

Artists Collective | Spartanburg in Spartanburg, SC, Offers Exhibition of New Members From 2023

The Artists Collective | Spartanburg in Spartanburg, SC, will present *Altered States: 10 New Visions*, featuring works by 10 of ACS new members, on view in Galleries II and III, from Jan. 9 through Feb. 3, 2024. An artists' talk is planned for Jan. 18, at ACS, as part of ArtWalk Spartanburg until 8pm.

New 2023 members of the Artists Collective | Spartanburg will reveal themselves through their unique artistic visions "of the place we all call home" in *Altered States: 10 New Visions*. The artists' works range from pottery to acrylic and oil painting, to photography and mosaics.

"How is it that different people can have so many different takes on this world we share? By plunging into the depths of our experiences, we reveal ourselves and our unique visions of the place we all call home," says participating oil painting artist Dan Hazard, who is organizing the exhibit. "Visitors can expect to see beautiful paintings, and the textile art of mosaics and ceramics that represent how each of us sees the world around us."



Work by Judith Kolva

"We hope that people walk away with a deeper understanding of themselves and those around them," he adds.

In addition to Hazard, participating artists include Ken Bolton, Pat Cato, Judith Kolva, B. Collins, Monica Raquel, Petra Romero, Jackie Spohnholtz, Cassandra Stephens-Johnson and Skye Winter.

"As new members of the Artists Collective this year, we all feel a collective sense of excitement about showcasing our art in Spartanburg," Hazard says. "We are the new artists of the Collective, and that is what brings us together. Our message is that each one of us has our own individual lived experiences and expressions of beauty. No two people are the same, and it is in the differences that beauty is found."

Each of the participating artists had this to say about their works:

Dan Hazard – "My art explores themes of light and dark, harmony and dissonance, life and death, and finding the beauty of humanity in our differences."

Judith Kolva – "My acrylic paintings are bright, bold, brazen. They celebrate vibrant colors enhanced with tactile textures. Their



Work by Dan Hazard

abstract nature depicts what can be instead what is."

Jackie Spohnholtz – "Mosaic by its very nature allows the creator to bring beauty from brokenness. I incorporate mixed media (glass, beads, wire) to give birth to new visions."

B. Collins – "A ceramic artist who makes colorful and perfectly functional dinnerware."

Ken Bolton – "My paintings are a combination of expression and experimentation, chasing figures and concepts that sometimes manifest into strange images."

Pat Cato – "My inspiration derives from nature, life events and the environment around me. My goal is to produce a thought-provoking piece that makes a connection with the viewer."

Monica Raquel – "I was born in Peru and moved to the USA in 2006. My love of the arts always has been my best refuge since early years."

Cassandra Stephens-Johnson – "This collection focuses on the suspended flow of natural elements."

Skye Winter – "My art celebrates the transient beauty of this marvelous world. I reveal the extraordinary in everyday life and use vibrant colors to infuse joy and whimsy into my subject."

Petra Romero – "With my paintings I hope to capture life's overlooked splendor and offer a unique perspective that highlights the extraordinary from the ordinary."

Art pieces in the exhibit will be available for purchase, with prices ranging from \$20 to \$2,000.

The Artists Collective | Spartanburg, is located on W. Main Street, provides a forum and home for the arts and creative population of Spartanburg, providing facilities and services to artist members for exhibits, performances and creation.

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings or visit (artistscollectivespartanburg.org).

