

only two artists in South Carolina.

For further information check our SC Commercial Gallery listings, call

the gallery at 864/268-2771 or e-mail to (sandy@hamptoniiigallery.com).

Spoonbill Gallery in Greenville, SC, Features Works by Becca Splawn and Shelley Cade

A bold new joint exhibition explores the essence of nature through personal and artistic transformation, reimagining and reconnecting with one's experiences. *Nature Deconstructed* will debut at Spoonbill Gallery in Greenville, SC, on Jan. 10, 2025, with an artist reception from 6–9pm, where attendees can engage with both Splawn and Cade. The show runs through Feb. 1, 2025.

The exhibition is a collection of artworks featuring Becca Splawn and Shelley Cade reinterprets the natural world in abstract and dynamic ways, inviting viewers to consider the fundamental shapes, colors, and forms that compose the landscapes around us. This collaboration between two of Greenville, South Carolina's highly acclaimed artists is set for release in January 2025.

Both Splawn and Cade take their exploration of nature to new depths in *Nature Deconstructed*. This series is about breaking down what we see in the natural world and reassembling it into something unexpected. It is an invitation to reflect and to see nature not just as a whole, but as a series of interconnected elements that come together in surprising ways much like how life experiences shape and mold us as individuals. Each piece in the exhibition serves as a meditation on nature's (and our own) resilience and vulnerability, offering a fresh perspective on the landscapes (and life) that often go unnoticed in their simplicity.

Through her atmospheric compositions, Shelley Cade takes audiences on a personal journey of transformation, blending grief, healing, and rediscovery into a visual experience of color and form. "This body of work has never been about landscapes," Cade reflects. "If you were to say I paint landscapes, I might deny it. It's not about capturing a scene but creating an emotional space that invites people to explore their own experiences and find peace in the turbulence." After a time of personal upheaval and reflection, Cade's work evolved from escapism to a more profound engagement with emotion, using oil paint as a means to process loss and embrace renewal.



Work by Becca Splawn

The inspiration behind her work emerged when Cade returned to her studio amidst a period of personal loss, working to transform her grief into something tangible and uplifting. "What came out of these dueling emotions of grief and relief were pillowy palettes, blending dark and light, and colorfully blended cloudscape," she explains. "Each painting ushers out the storm and welcomes in much-needed clarity - an inner assurance that even life's most turbulent storms bring a silver lining."

Above all, Cade hopes her work offers audiences a moment of reprieve. "When someone sees my work, I hope it draws them in, encourages them to stay a while," she says. "More than anything, I want it to bring quiet moments of reflection and relief from the storms they may be facing. And, if possible, a silver lining for themselves."

A captivating blend of abstract and contemporary landscape styles, Becca Splawn's work delves into the powerful connection between color, memory, and emotion, inviting viewers on an introspective journey



Work by Shelley Cade

across vivid and layered compositions. Splawn, whose travels have deeply influenced her art, reflects on her creative path. "I think I was born with a kind of creative wanderlust," she shares. "The landscapes in this collection aren't just representations of places. They are reflections of my internal state, the feelings evoked by my memories of places." Through dynamic abstraction, her work explores natural forms with a fresh perspective, blending color and composition to evoke unique moods and emotions.

The inspiration behind *Nature Deconstructed* lies in Splawn's fascination with the transformative power of color. "Color has the power to conjure memories, alter moods, and transport us," Splawn explains. "In my work, I capture these fleeting moments, creating a dialogue that's both intimate and universal." Her process involves meditating on a memory or place before developing a curated palette, translating the essence of her experience into gestural, layered forms that blur the line between the abstract and the tangible. "I hope my work gives viewers a space for contemplation," she says, "a chance to immerse themselves in color and form and perhaps discover something new or remember something they thought they'd lost."

Through *Nature Deconstructed*, Cade and Splawn extend an invitation to explore a world of vibrant emotion and memory, hoping their journeys inspire others to find moments of beauty and reflection within themselves.

Shelley Cade of Railside Studios in Greenville, SC, splits her time between two visual passions; impressionist skies and expressionist portraits. Her preferred techniques include both acrylic and oil paint with the self-allowance to evolve and add or mix mediums. Whether it is the soft touch of a brush to canvas and chasing the perfect blend or a less controlled approach in the way of fast scratchy lines and impulsive marks, creating never loses its magic for this artist who paints by mood and emotion.

Becca Splawn is an award-winning contemporary landscape artist living in South Carolina's foothills. Her June/July 2024 solo show, *Dreamscapes*, was featured in *The Greenville Journal* and *The Daily Greenville*, and her work has been spotlighted by the Koger Center for the Arts at the University of South Carolina. Splawn was also the recipient of the Anderson Art Center's 2021 Purchase Award, was selected to exhibit her work at the 2024 The Other Art Fair in LA this past September, and will be an Artist in Residence at The Lakeside Inn on Lake Michigan for May 2025. She is a Clemson University graduate with a BFA in Studio Art and is represented by Spoonbill Gallery in Greenville, SC.

Splawn's works are crafted using mixed media on canvas and are inspired by the expansive landscapes explored in her travels in the southwest, rural South Carolina, and northern Michigan, where she spent

continued above on next column to the right



much of her childhood. Her paintings draw on vast open skies and fields that suggest the contemplative transience of nature. Her compositions blend abstract elements with subtle realism to capture the ephemeral essence of the natural world while maintaining a sense of its enormity and depth.

Spoonbill Gallery is vibrant and experiential providing a unique and immersive art experience for the Greenville, SC, community and beyond. Founded by nationally

award-winning artist, Joseph Bradley, and located adjacent to his studio, the gallery's collection features a variety of national artists complemented by a showcase of rising talents. Spoonbill Gallery is dedicated to fostering a deeper appreciation for art and culture, serving as a hub for artistic expression and creativity in the southeast.

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

Artists Collective | Spartanburg, SC, Offers Works by Robert Urban

Artists Collective | Spartanburg, in Spartanburg, SC, will present *Push & Pull: New Work*, by Robert Urban, on view in the Solomon Gallery, from Jan. 1 through Feb. 22, 2025. A reception will be held on Jan. 16, until 8pm, as part of the Spartanburg Art Walk.

Spartanburg artist Robert Urban's latest mixed media works use trees "as a metaphor for family and the relationships we all hold dear within the family circle and beyond."

The 30-plus pieces in the show will be offered for purchase with prices ranging from \$150 to \$5,000.

"Nature, and specifically trees, are used as metaphors to represent the passage of time, within nature itself, of course, but also within our human relationships – our family, friends and communities," says Urban, originally from Wisconsin. "The exhibition title refers to the many different forces and ways that we experience either a 'push' or a 'pull' – our interactions within nature, relationships and our communities."

The art in the exhibit was inspired by Urban's family and friends, he adds. "Trees have a complex network of branches and roots that also represent the complexities of our relationships and how they grow and develop. Trees symbolize strength, resilience, growth and the interconnectedness of everything around us."

Urban says visitors to the exhibit will see a contemporary approach to landscape



Work by Robert Urban

art. "Vivid colors, often layered many times in the buildup of each artwork, reflect the passage of time in the artwork itself, but also as a metaphor for time passing within our lives. I hope people will appreciate my mixed media approach to contemporary landscape art."

His approach is not a traditional one, he says. "My art primarily reflects the ongoing struggle to coexist between nature and humankind. This is achieved through the development of my own personal symbolism, representing this ongoing saga and my perception of it."

"This is my effort to create a sense of meaning from the world – order from chaos and chaos from order," Urban continues. "This is revealed through

continued on Page 13