

Artists Collective | Spartanburg

continued from Page 13 / [back to Page 13](#)

in Zion, Bryce, North Rim Grand Canyon and Peekaboo Canyon — have strong red images. Visitors will also see my exploration of monochrome. This is really the first time I have printed in monochrome. I think it works well with the stark landscape and stark light in the west.”

It took Lever about six months to create this exhibition that is subtitled “Images from Southern Utah and the Grand Canyon.” It includes prints from 8 by 10 inches to large canvas prints. All of the work will be for sale, ranging from \$70 to \$200.

“This exhibit is, in some respects, a new direction for me,” Lever said. “I have mainly focused on wildlife and landscapes in color. While there are examples of wildlife and landscapes here, the feel is different, the product of a harsher location. The heavy use of monochrome emphasizes the texture of this environment over the color. Even some of the color prints have a simple color palette. They almost mimic the monochrome examples. In addition, this is my first time making large prints — this time up to 24” x 36”. I think this size complements the subject matter. When people see these photos, I hope they get an appreciation for the beauty of the region, which I hope translates to support for conservation of the natural wonders of our country.”

Lever has been a member of the Col-

lective since 2017. “Artists Collective | Spartanburg is the best place to be in the Spartanburg Art world — at least for me,” Lever said. “The members benefit from the collaboration of their fellow members.”

Lever is a native of South Florida, but now resides in Duncan, a small town in Spartanburg County. He holds a bachelor’s degree in chemistry from Tulane University and a doctorate in chemistry from the University of North Carolina. His wife, Lisa, is a retired chemistry professor from the University of South Carolina Upstate. They have two adult daughters, both of whom are pursuing advanced degrees in science.

Artists Collective | Spartanburg is a membership-based and member-focused organization, providing low-cost studio space to more than 30 working artists. Its membership is more than 50. The Collective is housed in what was once a three story Baptist church. Each month (when safe from the pandemic), the Collective hosts three art exhibitions showcasing its members and guest artists. It has two galleries and the once-sanctuary now serves as a large gallery space, as well as a venue for performance art.

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings or visit ([ArtistsCollectiveSpartanburg.org](#)).

Artists Collective | Spartanburg Offers Works by Roderice Cardell & Evan Givens

Artists Collective | Spartanburg, SC, will present *O: The Other Side*, a paint and digital fusion art exhibition featuring works by Roderice Cardell (THEMADDDARTIST) and Evan Givens (SadGod), on view from Nov. 3 - 28, 2020.

Cardell (THEMADDDARTIST) is a member of the Collective, a resident of Spartanburg, and his medium for this show is mostly digital collages. Givens (SadGod) is a guest artist, a resident of Greenville, and his medium is photography. Their joint exhibition is thematically about the human experience with emphasis on acceptance, struggling, frustration, and technology. Each artist has five works in the exhibit, as well as five works that they created together. The art will be for sale, starting at \$150.

“This exhibit is going to open some eyes,” the Collective’s Vice Chair Nancy Williamson said. “It is very nontraditional and very socially aware. Through their work, they address a great many social issues that this country is now facing. It also addresses personal issues, things that we all can relate to. Roderice’s work is often flamboyant with lots of color and collage-like images. I find Evan’s photos to be very emotional, often sensual. As an experienced artist, I find the work by these two young men to be very honest and inspiring. I applaud how they have used their talents to find beauty where it exists and to depict emotion in their work.”



Work by Roderice Cardell (THEMADDDARTIST)

“I want others to see that our individual lives intertwine in so many ways,” THEMADDDARTIST said. “We are no different from the next person. We either have dealt with situations ourselves or know someone that has. We are ONE, we feel, we move, all to the same beat, but so many of us think it’s a solo performance. We cannot operate that way. What you do affects the next person. We all need to heal.”



Work by Evan Givens (SadGod)

“I want to capture the essence of life, everyone struggles, everyone loves. We as people are whole,” SadGod said.

THEMADDDARTIST is a graduate of Winthrop University with a bachelor’s degree in theater performance. Since 2015, he has been on his “MaDDD World Tour.” He has participated in several art exhibitions, festivals, and special events mostly in the Upstate but also in Charlotte and Tryon, NC. He is a mostly self-taught visual artist working in the mediums of collage, oil, acrylic, pastels, and photography. He has experience as a social media consultant, brand consultant, social media content creator, and web designer. He is creative director for his own brand, THEMADDDARTIST.

He describes himself as “I am TheMadddArtist! I’m a performing visual artist, as well as an activist who expresses himself through music, dance & paint. Through my performances, I let my art tell a story. The paintings that I do live are the backgrounds to my future pieces.”

SadGod is a 25-year-old fine arts photographer and poet from Detroit, MI, based in Greenville, SC. Introduced to photography at the Governor’s School of the Arts and Humanities, he became obsessed with the art of photography and what a camera can do. His focus is centered around nostalgia, emotional bonds, and moving through trauma. His work inspires motivation and empowerment through exploring the mind,

continued above on next column to the right

body, and soul. He is capable of capturing humanity in its most raw and pure form, touching base on difficult subjects such as depression. He is successful in depicting adversity, shame, love, passion, and fusing these intense emotions together through a tinted lens sequentially telling a story through *mise en scène* and color theory.

