

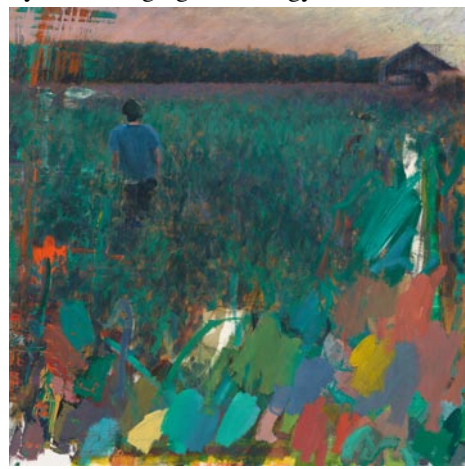
Craven Allen Gallery in Durham, NC, Features Works by Damian Stamer

Craven Allen Gallery in Durham, NC, will present *Twins*, featuring works by Damian Stamer, on view from Mar. 8 through May 8, 2025. A reception will be held on Mar. 8, from 5-7pm.

Twins features a selection of paintings exploring Damian Stamer's life as an identical twin, and how that identity intersects with his experience of memory and place. "I have long experienced the subtle dance between mirror and self - a relationship marked by both profound similarity and unique divergence" he explains. "This exhibition transforms that lifelong dynamic into a visual exploration that delves into the psychological depths of what it means to see oneself in another."

Stamer continues his practice of using Artificial Intelligence as part of his artistic process. To supplement his own memory of a scene, he will input a text description of a moment from his childhood as he recalls it into an AI program, generating images that range from the familiar to the uncanny. Using these as inspiration, Stamer paints in oil on board with his unmistakable brushstrokes, beginning as sweeping gestural marks at the edges of the composition that come together to form expertly rendered interiors and landscapes.

Stamer says his paintings "... are layered conversations between organic memory and digital possibility, inviting viewers to contemplate not only the intimate bond between twins but also the broader dialogue between human creativity and emerging technology."



Work by Damian Stamer

Stamer has quickly become one of the region's most important artists, with paintings in notable museum, corporate and private collections. Museum exhibitions include *Ruminations*, a solo show at the Gibbes Museum of Art in Charleston, SC; *Altered Land* at the North Carolina Museum of Art in Raleigh, NC, and *Area 919* at Duke University's Nasher Museum in Durham.

Stamer offered the following statement, "Twins is a deeply personal meditation on duality, reflection, and the unseen layers that define our identities. As an identical twin, I have long experienced the subtle dance between mirror and self—a relationship marked by both profound similarity and unique divergence. This exhibition transforms that lifelong dynamic into a visual exploration that delves into the psychological depths of what it means to see oneself in another."

"The creative process behind *Twins* is as much about collaboration as it is about introspection," says Stamer. "I began by entering a childhood memory containing the word *Twins* into DALL-E 2, an AI image generator, to produce reference imagery that resonates with the abstract and multifaceted nature of duplication. These images, emerging from an algorithm's unpredictable interpretation, provided me with a reservoir of visual cues that oscillate between the familiar and the uncanny. They serve as the initial spark that informs



Work by Damian Stamer

each painting I create. Similarly, the title of each painting contains the prompt that created its reference image."

"In reinterpreting these digital renderings onto panel, I embrace both meticulous technique and the spontaneity inherent in working with AI-generated forms," adds Stamer. "This dual approach mirrors the twin experience: one part deliberate human expression, the other part the unpredictable reflection of machine learning. The resulting works are layered conversations between organic memory and digital possibility, inviting viewers to contemplate not only the intimate bond between twins but also the broader dialogue between human creativity and emerging technology."

"Twins thus becomes a metaphor for the multiplicity of identity in the digital era. It interrogates how our internal landscapes - shaped by shared histories, intimate bonds, and personal memories - are simultaneously mirrored and transformed by the external forces of technological innovation. In this series, the artist's deeply sentient and intuitive brushwork stands in stark contrast to the algorithmically driven, non-sentient suggestions of an AI collaborator, creating a space where human emotion and digital computation converge and transform one another."

"Engagement with these works encourages an exploration of the complex layers of selfhood, prompting questions about where one identity ends and another begins (as the boundaries between human and AI become blurrier by the minute).

The reflective surface of every painted image reveals not merely a twin of some kind, but a portal to a deeper understanding of how identities are constructed in an increasingly interconnected, algorithmically influenced world," says Stamer.

