

# Artists Collective | Spartanburg

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Work by Joe Hiltabidel, "May the Fork Be With You".

Most of the photographs feature heart-shaped cereal interacting with Hiltabidel's hand-built miniatures, "telling a story of growth, resilience and the transformative power of love," he says. "Part of the exhibit compares my first whimsical piece against my most recent one."

Hiltabidel hopes visitors to "'feel' more than 'see'" when they enter the exhibit, and he wants their first reaction to be "happiness and joy. Also, I hope they feel a spark to create something or to evolve a part of their own life."

"I want people to find what makes them happy and chase it until the very end," he adds. "You have one life, and it is too fleeting to settle for unhappiness."

Hiltabidel says he previously photographed "traditional landscapes," focusing on mountains and waterfalls. After his cereal dream and creating the first photo inspired by it, "I had so much fun creating the piece and seeing people's reaction to it that I abandoned my interest in landscape photography to pursue a style of photography that makes me happy instead of trying to create artwork for others. Chasing this path gave me personal joy and I quickly realized this unusual body of work resonates with others who shared my style of imagination or who appreciated a 'less is more' approach to photography. What started as a

dream involving cereal has evolved into the entire whimsical body of work you see here today.

"I consider some of these pieces to be the 'ultimate conversation starters,'" he adds. His works include props he builds, often using common household items such as matchsticks, pieces of jewelry or fiber to build miniatures and create staged scenes in a cube flooded with light.

Hiltabidel, a native of northeast Ohio, has lived in the Upstate for 30 years. At age 36, he began attending Furman University, graduating in 2015 after eight years of night school. A course there taught by photographer Bryan Hiott led to his love of photography and the purchase of his first camera. Later, after seeing another former professor at an event selling her jewelry, he was inspired to begin selling his photos; he and Shelly have attended more than 100 art events in 10 states since the first in 2016, selling thousands of his photos.

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](http://artistscollectivespartanburg.org)).

## Orangeburg County Fine Arts Center in Orangeburg, SC, Features Works by Dianne MunKittrick

The Orangeburg County Fine Arts Center in Orangeburg, SC, will present *Nature In Oil And Paper*, featuring works by Dianne MunKittrick, on view in the Lusty Gallery, from July 10 through Sept. 25, 2024. A reception will be held on July 10, from 6-8pm.

The exhibition is a collection of the newest works showing Dianne MunKittrick's evolving and intimate relationship with her woodland environment. Her representational works in oil, as in *Across The Blushing Marsh*, capture setting and mood. A celestial moment is a shared reflection through the harmony and relationship of colors.

By MunKittrick's years of observing the intricacies ever present and in animation in nature's compositions, her sceneries have evolved into abstract interpretation, where colors and form venerate the creativity of flora and fauna. *Butterbutt*, a solitary and seemingly reflective Yellow-rump Warbler, shares a reverence for what it witnesses with the artist.



Work by Dianne MunKittrick

tion of relief sculpture, an artform dating back some 20 thousand years. Creating the impression of feathers was an intricate, lengthy and experimental process, which resulted in marvelous two-dimensional works.

MunKittrick begins what she calls "a real interesting process of cutting and shaping," which at first begins by forming one half of a whole sculpture. "I start by making the general form of the animal with paper and then it's a layering process of adding the feathers," MunKittrick explains. "When I look where I need to start adding, I think what is the undermost layer? So, for a bird, I look at how the feathers are laying on top of each other and I search for the feather that is the undermost. And that's the first to go on so that I can start laying other feathers on top of that so that it looks like it's natural

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Work by Dianne MunKittrick

Low relief paper sculpture, rather than a departure for MunKittrick, is more akin to a deeper intimacy and a meticulous interpretation of some of her favorite subjects, especially birds. There is also the appreciation

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and real."

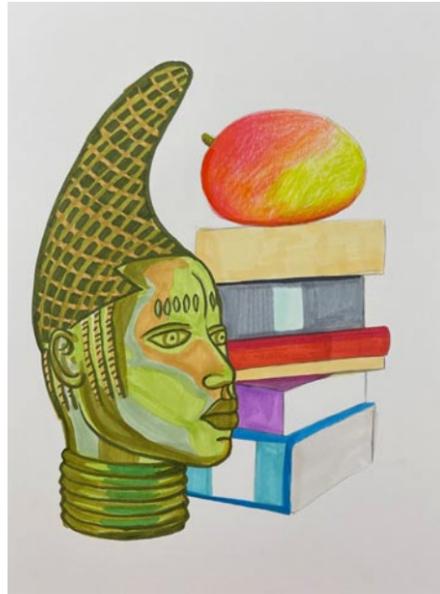
To create the "natural and real" effect in these new works, MunKittrick uses a variety of special papers. "I use archival paper. The paper should be pH neutral and lignin free. I mostly use Arches 90-pound hot press paper. I use Mulberry paper for its fibrous and soft look and Lineco acid-free tissue paper." The results are sculptural life-like interpretations in relief against backgrounds in shades of gray and white. *Com-*

