

# West Main Artist's Co-op in Spartanburg, SC, Offers Works by Debbie Harris & Rosemary McLeod

West Main Artist's Co-op in Spartanburg, SC, is presenting *Pigments of Our Imagination*, a celebration of color, texture and form represented in jewelry, paintings and mixed media creations, featuring works by Debbie Harris and Rosemary McLeod, on view from May 14, 2016.

This spring exhibition showcases their latest work in vibrant colors, geometric forms, and inspired design. Many of the Co-op's followers are already familiar with both artists because of their active participation in wholesale and retail trade markets and festivals.

Debbie Harris describes herself as a "late bloomer" and as a self-taught mixed media artist. Her technique relies on the inclusion of vintage textiles and found objects, incorporating inspirational poetry and song lyrics into her whimsical designs. She also combines a variety of substrates and mediums built into various layers as she works to create assemblages and colorful canvases.



Work by Debbie Harris

Many of Harris' creations begin with a base of organic design and abstract representation in vibrant color. She teaches her technique at Greenville Health Centers Cancer Center and at the Cyrill-Westside Library in Spartanburg. She is an active member of the West Main Artists Co-op and hosts her signature "Crazy Fun Art pARTies".

Rosemary McLeod is a jewelry artist and painter inspired by the colors, shapes and textures found in nature and in the elegant lines of geometry. She studied art



Works by Rosemary McLeod

while attending Winthrop University and attended various adult classes in metal-smithing, silversmithing and enameling. The brilliant palette of Monet and the larger than life flowers of Georgia O'Keefe serve as inspiration for much of Rosemary's work.

McLeod is self-taught in the use of alcohol inks as a medium for her vibrant paintings and has extended this technique to copper metals for her jewelry creations. Her palette is bright, happy and playful as she manipulates organic shapes into unique works of art. McLeod is an active member of The West Main Artists Co-op and serves on the board as Retail Committee Chair.

West Main Artists Cooperative is located on West Main Street, in Spartanburg.

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings, visit ([www.westmainartists.org](http://www.westmainartists.org)) or (<https://www.facebook.com/westmaincoop/>).

# USC Upstate in Spartanburg, SC, Features Works by Greg Bowling, Ethan Carroll, Erica Hickerson, and Grace Jerome

The Curtis R. Harley Art Gallery and the FOCUS Gallery at the University of South Carolina Upstate in Spartanburg, SC, will host *ART LIFE*, the 2016 Art Education Senior Exhibition from May 2 - 27, 2016. A reception will be held on May 2, at 4:30pm.

Four students are exhibiting works created over the course of their college experiences and each have their own approach and ideas concerning art. *ART LIFE* features work by Greg Bowling, Ethan Carroll, Erica Hickerson, and Grace Jerome.



Work by Greg Bowling

Greg Bowling's strengths in art reside in drawing and construction. He describes drawing as "a natural movement of the body, an extension of the mind and an outlet

for emotional overflow." His most recent series concerns the construction industry's adverse effects on society's ability to be effectively sustainable.



Work by Ethan Carroll

Ethan Carroll describes his style as centered on nature. He mimics the dichotomy between human emotions and symbolisms, and human separation from nature in artificialities.

Erica Hickerson specializes in drawing and painting. She describes her series, which focuses on abandoned places and objects, as "... attention to the rough details of what is left behind and allow the audience to expand their thoughts about the reasons why things are abandoned."

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Work by Erica Hickerson

Grace Jerome has created pieces through traditional 2D methods, sculpture and computerized mock-ups. Her favorite style is realism, but hopes that each of her future students will find their own niche in art.

Art Education at USC Upstate is accredited by NASAD and NCATE, the two major national accreditation organizations for design and education, and offers a Bachelor of Arts in Art Education degree that leads to an initial certification to teach art in K-12 schools. This practical preparation of qualified individual is designed to provide graduates experiences in studio art, art history, educational theories and dispositions



Work by Grace Jerome

that will prepare them to teach effectively. For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings, call Mary Lou Hightower, associate professor of art education, at 864/503-5817 or e-mail to ([mhightower@uscupstate.edu](mailto:mhightower@uscupstate.edu)).

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