It took SadGod three months to complete his portion of this exhibition and said he was inspired by “gain, loss, and perspective.” The most important concept to know about this exhibit is “It’s okay to be you, we all struggle, we all are perfectly flawed,” he said.

From THEMADDDARTIST’s perspective, the important message of the exhibit is “Frustration, it happens to us all. Pain, physically and mentally it can take a toll on

an individual’s personal ability to operate in society. It’s something we don’t show enough face to face. We have disconnected so much due to advances in technology we have disconnected from the human touch. We don’t talk about these issues and we now rely on algorithms from our social media platforms to control the world’s narrative and how we see others. With the current state of our society, we are seeing more stories such as Covid-19, unemployment, police brutality, and racially fueled situations just to name a few. These events have seemed to divide our country even more. How is your mental state?”

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings or visit ([ArtistsCollectiveSpartanburg.org](#)).

Artists Collective | Spartanburg Offers Holiday Artisan Market

Artists Collective | Spartanburg, SC, will offer a Holiday Artisan Market, from Nov. 3 through Dec. 26, 2020, featuring and selling locally made art, specially curated for gift giving.

Guests will be required to wear face masks and to be socially distant as they peruse the works in clay, photography, painting, mixed media, jewelry, glass, and other products of creative expression. In all, 37 Collective members will have their work in the Market. Prices will range from items under \$5 to more than \$1,000.

“In previous years we have focused on open-studio events, encouraging large crowds to meet the artists, visit with their friends, eat and drink, view the art, and shop for holiday gifts,” the Collective’s Vice Chair Nancy Williamson said. “Obviously, that is not a wise approach to take in the middle of a world-wide pandemic. In an effort to protect both our member artists and our customers, we decided to extend the timeframe of our Holiday Artisan Market to allow plenty of time for our patrons to shop in an uncrowded space, where everyone - the artists and the patrons - must wear masks and are encouraged to social distance. We want to create a space where people will feel safe to spend time looking for unique, hand-made, locally-made gifts for their loved ones. The pandemic has slowed things down for many who are now spending more time with their families, and finding more time to nourish those relationships. We aren’t taking each other for granted so much as before. I think this will make people more thoughtful as they shop for gifts this year and will be attracted to quality and uniqueness over quantity. At the Collective we have many one-of-a-kind, handcrafted items. One might find what’s to become their partner’s favorite coffee cup,



Works by Rosemary McLeod

woolen scarf, necklace, earrings, serving dish, painting or print, etc. Shopping at the Collective also bolsters the local economy. Everything that we sell is made by our members who live in Spartanburg and surrounding counties.”

Throughout the month and a half, as items are sold, more art will be added to the display inventory. “Our artists are well prepared for this event. We have stocked up on some of the items that we believe will be popular this year,” Williamson said. “I encourage people to visit several times because there will always be something new on the tables.”

In addition, patrons can register for doors prizes, which will include art donated by the members and gift certificates. Conveniently located on the western edge of downtown Spartanburg, the Collective has plenty of safe parking.

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings or visit ([ArtistsCollectiveSpartanburg.org](#)).

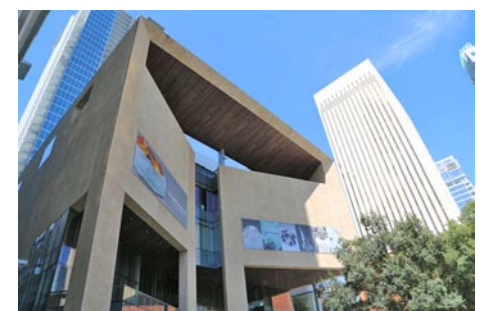
Charlotte Museums Offer Free Admission to Frontline Workers and Their Families

As a thank you to essential and frontline workers during the pandemic, The Mint Museum, Bechtler Museum of Modern Art, and the Harvey B. Gantt Center for African-American Arts+Culture, in Charlotte, NC, are offering complimentary admission to health care providers, doctors, nurses, pharmacists, teachers, custodial staff, transit workers, grocery store and restaurant employees, and their immediate family members, from the Charlotte area, through Dec. 31, 2020.

“Throughout the pandemic, frontline workers have helped to sustain health and well-being for our community. We want to recognize these efforts by offering an opportunity for these workers and their families to come and enjoy exploring art at our museums free of charge,” says Todd A. Herman, PhD, president and CEO at The Mint Museum.

Each museum has safety and capacity protocols in place to keep within COVID-19 guidelines. Visitors are encouraged to reserve tickets online in advance of their visit to support a low-touch environment. Tickets may be reserved on each of the museums’ websites. Walk-in visitors are welcome if space permits at that time. Guests are required to wear masks at each museum.

“The Bechtler enthusiastically joins the Mint and the Gantt in supporting our



Mint Museum Uptown

frontline essential workers in the Charlotte community,” says Todd D. Smith, executive director at the Bechtler Museum of Modern Art. “We hope this move allows more people to enjoy the restorative powers of the visual arts and museums in this time of crisis.”

“We owe a debt of gratitude to our frontline workers for their selfless dedication during the pandemic. Being able to show our appreciation collectively as a museum community is the least that we can do in honor of their service,” says David Taylor, president and CEO of Harvey B. Gantt Center for African-American Arts+Culture.

For more information about safety protocols at each museum and hours, visit ([www.bechtler.org](#)), ([www.ganttcenter.org](#)), and ([www.mintmuseum.org](#)).