

Society of Bluffton Artists

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Among Smith's many awards include: the Essex Art Center's Salon Show and Art Sale Exhibition 2021, 2022 and 2023, 6th Street Art Studios in Los Angeles "Lazy Days of Summer" exhibition June 2023, the 2023 Curves Exhibitions International Online Show, 2023 SoloS-10th International Solo Exhibition, etc.

Smith's experience also includes the Squam Art Workshops over the last 10 years, an Art Residency in Summerville, SC, and a member in Art Tribe in the United Kingdom.

"If I can bring joy to a canvas and have someone experience their own sense of joy, playfulness or whatever is going on with them at that moment, I have captured the

moment and got the viewer to feel something inside," Smith said. "To see within while looking without. It's an internal journey, once explored will forever change you."

SOBA is the heart of the flourishing art hub in Old Town Bluffton's historic district at the corner of Church and Calhoun streets. As a non-profit art organization, SOBA offers regular art classes, featured artist shows, exhibitions, scholarships, outreach programs and more.

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings, call SOBA at 843/757-6586 or visit (www.sobagallery.com).

La Petite Gallerie in Bluffton, SC, Features Works by Rose Cofield

La Petite Gallerie in Bluffton, SC, will present works by Rose Cofield, on view from Oct. 1 - 31, 2023.

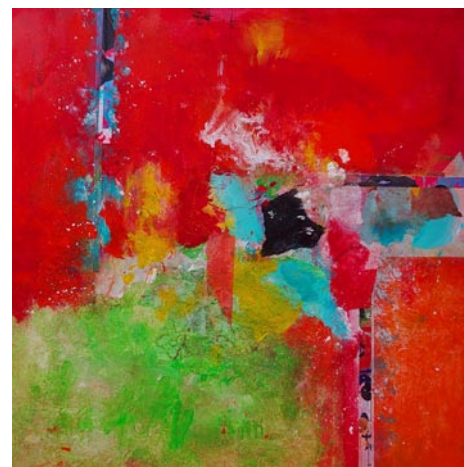
Previously Cofield was a three-dimensional sculptural artist, studied at New York University, New York, NY and received a grant for Apprenticeship at The Johnson Atelier Technical Institute of Sculpture, Mercerville, NJ (USA). She also taught sculpture workshops through the South Carolina Arts Commission's "Artist in Education" program, conducting sculpture workshops in South Carolina schools and art organizations.



Work by Rose Cofield

Now working primarily in 2D, Cofield considers herself an abstract intuitive painter. Adding one layer at a time, she develops her style using color coordination and lines. She also uses geometric pieces, sometimes in the form of painted paper, to add form and dimension.

Cofield's blank canvas begins without preconceived notions which allows



Work by Rose Cofield

her instincts and emotions to guide her. This intuitive style encourages her to use creative thinking and experimentation to expand the process. She also uses her imagination to shape her unique artistic vision. This process results in one-of-a-kind pieces allowing the viewer to trust their instincts and letting their emotions guide their appreciation.

Cofield is a Signature Member of the National Association of Women Artists, in both the New York and South Carolina Chapters where she has shown her work in many of their exhibitions.

Cofield's unique and thought-provoking art is on display at La Petite Gallerie, and she herself is generally working there on Sundays. Stop by to see her soon – she is delighted to share her latest artistic insights!

For further information check our SC Commercial Gallery listing or visit (lapetitegallerie.com).

Clemson University in Clemson, SC, Celebrates 50 Years of Its MFA Program

Clemson University's Master of Fine Arts program is celebrating a half-century of art and learning with a three-part exhibition featuring a wide variety of art from its graduates and receptions featuring reflections from notable alumni and supporters of the MFA program.

As *Good as Gold: 50 Years of the MFA at Clemson*, is being presented in three parts including: *Part I*, on view in the Lee Gallery, through Oct. 31, 2023; *Part III*, on view in the Lee Gallery, from Jan. 26 through Mar. 8, 2024, and, on view at the Brooks Center for Performing Arts - Lobby Area, through Oct. 31, 2023. A reception has been tentatively planned for Jan. 26, from 5-7pm in the Lee Gallery.

"Celebrating the 50-year anniversary of our MFA program in visual arts fills me with immense pride and excitement," said Kathleen Thum, associate professor and MFA graduate program coordinator. "This milestone allows us to honor and witness the incredible successes of our alumni, achieved over five decades, while also looking forward to the promising future ahead."

The MFA program was created in 1970 with a single student in the Department of Visual Studies, the predecessor to the Department of Art. Fifty years later, it boasts more than 250 graduates.



Jeanet Dreskin, 101, the first graduate of Clemson University's Master of Fine Arts program, points to a detail in one of her "sere" paintings in her room in a retirement home in Greenville, Aug. 8, 2023.

partment of Art. Fifty years later, it boasts more than 250 graduates.

The student who started it all was Jeanet Dreskin '73, who remains a cherished pioneer for women in the arts at nearly 102 years young.

Dreskin became Clemson's first MFA graduate and orchestrated an impressive and diverse career, beginning as a staff artist for the American Museum of Natural History, then as a certified medical illustrator, the director of the Greenville County Museum of Art school and an independent studio artist. Her artwork is

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in collections all over the world, including at the Smithsonian American Art Museum, the Gibbes Museum of Art, the Asheville Art Museum and more.

A recent visit to Dreskin's room at a senior living facility in Greenville found her as sprightly and passionate as ever about the visual arts. When presented with one of the 50-year-old paintings she created while still a Clemson student, she remarked, "There's an old friend!"

