



8th Annual Heritage Trail Pottery Tour & Sale

May 4-5, 2019

10-5 Saturday

Noon -5 Sunday

8 Studios, 30 (+) Potters

Greenwood and Edgefield
Counties in South Carolina

For more information:
803-334-7060

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Trail Pottery Tour & Sale

West Main - Fused Glass

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class in fusing glass. And there, I found my passion.

"Fused glass allows me to use my creativity and let the glass guide me," he continued. "I usually love everything that I create and use my bowls and plates at every meal."

Sperka has been a member of West Main Artists Co-op since 2015. "The Co-op is among the most supportive organizations with which I have ever been involved," she said. "The artists are extremely supportive. Everyone helps with the many tasks required to keep a large art space organized and full. The management board has made many, many improvements in the building, has attracted new artists to join us, and has invited artists from the region to exhibit in our venues. It is a superb organization, and I am very lucky to be a member there." She also exhibited her work at the Tryon Arts and Craft School and Carri Bass Gallery in Tryon.

Debus joined the Co-op in 2018, and it is the first venue that he has exhibited in. "The members of WMAC are all nice and eager to share ideas with all who visit," Debus

said.

"My message is that creativity is something that everyone can access within themselves," Sperka said. "The act of creativity is an attempt to communicate what you create and allow the viewer to decide how does this speak to me? There is wonder everywhere. Try to see wonder every day. I hope that when you see this exhibit, you will experience a need to examine the work, to decipher what it means to you, and to urge others to come and see all the exhibits that are available during your visit."

West Main Artists Co-op is one of Spartanburg's leading nonprofit arts agencies. It is a membership-based venue with more than 50 members, 30 of whom have studios within the building that was once a church, three galleries, a printery, a ceramics studio, and the largest collection of for-sale and locally made in art in the county. Normally, WMAC has three exhibits each month, in addition to workshops and special programs.

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

West Main Artists Co-op in Spartanburg, SC, Features Works by Katee Hargraves

West Main Artists Co-op in Spartanburg, SC, will present *Seraphic Symphony*, featuring mixed media works by Spartanburg artist Katee Hargraves, on view from May 7 through June 1, 2019. Receptions will be held on May 16, from 5-9pm, during the city's monthly ArtWalk and on May 25, from 2-4pm.

There will be about 80 works of arts in mixed media, resin, crushed glass, and iron that are expressionistic abstracts.

"My show is a pictorial symphony of a surrealist's concept of the unconscious and meditative state of flow, one must reach
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in order to convey the art of the soul. My inspiration for this body of work is really born out of my passion to consider the vastness of time, energy and space: all of these things reside within us and around us," Hargraves said. "Furthermore, I feel when one contemplates the depths of these truths, we begin to feel our worth within the workings of our beautiful universe. My hope is that the viewers do not just see the art physically but also connect with it on an emotional and personal level."

Known for her diverse methods, high
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concepts, and creative edge, Hargraves took six months to complete this exhibit. Her other creative output includes her previous highly acclaimed solo exhibit *Seek Wonder* at the Carri Bass Studio & Gallery in Tryon, NC, which was nominated for best Polk County Art show of 2017; the making of two awards for the Tryon International Film Fest in 2018 that were awarded to Best Actresses Laura Dern and Frances Conroy; co creator of Sparkle City, a giant light bulb sculpture that was voted Best Abstract in the "Lighten Up Spartanburg" public art project; the sol creator of Global Entry, a painted life-size Arabian stallion statue that was on display for the World Equestrian Games of 2018 and went on to win the highest bid at the Art of the Horse Gala for Our Carolina Foothills non-profit. Global Entry now resides in Greenville at The Tack Shop.

In her artist's statement, Hargraves said: "As a multifaceted artist, I strive to surprise, pique imaginations and encourage alternative self-exploration and expression through the depths of mixed media painting. I hope to invoke a connection between the artwork and the appreciator by bringing enchanting movement and prestige into the work."

All of the art in *Seraphic Symphony* will be for sale and affordable to most collectors. "I am always excited and honored to have artwork exhibited at WMAC, as it is one of the more unique galleries of our region," the guest artist said. "And to be among this very special and eclectic blend of artists is always a joy. WMAC helped me to find the importance of connecting with other artists. It is a true well of creative nourishment through inspiring shows and many incredibly talented artists of all genres. This gallery is a Mecca for inspiration and creativity."

In describing her latest work, Hargraves said: "*Seraphic Symphony* is a collection of expressionist abstracts, created by intricately weaving multidimensional layers of various elements, allowing the viewer to seek out the stories and perhaps find a personal connection written between the lines and spaces of the paintings. To encourage a sense of energy that would stir one's imagination and inspire surprising adventures of personal self-exploration through the work,



Work by Katee Hargraves

creating a spiritual photograph of the emotions of the precise time in which it was created. My joy is later found in the connection the appreciator sometimes surprisingly and unexpectedly finds upon viewing the pieces in person."

"There are times a storm of beautiful and striking passion begins to brew deep within me, and I know the only way I can express it is to let it go through the mediums of paint and resin," adds Hargraves. "Each stroke, each layer, each tiny little movement is intentional. Though it is made of a free form, those materials become my drums, my pen and ink, my symphony of expression. My goal is to take your hand and lead you on a journey that traverses the highest peaks of the imagination as well as taking you to the

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