Damian Stamer (b. American, 1982) received his Master of Fine Arts from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill as a Jacob K. Javits fellow in 2013 and his Bachelor of Fine Arts from the Herberger Institute of Art and Design and Barrett, The Honors College at Arizona State University (where he studied painting with Craven Allen Gallery artist Beverly McIver) as a National Merit scholar in 2007. He also studied at the Hungarian University of Fine Arts as a Fulbright grantee, and the State Academy of Art and Design in Stuttgart, Germany as a Rotary Ambassadorial scholar.

Damian's contemporary paintings explore themes of memory and loss through formal and conceptual approaches. Detailed architectural forms reminiscent of his childhood memories of the South are combined with gestural brushstrokes that push and pull the images into existence. The artist lives and works in Durham, NC.

Craven Allen Gallery is located on Broad Street in Durham.


For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, call the gallery at 919/286-4837 or visit (www.cravenallengallery.com).

Hillsborough Gallery of Arts in Hillsborough, NC, Offers New Exhibit

The Hillsborough Gallery of Arts in Hillsborough, NC, will present *Tapping Into Spirit*, featuring works by Jason Smith, Jude Lobe, and Martha Danek, on Page 30 - Carolina Arts, March 2025

view from Mar. 25 through Apr. 20, 2025. A reception will be held on Mar. 28, from 6-9pm.

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Metal sculptor, Jason Smith, has created a variety of large and small-scale sculptures for this show. Smith combines found objects with metal that he has cut, welded, and forged, to create sculptures of great balance, strength, and beauty. Smith writes, "As an artist, I am driven by the belief that spirit resides in the overlooked and the ordinary. My work is a journey of transformation, where I take found objects - discarded fragments of the world - and reforge them into metal sculptures that embody tranquility and mindfulness."

Smith sees his sculptures as "invitations to pause, to breathe, and to find harmony in the interplay of strength and softness, chaos and calm."

Jude Lobe is an artist who enjoys working with many different types of media, and she will be exhibiting both sculptures and paintings in this show. Lobe writes that her new collection presents "an expression of the Native American philosophy of interconnectedness, balance, and respect for nature, manifesting in both my totemic sculptures and my endangered landscapes." Her totems are intended to bridge the ancient and the contemporary, serving "as both a narrative and a conversation" through the use of bold expression and thoughtfully crafted details.



Work by Jason Smith

inspired by an awareness of details, both in nature and in the everyday items from our lives. Danek writes, "I looked back at the meanings assigned to flowers during Victorian times, as well as the symbolism that many cultures have connected to animals, for inspiration in creating this collection of gourd sculptures. I love the images that our title, "Tapping into Spirit", evokes - I believe that there are messages of inspiration all around us, and that our lives are enriched when we allow ourselves to notice them."

Danek's mixed-media wall sculptures incorporate found objects, such as old washboards or pieces of barn wood, to create sculptures that reflect different aspects of contemporary life. The found objects themselves are already filled with history and potential symbolism; Danek enjoys marrying these objects with small paintings and sculptures of her own making, creating assemblages that nod to the past while representing life today.

The Hillsborough Gallery of Arts is owned and operated by 21 local artists and represents these established artists exhibiting contemporary fine art and fine craft. The Gallery's offerings include oil, acrylic and watercolor painting, sculpture, pottery, weaving, jewelry, glass, gourd sculpture, scratchboard, and handcrafted furniture.

For further information check our NC Commercial Gallery listings, call the gallery at 919/732-5001 or visit (www.HillsboroughGallery.com).



Work by Martha Danek

Lobe's endangered landscape paintings are done in the minimalist style, allowing the viewers "to infuse their own emotions into the landscape." She hopes that they will serve a dual purpose of encouraging the viewers to consider the interconnectedness of all things while reminding us to respect the fragile balance we share with our surroundings.

Martha Danek's painted gourd sculptures and mixed-media assemblages are

So you're the Marketing Director of a visual arts organization, art museum, arts center, arts council or artist guild and you're wondering why you never see the exhibits presented at your facility included here. Maybe you're the owner of a commercial art gallery and you've never seen your exhibits included with others presented in your area. You might even be an individual artist who is having an exhibit in a non-profit space or commercial space and you don't see your exhibits included. My question to you is - How long will you put up with that before you ask someone, "Why that is the case?" If you're not included - it's your fault. Send your info about exhibits to "Carolina Arts" by e-mail to (info@carolinaarts.com). Our deadline is the 24th of the month, at 5pm "prior" to the month your exhibit starts.