I kind of came in the back door because I didn’t know there was a whole woodturning community,” he says. “I just kind of stumbled into it. The same thing happened with the art side. I kind of feel like I fell into it backward because I had already been creating the art. When I make a piece, I like to leave



Works by Darryl Jones

natural elements, such as a bark edge or the range of colors that you find around rot and different types of inclusions in the wood. I like to leave those in to celebrate the fact that it is a natural material with imperfections.”

Garry Turpin, a native of Sylva, NC, who grew up in Greenville, SC, has worked for printing companies as prep foreman, magazine publishers as art director and started GT Graphic Studios in the mid 1980s. He managed the company until 2000, when he closed the company, and he started oil painting full time. He helped establish two cooperative art studios – the Artists Collective | Spartanburg and the Artist Guild Gallery in Greenville. Both continue as thriving organizations.

Of his paintings, Turpin says, “I try to give the best rendition of what I see; to let the viewer understand why I painted a particular view in a landscape or expression in a person, place or thing. Painting water and the elements around it is always exciting. The blend of colors in a fall leaf, movement in the clouds, dogs running, people walking on the beach. Inspiration is everywhere you look.”

Turpin adds that he carries a camera, “when I’m hungry to paint. I look for compositions that are visually interesting or information driven. In many instances, continued above on next column to the right

my paintings are time travelers for me, in that they’ll take me back to the time and place where the image first caught my eye and the joy of the site or person that I have rendered hopefully will be captured by the viewer in a similar or different way, kind of paying it forward.”

Tipton Jones-Boiter, a native of Greer, SC, says growing up in a “very artistic family” shaped her creative side. The visual artist and songwriter adds, “I believe we can communicate emotions through art and music that cannot easily be communicated through words alone. I lean more towards the abstract and surreal. I believe I provide pieces, but how those pieces form meaning is up to the viewer or listener.”

Jones-Boiter has been painting professionally for 30 years, starting at 16 as a muralist and faux finisher, then shifting to portraits of people and pets. She prefers using acrylics on canvas and coffee on paper. Through the Anchor Bat Co., she has painted what she calls “mini murals” on baseball bats for the actor Bill Murray, the Greenville Drive, the US Marines and The Citadel. She’s currently a member of and has an art studio at the Artists Collective.

Karina Manukyan’s mother was an archeologist, so she grew up surrounded by replicas of ancient pottery at home. “Every time we went to a history museum, I would get a lecture on all the knowledge you can get from ceramic remains,” she says, admitting she may not have paid enough attention at the time. “By a stroke of fate, I started getting interested in historic pottery a couple of years ago. I have always been drawn to expressing myself through visual means, and photography has been my passion for a long time, but after moving to the US, my spark for it had greatly diminished. That eventually led me to take my first pottery class.”

After taking a hand-building course, Jones-Boiter knew she had “found something I deeply connected with. The tactile sensation as you handle the clay while the pot emerges underneath your fingertips is a truly magical experience. Since then, I have been experimenting with different shapes and techniques in the search for my voice as a ceramic artist.”

Karina Manukyan, a native of Sofia, Bulgaria who moved to the United States in 2015, creates “a combination of functional and decorative pieces, aiming to create either playful or stand-out pieces, whether it’s something you put on a shelf, or it is something you eat out of. I am a firm believer that everyday objects can be



Work by Garry Turpin

art. I draw inspiration from ancient pottery and organic shapes with a more contemporary look. The main techniques I use are coil-and-pinch and slab-building.”

Miriam Tucker-Jones, a Spartanburg native and a retired surgical technologist at Spartanburg Medical Center, has been drawing “since I could hold a crayon or a pencil,” and took her first oil painting class at 16. “The smell of the oil paint and turpentine were intoxicating,” though now her works are mainly in acrylic and watercolor.

Art is a family affair, with daughter Tipton Jones-Boiter also participating in the new member exhibit and the two along with Miriam’s husband, Barry, have exhibited together at Carri Bass Photography and Art Studio in Tryon, NC.

As a jewelry artist, Christine Blackburn says, “I am driven by a passion for crafting pieces that evoke a sense of wonder and joy in those who wear them. My work is a celebration of the unique beauty found in minimalism and geometric forms. Each piece is meticulously designed to harmonize with the wearer’s individuality while embodying a timeless elegance.”

Blackburn specializes in crafting sterling silver jewelry, drawing inspiration from “nature and the beauty that surrounds us. Inspired by the inherent beauty of simplicity, my designs embrace clean lines and subtle curves, reflecting a modern aesthetic that transcends fleeting trends. Every angle and detail are carefully considered to achieve a perfect balance between aesthetics and wearability.”

“My greatest joy as an artist comes from knowing that my creations bring happiness to people’s lives,” Blackburn continues.

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Jerald Melberg Gallery in Charlotte, NC, Features Works by Charles Basham

Jerald Melberg Gallery in Charlotte, NC, will proudly present a solo exhibition of paintings and pastels, entitled *Continuum*, by Charles Basham, spanning his four decades with the gallery, on view from Jan. 11 through Feb. 22, 2025. The opening reception will be held at the gallery on Jan. 10, with the artist in attendance from 6-8pm. A Coffee & Conversation with the artist will be held on Jan. 11, at 11am.



Work by Charles Basham

Basham received his BFA and MFA from Kent State University in his native state of Ohio, where he still resides on the family farm. *Continuum* features the artist’s visually stimulating and emotionally charged landscapes inspired by the place he calls home.

Throughout his career, Charles Basham



Work by Charles Basham

has become more and more attuned to the subtle changes in weather and atmosphere. In his pastels and oil paintings, the energy and impact of light is realized in harmonized color whose saturation and temperature have been pushed and raised beyond previous limits. In doing so, he has captured dramatic and compelling moments of morning and evening light over the farmlands of the Midwest.

Jerald Melberg Gallery is located on South Sharon Amity Road near the intersection with Providence Road.

For further information check our NC Commercial Gallery listings, call the gallery at 704/365-3000 or visit (www.jeraldmelberg.com).

The deadline each month to submit articles, photos and ads is the 24th of the month prior to the next issue. This will be Jan. 24th, at 5pm, for the February 2025 issue and Feb. 24, at 5pm for the March 2025 issue. After that, it’s too late unless your exhibit runs into the next month. But don’t wait for the last minute - send your info now. And where do you send that info? E-mail to (info@carolinaarts.com).