## Mike Brown Contemporary in Columbia, SC, Announces Artist in Residence Tonya Gregg

Mike Brown Contemporary in partnership with One Columbia SC, is pleased to announce Tonya Gregg will serve as the second MBC Artist In Residence, through July 11, 2024. With generous support from One Columbia SC, Gregg will occupy the Mike Brown Contemporary gallery on Lincoln Street. The gallery will accept studio visits with the artist by appointment by e-mailing ([Tonya@mikebrowncontemporary.com](mailto:Tonya@mikebrowncontemporary.com)).

Tonya Gregg was born and raised in South Carolina. She received a BFA from the Maryland Institute College of Art in 1997. It was at MICA that Gregg began her career as a painter and became the first full-time art student to be featured in *New American Paintings*. Gregg worked at the Baltimore Museum of Art for a year before moving to Chicago to pursue a Master of Fine Arts in painting from the University of Chicago from 1998 to 2000. She has worked in various art programs and taught college for several years.

Gregg has exhibited in the US, Germany, Nicaragua, England and Canada. Her solo exhibitions include Columbia College, Gallery 1448, the Lawndale Art Center and Ithaca College. She has been an artist in residence at the Millay Colony in Austerlitz, New York, Red Gate in Beijing, China, the Banff Centre in Alberta, Canada, and the Wollmagazin in Kaiserslautern, Germany. Gregg's narrative paintings explore overlapping ideas about class, consumption, popular culture and ancient mythologies.



Work by Tonya Gregg

cinated with glamour magazines, comic books, traditional African motifs and narrative historical paintings. These are the main sources of inspiration for my episodic paintings that comment on race, class, sexuality, and consumption among women of color. The personal and social narratives depict women navigating the shifting cultural influences and paradoxical worlds of contemporary life in their endeavor to embrace their own personhood. Broad themes

## Crooked Creek Art League and Town of Chapin, SC, Present Artful Turtles

Turtle Art Rocks Chapin is a collaborative community art project between the Crooked Creek Art League (CCAL) and the Town of Chapin, SC. This exciting public art project is guaranteed to add color to an already dynamic Chapin arts scene and surrounding lake communities. Artful Turtles will showcase both the native wildlife common to the Lake Murray area and the work of 15 local artists. This

manding Presence, MunKittrick's Pileated Woodpecker, perched on an abstract gnarled white tree branch, is confidently splendid.

The Orangeburg County Fine Arts Center, is located on Riverside Drive in Orangeburg, SC, 29115.

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings, contact Vivian Glover by e-mail ([vglover@orangeburgarts.org](mailto:vglover@orangeburgarts.org)) or call 803/536-4074.



Work by Tonya Gregg

that weave in and out of my work include women's ideals of beauty and various social perceptions of public versus private spaces, popular culture, ancient mythology and fantasy."

"My canvases feature women dressed in carefully coordinated fashions lounging in alluring and iconic poses while presenting themselves in a manner that is hyper aware of the gaze of the world that is focused upon them. They are often surrounded by objects of desire that display their eclectic tastes and interests. These women are on a personal quest to find a balance in life between sensual pleasures and intellectual and spiritual pursuits. Wide-eyed cherub-like fairies with Afro hair float through the scenes seeking to capture the attention of the women and the viewer. They serve as celestial messengers, and at times, impish pests with an omniscient view of the women's situations as well as a pragmatic plan aimed at reinforcing the subject's authenticity," adds Gregg.

"The cherubs' wisdom suggests finding a version of the good life that can both integrate and transcend the material trappings. The colors, shapes and patterns of these objects of desire unify the compositions while forwarding the narratives."

"I paint on linen because of its symbolic and historical associations with Egyptian royalty attire, as well as its connection with Dutch masters' painting surfaces. The muted warm gray of the linen surface allows the saturated colors of the women's bodies, fashions and accoutrements to express the vibrancy of their many-sided worlds. Ultimately, the elements are integrated and contrasted with one another to allow complex and often oppositional ideas about the characters and the environments they inhabit," says Gregg.

For further information check our SC Commercial Gallery listings, call Michaela Pilar Brown at 803/772-9990 or visit ([www.mikebrowncontemporary.com](http://www.mikebrowncontemporary.com)).

highly anticipated public art project features a community scavenger hunt and auction culminating at the 2024 Chapin Labor Day Festival.

The art consists of 15 locally designed and crafted fiberglass turtles. All of the turtles will be on display at sponsoring businesses for a Scavenger Hunt, which runs from July 2 - Aug. 31, 2024. The Tur-

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