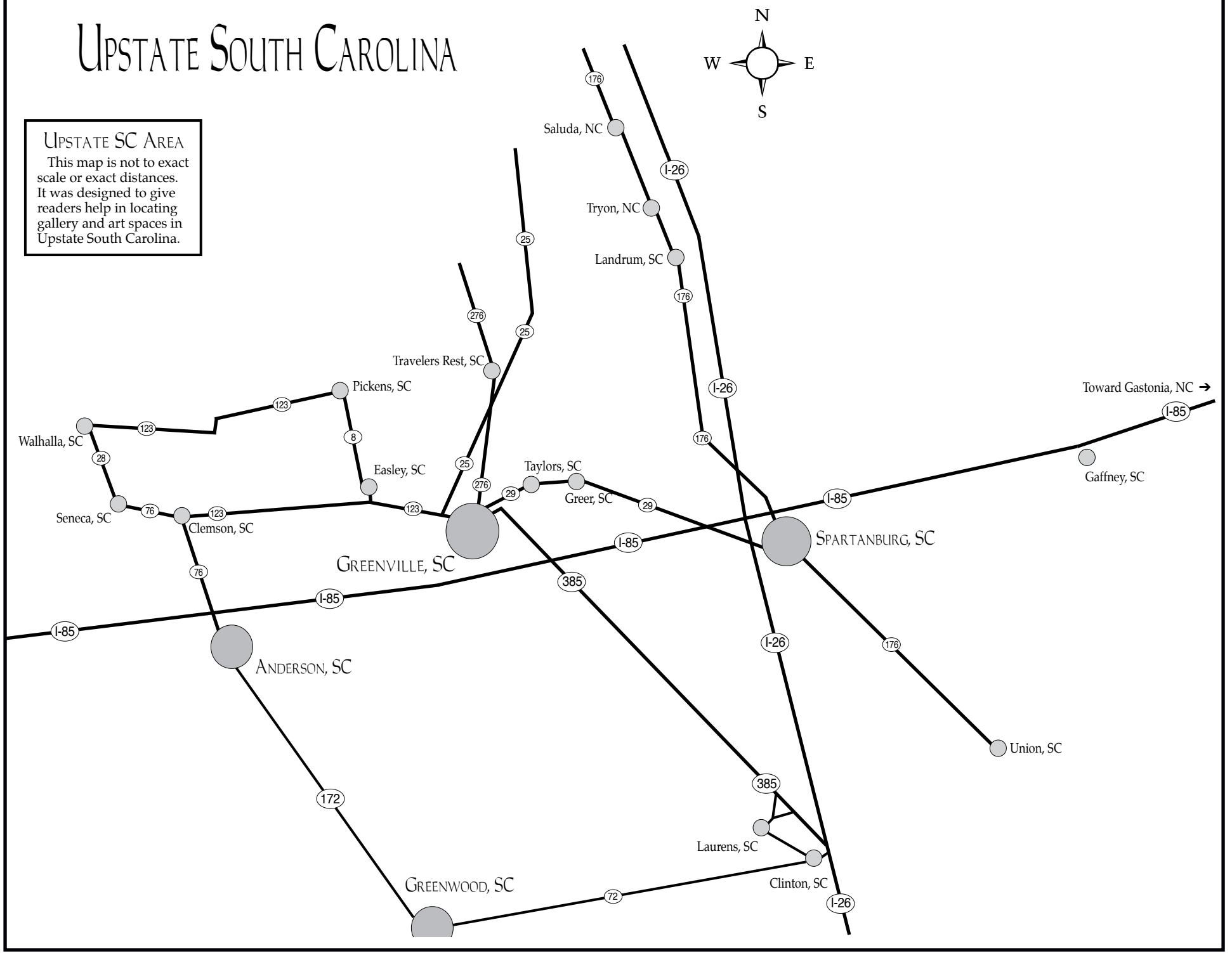


# UPSTATE SOUTH CAROLINA

## UPSTATE SC AREA

This map is not to exact scale or exact distances. It was designed to give readers help in locating gallery and art spaces in Upstate South Carolina.



## Greenville Technical College in Greer, SC, Features Works by Leigh Mitchell

Greenville Technical College in Greer, SC, is presenting *Mono no aware: Photography by Leigh Mitchell*, on view in the Benson Campus Galleries, from Oct. 7 -18, 2024.

Fall is a season of contrasts. The days begin with a chill, foretelling the coming winter, then closing with an afternoon of summer heat. We sweater-up in the AM to then shed a layer or two by lunch. We notice the trees are still green, but that green is dull, faded, browning on the edges, ready for winter rest.

Mitchell's photographs celebrate this seasonal contrast, the natural cycles of birth and death. Her title, *Mono no aware*, a Japanese phrase meaning "beauty tinged with sadness." Mitchell states, "More specifically it refers to the bittersweet awareness that all existence is ephemeral, and every moment of life is short lived."

Nature's ephemeral existence is not only the seasonal cycle but also the human sourced destruction of the natural cycle. Mitchell's images of fall as beauty tinged with sadness conjure feelings ... "of impending loss"... "feelings of vulnerability, loss, loneliness, precariousness and foreboding."

Technically Mitchell often employs a Holga camera to record her 30+ landscapes. The Holga is a cheap, imperfect plastic camera with very limited control and range. It is plagued with light leaks and imprecise outcomes. The Holga, in many ways, mimics our imperfect, short sighted way of seeing. It is a metaphor for humans attempted dominion over the natural world with little appreciation or understanding of the long-range outcomes of our interventions. Choosing to embrace the Holga as an instrument producing imperfect but visionary images deepens the meaning of Mitchell's exhibition.

Mitchell elaborates "Another translation for 'mono no aware' is 'a sensitivity to things,' or noticing, identifying with, and



Work by Leigh Mitchell

having appreciation for things. As a result of this sensitivity, a subtle ache accompanies the awareness that all things inevitably change form or come to an end. The transience of nature/of life/of reality makes it both haunting and precious."

Leigh Mitchell is an artist/educator. Mitchell holds a master's degree in Studio Art from Western Carolina University. Her work has been exhibited at The Center for Fine Art Photography, Fort Collins, CO; the Rochester Contemporary Art Center, Rochester, NY; The Asheville Art Museum; and most recently, in Greenville, SC, at The SE Center for Photography, and at the Greenville Center for Creative Arts.

*Mono no aware* is a welcome to and introduction of Mitchell, as a newly installed full-time photography instructor, in the Department of Visual Art.

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings, visit ([www.gvltec.edu/dva](http://www.gvltec.edu/dva)), call Pat Owens, Gallery Assistant at 864/250-3051 or e-mail Fleming Markel, Gallery Director at ([fleming.markel@gvltec.edu](mailto:fleming.markel@gvltec.edu)).

## Melinda Hoffman

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The Piano Series, *My Music*, paper collage, 30 x 34 inches

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