

Furman University in Greenville, SC

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Work by Tom Flowers

national and local awards for his creative work, including a Duke Endowment Award, and a Fulbright Grant to travel and study in India.

The South Carolina State Museum selected Flowers as one of the *100 ARTISTS IN 100 YEARS* Celebration and Exhibit in the year 2000. Flowers has held one-man exhibits in the mid-west, throughout the south, and in Italy.

The city of Greenville displays two of his sculptures: a bas-relief bronze plaque of Holly and Arthur Magill on a wall in front of the Greenville County Art Museum, and a wood sculpture of the history of Greenville in the City Hall. Flowers has also done an installation and painting on a bridge on Poinsett Highway in Greenville.

A past president of the Greenville Artists Guild, Tom Flowers has also served as president and member of the board of trustees of the Greenville County Museum of Art, a state representative of the American Craftsman Council, a member of the advisory board of the Guild of South Carolina Artists, and a Pickens County Arts Commissioner.

Tom Flowers received his bachelor's degree from Furman University, and his MFA degree from the University of Iowa. He taught at Ottawa University in Kansas, and at East Carolina University, in North Carolina, before coming to Furman University where he spent most of his career as Art Professor and Head of the Art Department.

After retiring from Furman University, Flowers enjoys working in his studio at 100 W. Mountainview Avenue, Greenville, SC 29609. He participated in the annual Greenville Open Studios Weekend for many years.

Tom Flowers offered the following Artist Statement: "PASSION, LIFE, NATURE, ART. First of all I am an artist. I have a passion for life and nature and I express it through my art. I am a painter and a sculptor. I observe as much as I can see, and I am always looking for things, or visions, that I could use effectively in my artwork. I work on something visual everyday: either sketching or painting watercolor in my sketchbook, chipping away at a current sculpture project, or putting paint on a canvas or paper. Life is always a learning experience for me."



Work by Mark Flowers

Mark Flowers earned his BFA in Studio Arts from The University of South Carolina in 1977 and his MFA in Painting from Western Michigan University in 1979. Following his academic career, he has exhibited his work throughout the United States and in Europe. Mark's work can be found in 26 public and over 300 private collections. Throughout his career he has won numerous awards for his art in both regional and national competitions. In 2003, he was named one of the 100 Art Alumni for the Centennial Celebration at Western Michigan University. In 2016, he was awarded a residency at The Sam and Adele Golden Foundation in New Berlin, NY.

Mark Flowers' art teaching career parallels his art making. He has taught art at the secondary and postsecondary levels

for more than 41 years. While he has been an artist and teacher of art, he has served as a town councilman, volunteer firefighter, Little League baseball coach and president of a community recreational board. Currently he is a Gallery Coordinator at USC Upstate in Spartanburg, SC.

In 2004, he and his artist wife, Kristy Higby, purchased a hand-made log cabin just north of Asheville, NC, in the community of Alexander. Since the summer of 2014, they relocated permanently to the property they affectionately call "Mountain Tea".

Mark Flowers offered the following Artist Statement: "My work has many layers; formally, it is about shape, objective, and non-objective imagery existing in the same field. The interaction of image, shape, and surface appeals to me. Conceptually, they are telling small stories of insight. I see my work as visual poetry making sense of the world around me."



Work by Kristy Higby-Flowers

Kristy Higby received her bachelor degree in studio art from the University of South Carolina. She has taught artists' books, drawing, digital graphic arts and digital video since 1977. She received the Zern Distinguished Teaching Award from Mercersburg Academy, Mercersburg, PA (1991-2014) where she is now Faculty Emeritus.

W.W. Norton chose her short documentary, *Flag Day*, for inclusion in two Norton Sociology textbooks DVD, *Essentials of Sociology and The Real World: Introduction to Sociology*. *Flag Day* received an Honorable Mention at the 2005 Silverdocs Film Festival (now AFI Docs). Her most recent film, *The Other Brother*, was her first feature-length documentary. The National Gallery of Art added the DVD to its viewing library of art films. It also screened at Intuit: The Center for Intuitive and Outsider Art in Chicago in 2015 and numerous art galleries and museums throughout the southeast.

Kristy Higby's artists' books were included in the South Arts (Southern Arts Federation) Traveling Show, American Masterpiece Craft Exhibition, and an initiative of the National Endowment for the Arts. This exhibit opened in New Orleans in September 2007 and toured throughout the Southeast for three years. *Tradition/Innovation: American Masterpieces of Southern Craft and Traditional Art* featured 48 artworks created by masters living and working in the South today.

Most recently, eight pieces of her new small metal works were juried into the *5th Annual Mint Gallery National Juried Exhibition for Emerging Artists, Interrupted*, in Atlanta, GA, this past March. They were also juried into the upcoming *Celebrating American Craft - Southern Style Exhibition* to be held in the Sarratt Gallery at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, TN, in Fall 2018.