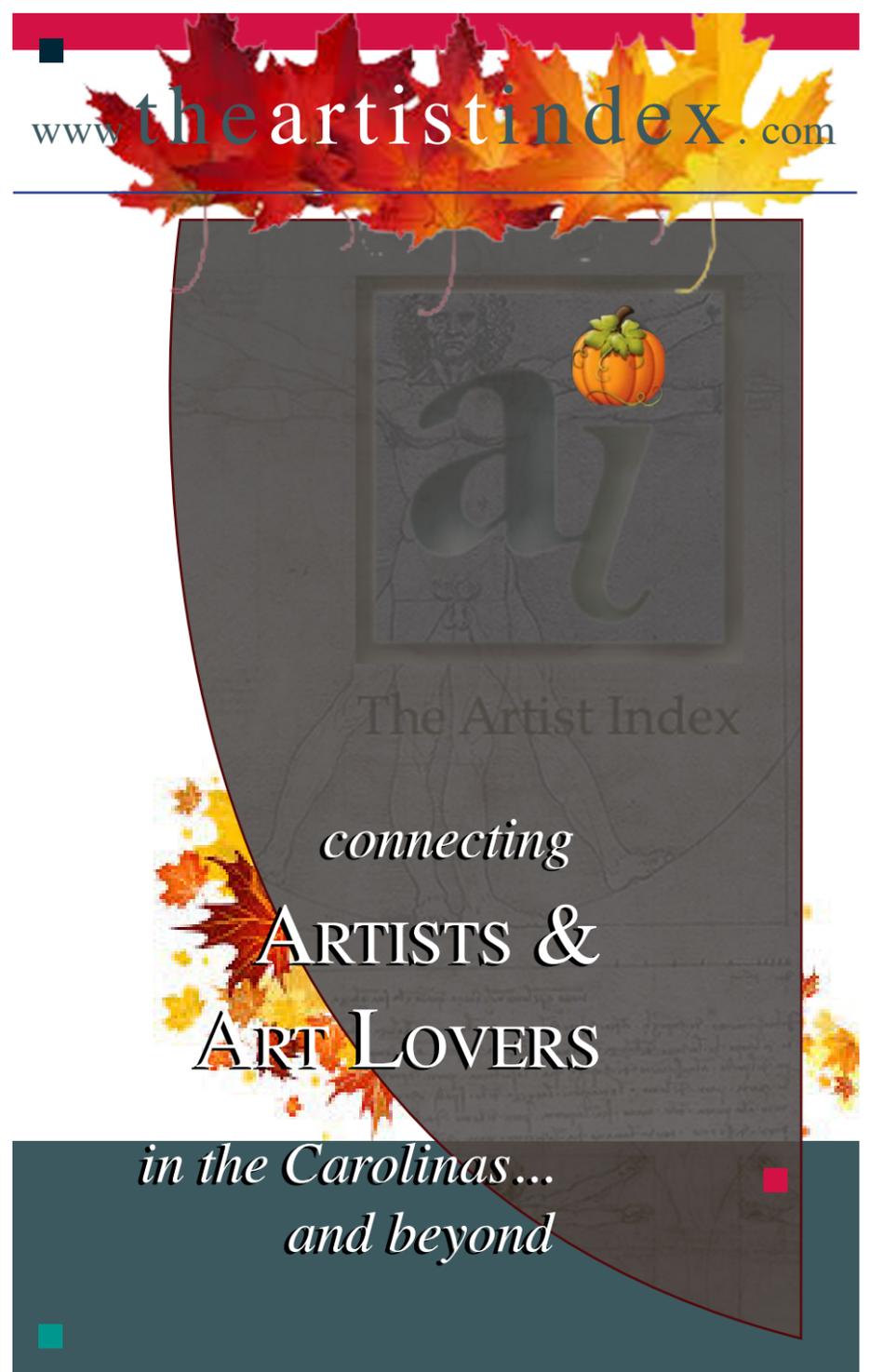


Work by Roscoe Conn

form. Ranging from meditations on politics and identity to landscapes of my environment, the exhibit showcases a consistent appreciation and appraisal of the things in life we often take for granted."

The exhibit shows how his works have "developed from the formalist practices I

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learned in school toward more avant-garde approaches to my medium of collage later in life," he adds. "The works are loosely categorized by topic – religion, politics, abstraction, landscapes (both urban and rural) and the body.

"Of course, no category is rigid, so the works may overlap thematically," he continues, "but they all point to a life in retrospection. The exhibit asks the viewer to consider developing ideas with no conclusions or answers. How has my work on these subjects developed over time? How does one's own views on life change over time? What are consistencies in pattern and thought that we hold onto? The exhibit brings these questions to the forefront of the eye and the mind. In a society that asks us to shape and mold ourselves to fit in, what do we do with the debris?"

Conn, a native of The Bronx, NY, who has lived most of his life in the South, says visitors "should have not have expectations when they walk into the exhibit. The best part about artwork is that expectations can be left by the sign-in sheet and door."

As a collage artist and teacher, Conn says he has long been "fascinated by people, places and things. Collage has a deep tradition in Black art; other forms of art often fail to capture the 'ripped-out-and-sewn-back-together' feeling of Black identity in the United States. My mode of operating in art and in life is cutting to preserve, but I think Austin Kleon perhaps said it better with 'creativity is subtraction' back in 2010. I draw from collected old *National Geographic*, *Ebony*, *LIFE* and other magazines in order to create my art.

"Using these images from the 1940s onward produces a visual history of language and media that draws into question our own media habits and content consumption today," he continues. "Even when the subject matter is not people, this process of cutting to preserve remains. I take my time with my art and there's no easy way to say that it is a long time that I often take with each piece. Many times, the art is nearly fully formed in my mind before I pick up a brush, pair of scissors or tube of glue."

After serving in the military, Conn



Work by Roscoe Conn

pursued fine arts at the University of North Carolina Charlotte and has been teaching ever since. He taught in North Carolina for over 20 years before retiring to teach at Broome High School in Spartanburg School District Three. "Teaching has influenced my art and my art has influenced my teaching, creating a reciprocal relationship between educating and learning myself," he says.

"Growing up in the northeast influenced much of my work – city streets and crowded transit stations make for good subject matter," Conn says. "For a while I focused on the trailer parks and pastoral scenes found in the South, but now my work tends to be more abstract. I have shown my work at the Blue Spiral in Asheville, NC, the Chapman Cultural Center in Spartanburg and the Upstairs Gallery in Tryon, NC, among others over the years." Last year, he was accepted into Art Fields 2023 again and exhibited his work "1010 Brownstone Cathedral."

The 30 pieces in the exhibition will be available for purchase, with prices ranging from \$500 to \$10,000.

Conn says he is happy to present his works at the Artists Collective and excited to have a cohesive viewing area for his life's work and process. "Having experienced many things in life, being able to see the effort pay off is the only thing one can hope for in the time we have here on Earth," he says.

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Artists Collective | Spartanburg in Spartanburg, SC, Features Works by Roscoe Conn

Artists Collective | Spartanburg in Spartanburg, SC, will present *Chips Off the Old Block: A Retrospective of Roscoe Conn's Art*, featuring works by Roscoe Conn, on view in the Solomon Gallery, from Jan. 2 through Mar. 2, 2024. A reception will be held on Jan. 18, and an artist's talk is set for Feb. 15, both as part of ArtWalk Spartanburg, which continue until 8pm.

Upstate collage artist and teacher Roscoe Conn describes his artwork and art career as "chunks" of himself that do not fall far from his personality and approach to life. He will share himself and his collage and mixed media art in his solo exhibition, *Chips Off the Old Block: A Retrospective of Roscoe Conn's Art*.

Conn says his "vision and spirit are evident in the collection's style, content and