

# Greenville Center for Creative Arts in Greenville, SC, Featuring works by Kate Burke and Jessica Swank

The Greenville Center for Creative Arts in Greenville, SC, is presenting *Performative Practices*, featuring works by Kate Burke and Jessica Swank, on view through July 23, 2025.

*Performative Practices* expounds upon the weight and space digital technology holds within our lives. Artists Kate Burke and Jessica Swank enter into a dialogue that examines what it means to encounter digital technology so intimately and consistently, using labor as a mechanism to reiterate our interactions with it.

As humans, our day to day encounters with digital technology prove to be both intimate and redundant. The ways in which we respond and interact with technology are often ritualistic, hypnotic and yet tedious. Repetitive thoughts, the collecting of physical detritus, and the pain associated with severing (or mending) the physical self, are all private, intimate labors. Today, these inherently intimate and human labors are recontextualized through technology and machinery: they are given a public platform, and the formerly private work of being human is now on full, technological display. Are these actions meditative or addictive?

At this point, humans and machines no longer exist at opposite poles. They reside on a spectrum, with much overlap between them. How do we understand our human selves in this new, non-human context? The tedious labor employed in the creation of many of these pieces not only mimics the ways in which we interact with technology, but also exist as a form of reclamation over what it means to be human and the intimate losses of ourselves from the tedious and relentless experience of technology and the machine.



Work by Jessica Swank

Kate Burke (b. 1994) is an Atlanta-based musician, artist, and performer. After receiving her BFA in Fabric Design in 2016 with honors from the University of Georgia, she moved to Atlanta in 2017 and shortly thereafter immersed herself within the Atlanta art community. Her solo career has developed steadily since moving to Atlanta, with solo and group showings throughout the United States in spaces such as the Museum of Contemporary Art of Georgia, the Atlanta Contemporary, Hartsfield Jackson International Airport, Lyndon House Art Center, the Dalton Gallery at Agnes Scott, Tiger Strikes Asteroid Greenville, Free Market Gallery, ATHICA, whitespec, Art Fields, Waiting Room Art, and Mint Atlanta.

Burke has received distinguished awards such as the ArtFields Category Award for textiles in 2019, and has a growing list of fellowships including being a two-time Hambidge Center fellow, a former member of the Atlanta Contemporary Studio Artists, a resident at Long Meadow Artist Residency, and a Leap Year Artist with MINT in Atlanta, GA. She is currently a part of the Creatives Project Residency in Atlanta, GA through 2025.

Burke offered the following artist statement, “Having grown up in Southern Baptist culture, the questions of control, Page 10 - Carolina Arts, July 2025



Work by Kate Burke

sin, and self-acceptance recurred as themes throughout my development. What was truly ‘holy’? What did it mean when you saw Southern hospitality swapped for power and oppression? These metaphysical questions ultimately led me away from Christianity into a deeper desire to understand spirituality through the lens of human evolution: what emphasis did environment and cultural context have on my emotional, mental, and spiritual disposition? Why were so many people who called themselves Christians devout but deeply unhappy? Why was I so deeply unhappy?”

“Through the process of eliminating conditioned thought patterns, I recognized a new problem,” adds Burke. “What was I going to put in their place? As I began to exorcise the God-void, I was greeted with a new suitor: The Internet and All Its Reverberating Thoughts. Thoughts that relentlessly and seamlessly read my mail out loud to me everyday, always. An endless mirror: ‘Are you good enough? The numbers don’t lie.’”

“My obsession with the internet and its spiritual effect on humans ultimately led me to discover the concept of ‘Metaphysical poetry:’ a genre of poetry that muses philosophical concepts through intense and dissonant imagery, complex metaphors, and perhaps even whimsical or contradictory language to pontificate about the human experience. With the social sphere of the internet being shepherded by the company ‘Meta’ and my bend towards craft to make my ideas ‘physical’ - I use the traditional, intimate, and intentional technologies of the human experience (textiles and ceramics) to dissect my philosophical discussions about the fleeting yet pervasive effects of cellular devices and other ethereal digital platforms on Homo Sapiens.”

“Does our time on the Internet provide a mental framework that mirrors the magnitude of effects that an intense religious upbringing can have on a person? How easy is it for me to fall into that framework, and how do I wiggle away if I want out? By switching from ethereal textile works to heavy ceramic mosaics, I can empathetically force the viewers into bodily responding to the weight, heaviness, or intangible nature of a spiritual or philosophical idea, paving way for a greater connection with our felt sense and ability to critically tap into a side of ourselves that is often shut away in today’s society.”

Jessica Swank is an interdisciplinary artist, currently based in Greenville, SC. Her work has been exhibited both nationally and internationally, at galleries such as Millepiani in Rome, Italy, Plexus Projects in Brooklyn, NY, and the Czong Institute for Contemporary Art (CICA) in Gimpo, South Korea. She has been recognized by *Musée Magazine*’s “Woman Crush Wednesday,” *Fraction Magazine*, and *Porridge Magazine*.