Kristy Higby offered the following Artist Statement: "*Persons of Privilege* is a series addressing a need to understand current events by examining institutions of our culture from the 1950's as a cautionary tale. That historical time supported white male privilege, sexism, heterosexism, racism and environmental degradation, thereby setting the stage for an effort to undo it. During my lifetime much was undone. There was prog-

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ress in these areas, not leaps and bounds, but persistent and forward. Emphasis on human rights, inclusiveness, empathy, and environmentalism was my foundation. Watching this hard-earned progress unravel created a need to understand."

"I'm working in small metals functioning as wearable art. In the center of the *Persons of Privilege* metaphorical spiral is the white male in positions of power who sometimes prey on those who are not. This series functions as body adornment meant for people within the spiral but outside the center who have experienced varying degrees of marginalization, discrimination, and abuse. The source material comes from copper etching plates from the 50s. These images represent a primary source of my lifetime. In my need to understand, it makes sense to start at the beginning."



Work by Virginia Griswold

Virginia Griswold is an artist based in Nashville, TN. She received her MFA from Alfred University and BFA from Virginia Commonwealth University. Recent exhibitions include *Building Bodies* at the Appalachian Center for Craft (2018), *Ugly Clay* at Elephant Gallery (2018), *Waiting in the Wings* at Mild Climate, Nashville (2017), TN, *Honeycrisp*, The Neon Heater, Findlay, OH (2017), *Atlanta Biennial*, Atlanta Contemporary (2016), *A Natural Order*, Milsaps College, Jackson, MS (2016) and *Naming the Animals - Numbering the Beasts* at Yeah Maybe in Minneapolis, MN (2016).

Virginia Griswold offered the following Artist Statement: "A sewing needle pierces through threads, creating holes and separating material. This activity straddles the line between construction and deconstruction. The pulling apart and separation of threads is necessary in the creation of new forms."

"My work incorporates and appropriates objects and artifacts. I remain attentive to the gap between the previous existence of an object or material versus how it exists presently, even posing the question of what it could become."

"My practice presents itself as a series of cyclical conflicts; a push/pull between certainty and ambiguity - making and un-making - movement and stasis. In the studio I find myself questioning the relationships between interior and exterior, the relativity of inside and out," adds Virginia Griswold.



Work by Morgan Higby-Flowers

Nature is transformed into more abstract patterns in the videos of Morgan Higby-Flowers, who taught time-based media at Watkins College of Art, Design and Film before becoming an application developer at Vanderbilt University's Department of Biomedical Informatics. He employs complex coding and cutting-edge software to create sequences in which geometric forms and glitchy landscapes undergo constant formation and dissolution. On virtual journeys through his pulsating worlds, nature and technology are integrated, with a sense of energy and sublime mystery flowing from their uneasy alignment. Morgan

Higby-Flowers earned an MFA from the Electronic Integrated Arts program at Alfred University and a BFA from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago.



Work by Carson Higby-Flowers

"Being raised by two artist parents is unique enough; add that to growing up in a highly competitive academic atmosphere and you get a mix of both balanced composition and complete abstraction in my art," says Carson Higby-Flowers. "I was fortunate to be exposed to all types of art since birth. Ever since I could remember I was shown a world of patterns, colors, and composition. At Mercersburg Academy, I had access to cutting-edge Technology. It allowed me to see what digital art could be in the not so distant future. I took that with me to college where I made Video Art pieces, both in the College of Santa Fe, New Mexico and Alfred University in New York. Before that, I learned about the early years of Apple Computers, thanks to my mother, Kristy. I would love the way I could make a mark and instantly take it back with no repercussions for the work. That has carried over into my current creative outlet, my iPhone."

"Ever since the technology made it possible to carry a decent camera everywhere you went I was taking photos," adds Carson Higby-Flowers. "I loved the confine of the iPhone, to me; it was Polaroid 2.0 and having seen my Dad manipulate photographs. I was instantly drawn to the process. To be able to take a beautiful photo and rearrange it until it was unrecognizable was very liberating. I live in downtown San Francisco; life moves pretty fast around the Bay, so I'm often finding moments to capture that are then revisited when I have the time. It's nice to amass many different shots and repurpose them later. I almost never have a clear plan to what I want, more like puzzle pieces to a final image that doesn't exist yet."



Work by Tia Flowers

Tia Flowers earned her BFA in Animation from Savannah College of Art and Design in the spring of 2018. Throughout her academic career, she chose to focus her craft towards Digital Sculpture and 3D modeling for her future career path. Often turning to collaboration with her fellow classmates, she took part in many different projects and films for the duration of her time at SCAD.

Being brought up into the art community, Tia Flowers has been surrounded by artistic influence from a very young age. She is constantly striving to push herself to create engaging content that will not only progress her artistic skillset for her future career path, but also to evoke thought and emotion for the viewer.

Tia Flowers offered the following Artist Statement: "Having the opportunity for my work to be displayed alongside my family has been a dream of mine from a very young age. With this show being my first real exhibition that I have had the chance to be a part of, it is a surreal experience to come back to Furman to see my work on display. I hope to take this experience and continue to learn, grow, and move forward into a professional career. The majority of my sculpture work created in a digital environment, all the while still giving me full control over the outcome of the piece. Mainly focusing on building the stories behind each character, I try to put myself

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