

Art & Light Gallery in Greenville, SC, Features Works by Cassie Butcher and Shannon Woodford

Art & Light Gallery in Greenville, SC, will present *Blooming Narrative*, featuring works by Cassie Butcher and Shannon Woodford, on view from May 30 through June 24, 2023. A reception will be held on June 2, from 6-8pm.

Inspired by the language of flowers, also known as floriography, Cassie Butcher and Shannon Woodford explore their mediums, clay and paint, to communicate emotions, memories, and nostalgia through the use of flowers in their joint exhibition unfolding into a colorful display.

Asheville, NC, clay sculptor Cassie Butcher has produced a new body of work along with Waxhaw, NC, painter Shannon Woodford. Their work explores the practice of using flowers to communicate, floriography, which dates back to ancient civilizations, such as the Greeks and Romans, but became popular in the Victorian era. During this period, people used flowers as a way to express their feelings and communicate with each other in a society where open communication about emotions was not common. The Victorians assigned different meanings to each flower, creating a complex system of communication through flowers. For example, red roses symbolized love and passion, while white lilies represented purity and passion.

Known for creating sculptures referred to as "souls," these basic clay figures serve as the starting point for her work. Butcher's souls touch on the essence of who everyone is without indicating who we are on our physical surface or who we are in our circumstances, but who we really are and how we really connect. Regarding *Blooming Narrative*, she comments, "My newest soul sculptures have created a scenery where memories and stories are blooming. I have taken cues from the Victorian era's tradition of communicating with flowers. Symbols such as daffodils for new beginnings, white roses for innocence, and ferns for enchantment all share alluring narratives. Abstracted variations of flowers, trees, and vines insinuate notions of growth, change, playfulness, and beauty." Butcher's use of botanical imagery continues to deepen the exploration and understanding of human relationships through this new body of work.



Work by Shannon Woodford

In her decade-spanning practice, Shannon Woodford has become a wildflower advocate, literally championing the unnoticed and unsung members of the natural landscape as a visual metaphor questioning what the culture deems worthy of attention and adulation. She gives each humble bramble and clinging vine its own chance to shine, to fully enter the narrative of how we define beauty.

"Flowers have been gifts between people since time immemorial: carrying the burden of the words we cannot say on their frail petals" reflects Woodford. To her, this exhibit, "examines the evocative nature of flowers to induce core memories, to inspire both nostalgia and innovation, to hold both deeply personal and shared cultural associations, and finally to charge and change the discussion of what beauty fundamentally is, who are its gatekeepers and should they be."

Cassie Butcher lives in Asheville, NC, and has worked in the River Arts District



Work by Cassie Butcher

since 2005. A native to West Virginia and a graduate of Berea College, she was called to the mountains of western NC for their beauty and the arts community. Butcher, a clay sculptor, was introduced to NC through Penland School of Crafts and then accepted into a residency at Odyssey ClayWorks.

These days she continues to expand her "vocabulary" of the soul concept, drink amazing beer, eat delicious food, enjoy the beautiful Appalachian Mountains, hang out with her husband David and her sweet daughters, Bridget and Dottie, and pinches herself every day to see if this is real and is incredibly grateful!

Shannon Woodford is a professional artist living in Waxhaw, NC. She has always been creative and was noticed as a teenager for her exceptional decorative work and honed her skill in creating trompe l'oeil and other faux finishes for interior designers. The young decorator realized her true pleasure would be found by transitioning into fine art.

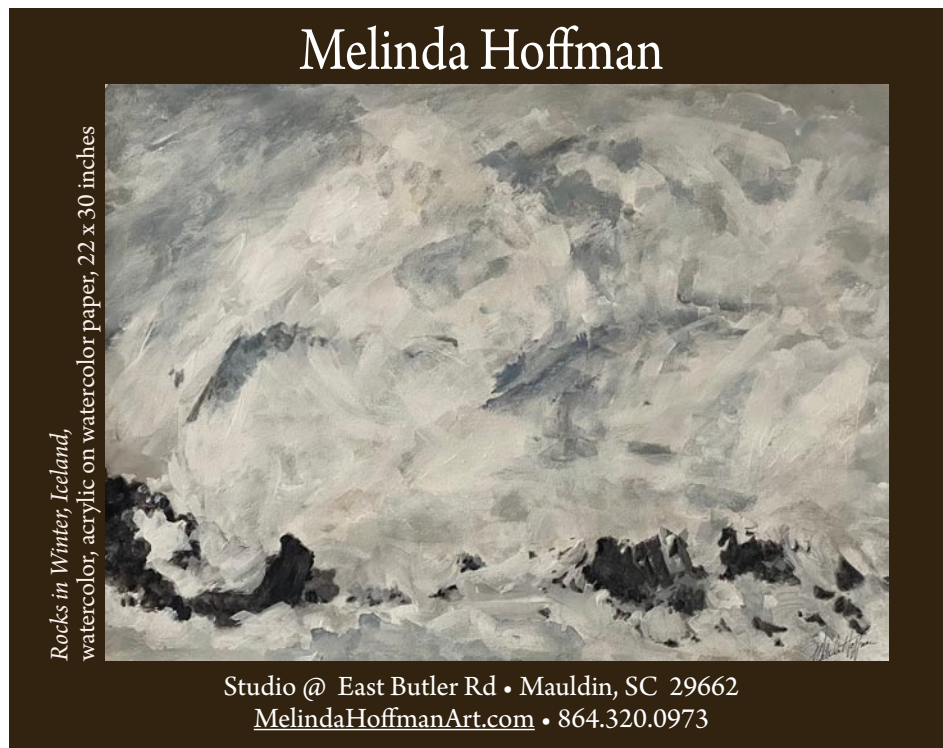
Woodford studied under master painter Andy Braitman, whose Charlotte school is renowned for producing successful exhibiting artists. Braitman mentored her into her signature aesthetic: a multilayered, expressionistic, dramatic snapshot of nature.