Swank is a founding member and Marketing Director of Zero Space Collective, a contemporary artist collective with a network across the Eastern US. Zero Space strives to make space for underrepresented artists and serve as an equitable and accessible resource. Since its founding in continued above on next column to the right

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2020, Swank has assisted in developing the collective as well as curating and organizing exhibitions and digital promotions for artists.

Swank earned her MFA from Clemson University in Visual Arts and BA from Anderson University. An artist and educator, Swank has taught and led numerous classes, workshops and panel discussions across the Southeast. She has gained funding for her work from a number of local institutions, including the South Carolina Arts Commission. Swank is currently an Assistant Professor of Art and Gallery Coordinator at the South Carolina School of the Arts at Anderson University.

Swank offered the following artist statement, “This work addresses the relationship between humans and digital technology from a personal perspective. Intersections of organic and synthetic materials function as a metaphor for the blurred boundaries between humans and machines. By utilizing various methods of self-extension, fragmentation, and recontextualization, I attempt to depict the merging of these entities. Many of the pieces include remnants of myself or those close to me, abject traces of our own

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existence. Flesh-like membranes represent extensions of myself and use my own skin tone as a form of self-portraiture.”

“Combined with both natural and manufactured objects, I view these works as relatives to the cyborg,” added Swank. “Technology allows for the duplication and extension of the self, and simultaneously aids us in the subversion of labor for the sake of convenience. In response, I’ve created works in which the materials and structures that are present may feel familiar, yet entirely separate from the human form. When examined closely, the systems between the technological and biological world are not so different. It is easy to blur the lines between them when the digital world is carefully modeled to mimic that with which we are familiar. In documenting the interplay between material, gesture, and my own fragmented body, these works construct a narrative of interdependence, tension, disembodiment, and inseparability.”

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings, call the Center at 864/735-3948 or visit ([www.artcenter-greenville.org](http://www.artcenter-greenville.org)).

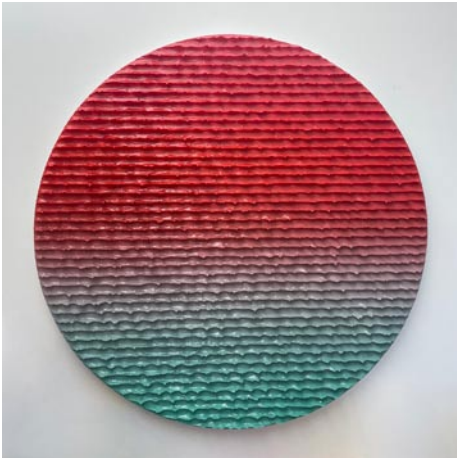
## Art & Light Gallery in Greenville, SC, Offers Works by Daniel Klewer

Art & Light Gallery in Greenville, SC, will present *Rhythm and Flow*, a solo exhibition of works by Daniel Klewer, from July 8 - 26, 2025. A reception will be held on July 11, from 6-8pm.

Daniel Klewer, a native of Milwaukee, WI, obtained a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay and was awarded a Master of Arts degree in Visual Studies from Cardinal Stritch University, Glendale, WI.

Klewer is largely recognized for his unconventional painting process, characterized by a shift away from the use of a paintbrush and evidence of brushstrokes. His work often involves applying paint with non-traditional methods and exploring color and texture through various techniques. His love of the material properties of paint is evident in his treatment of abstract painted surfaces. He enjoys a meditative, sequential process in which the spontaneity of the material is allowed to influence the direction of the work.

Klewer states, “Light and color are driving forces in my work as I explore chromatic and tonal shifts. Primarily using a brushless paint application that stretches the paint’s physical qualities. The textured surfaces of the paintings document investigations into the relationship between paintings and sculpture. My work flows between vibrant spontaneity and meditative minimalism as it reflects my pursuit of painting as a contemplative, perceptual experience. The composition and colors explore how



Work by Daniel Klewer

surfaces can communicate a story.”

Art & Light Gallery represents a roster of over 50 artists, from emerging to established, in a space that is uniquely southern and inviting. For eighteen years, Art & Light has worked to connect collectors with a community of exceptional working artists. We understand that a well-curated space has the ability to comfort, inspire, and spark joy. As such, Art & Light aims to cultivate an ever-evolving selection of original artwork that is timeless yet truly original, sophisticated yet attainable, and always meaningful. Art & Light Gallery

For further information check our SC Commercial Gallery listings, call the gallery at 864/252-5858 or visit ([www.artandlight-gallery.com](http://www.artandlight-gallery.com)).

## Art & Light Gallery in Greenville, SC, Offers Annual Small Works Show

Art & Light Gallery in Greenville, SC, will present its *19th Anniversary Annual Small Works Exhibition*, on view from July

29 through Aug. 30, 2025. Please join us for an unforgettable evening in celebration continued on Page 11