She has given back to Clemson over the years, most notably through the Dr. E. Arthur and Jeanet S. Dreskin Travel Fellowship Endowment, which has had a profound impact on decades of MFA students by enabling them to study abroad, something she sees as vitally important.

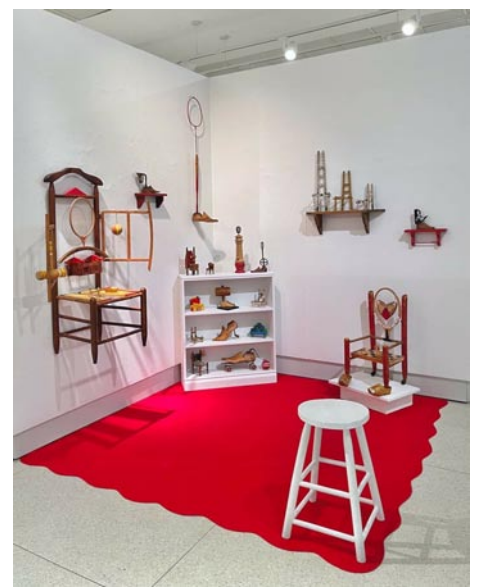
"Funding travel for students was very important because I felt they needed to get a picture of what was happening in other parts of the world," Dreskin said. "My husband and I decided that one of the things we'd like to do would be to set up a program so young people could travel abroad and see what was happening in other places. It's very important, particularly with the arts, to be aware of what's going on in other areas of the world."

The MFA is considered the terminal degree in the visual arts. Clemson's program offers concentrations in the studio areas of drawing, painting, printmaking, ceramics, photography and sculpture. Interdisciplinary and collaborative projects are encouraged within the department. The primary goal of the program is to provide students opportunities to develop a high degree of professional competence in their chosen area of concentration.

En Iwamura '16 came to Clemson's MFA program after meeting Department of Art chair Valerie Zimany while she was on research leave for a Fulbright-Hays award in Japan.

"To be honest, I was born and raised in Japan, so I had no idea where Clemson was or what it looked like," said Iwamura. "I couldn't speak any English, wasn't familiar with American culture, life and customs, and I had no relatives or friends there. But Valerie convinced me an MFA degree from Clemson would set me up for success as an artist. It was the biggest decision I made in my life and the best one."

Today Iwamura's whimsical ceramic sculptures have been celebrated in exhibi-



An installation by Janet Orselli

tions all over the world, from his native Japan to France, China, Australia and all over the United States.

"I believe people need to get out from their comfortable zone to grab opportunities they haven't imagined," Iwamura said. "For me, those three years I spent at Clemson were tough but one of the brightest memories I have."

Kathleen Thum said that graduate students are the heart of the Department of Art, and their commitment to the artistic practice and academic rigor energizes the department's faculty and undergraduates.

"As we celebrate this significant milestone of our MFA program, we will continue to build upon the foundation of excellence laid down by our remarkable alumni over the past 50 years," said Thum. "Together, we will nurture a community of diverse artists and scholars, fostering creativity, collaboration and innovation as we continue to shape the future of visual arts for generations to come."

Jeanet Dreskin succinctly summed up the appeal of making a living as an artist: "I love working in the arts because it's endless. You can create in any direction you want to go."

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings contact Denise Woodward-Detrich, Lee Gallery Director by calling 864/656-3883 or visit (<http://www.clemson.edu/centers-institutes/cva/>).

Greenville Center for Creative Arts in Greenville, SC, Offers Group Exhibit

Greenville Center for Creative Arts (GCCA) in Greenville, SC, is excited to announce the opening of their Main Gallery exhibition, *Parting Lines*. The exhibition features the artwork of acclaimed artists TeaYoun Kim-Kassor, Mayuko Ono Gray, and Sabre Esler. GCCA will hold the opening reception on Oct. 6, from 6-9pm, and continues on display until Nov. 22, 2023.

In *Parting Lines*, artists TeaYoun Kim-Kassor, Mayuko Ono Gray, and Sabre Esler explore common threads of human existence, memory, and identity through varying representations of lines, whether explicit or implied. Featuring over 30 intricate drawings, paintings, and silk works, *Parting Lines* invites us to consider the power of diverse perspectives converging on a shared exploration of what it means to be human.

TeaYoun Kim-Kassor's installation series, "Modulation," delves into the concept of identity and questions the interplay between personal history and migration. Her work speaks to the universal human experience of grappling with questions like "Who am I?" and "Where am I?" as we navigate life's complexities.

Sabre Esler's art takes a markedly scientific approach, probing the invisible constructs of thoughts. Esler uses color theory to represent abstract ideas. Her "what if" hypotheses serve as a bridge between art and science, resonating with the exhibition's theme of exploring uncharted territories of the human condition.

Mayuko Ono Gray's graphite drawings offer a unique blend of cultural influences, seamlessly merging traditional Japanese calligraphy with Western drawing practices. Ono Gray's works capture everyday life experiences and incorporate matching Japanese proverbs, intricately woven



Work by Mayuko Ono Gray

into a single, continuous line of hiragana and kanji characters. The calligraphic line symbolizes the journey of life, from birth to death, echoing the overarching theme of the exhibition.

Mayuko Ono Gray is an artist based in Houston, TX, whose primary medium is graphite drawing. Born in Gifu, Japan, she was trained in traditional Japanese calligraphy in her youth and later studied classical Western drawing. Ono Gray moved to the United States following high school and went on to receive an MFA in painting from the University of Houston in 2007. Her work has been exhibited extensively in the United States and abroad, including exhibitions in Japan, Mexico, Germany, Italy, UK, and Greece. Ono Gray is the former Gallery Director and adjunct faculty at College of the Mainland, Texas City, TX. Gray served

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