Woodford works largely in florals, using the deceptively everyday nature of her subject matter to explore the hidden depths of their unexpected appeal. She likes exploring as many mediums as possible and has worked extensively with watercolors, acrylics, and encaustics. Her current focus is in oil paint and mixed-media on canvas. She is committed to an ongoing dialogue between herself and the land of her native NC home, where she finds much of her inspiration.

Woodford is a married mother of four incandescently imaginative little girls, who do not hesitate to help her in her work when given the opportunity. They love contributing their suggestions for titles! When she is not with her husband Chris, or daughters, Laurel, Olive, Violet & Marigold, she is most likely in her home studio or immersed in her community of creatives, whom she credits with her ongoing education as an artist and a person.

Since 2007, Teresa Roche and her team have offered creative, inventive, and inspiring pieces that help collectors merge affordability with discovery by showcasing one-of-a-kind elements that tell a story! Art & Light Gallery features over 50 emerging to established local, regional, and international artists in the gallery and online. With a hand-picked collection of artists, they have just the right piece for those casually buying gift-able art, those just wading into collecting, the designers hunting the perfect piece for clients, and the seasoned art collector.

For further information check our SC Commercial Gallery listings or visit (www.artandlightgallery.com).



Studio @ East Butler Rd • Mauldin, SC 29662
MelindaHoffmanArt.com • 864.320.0973

Artists Collective | Spartanburg in Spartanburg, SC, Features Works by Judy Martin

Artists Collective | Spartanburg in Spartanburg, SC, will present *Daydreams: Wish You Were Here*, featuring works by Judy Martin, on view in Gallery II, from May 2 - 27, 2023. A reception will be held on May 18, from 6-8pm, as part of the ArtWalk Spartanburg event.

Upstate artist Judy Martin takes inspiration for her kiln-fired painted fused glass from nature, which can be seen in her upcoming exhibition.

"I am always inspired by nature. I love the movements of the water as well as the leaves on a tree," says Martin, who has been a fused glass artist for 18 years. "The colors of spring always spark something. People generally don't see all the different shades of green there are on the emerging leaves." Martin started her glass art with stained glass, then moved into "more texture and movement with glass fusing. In 2020, when I had nothing to do but learn, I did. I took an online class from a great glass artist in South Africa, Marguerite Beneke. I learned how to paint on glass with glass. This form of art is what I have enjoyed for the longest and I don't see myself going to another form. This gives me the chance to try to put the beauty of nature into my love of glass."



Work by Judy Martin

In the exhibition, visitors will see paintings of oceans, lakes, land and mountains. "The waves of the ocean, the easy movements in a lake, the quiet of the mountains and the awe of nature," Martin continues. "These paintings have been painted on glass with glass. Painting on glass means I can make them into different shapes once they have been kiln fired together. Visitors to the exhibit will see wall hangings as well as shallow vessels."

"This work is now what I am focusing on," she adds. "As I have learned glass fusing I have made things from bowls, plates, lamps and many other things. Now with the painting I can put a painting on these same things."

Martin says she wants visitors to "understand that this is kiln fired glass that has been painted with glass and fired together."



Work by Judy Martin

It will be melted together and cannot be scratched off," she adds. "This type of art is not a surface treatment but has been painted on a sheet of glass with glass. The painted pieces are fired in a kiln at temperatures from 1,200 to 1,400 degrees. This is created in steps and fired up to 4 times to get to the final piece that is showing."

Martin says the exhibition took about a year for her to create. "Traveling and looking at nature, there is so much to use. I start on one subject and switch to another while they are being fired."

Moving from a small village in western New York to Upstate South Carolina has given her more art opportunities, says Martin, a self-taught artist who has been a member of the Artists Collective | Spartanburg for about five years. Her work has been shown in Spartanburg at the Collective, the Clemson Art Center and the Anderson Arts Center. She has had a piece of art accepted to ArtFields in Lake City, SC, and currently has a piece on display in Charleston for the Piccolo Spoleto Festival.

The 30 pieces in the upcoming exhibition will be offered for purchase with prices ranging from \$30 to \$800.

"I enjoy having an exhibit at the Artists Collective | Spartanburg each year as my work changes, Martin says. "New faces come in as the years tick on. I enjoy the Collective for the other artists and the functions we have, including the annual juried show and the Open Doors."

The Artists Collective | Spartanburg, 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).

So you're the Marketing Director of a visual arts organization, art museum, arts center, arts council or artist guild and you're wondering why you never see the exhibits presented at your facility included here. Maybe you're the owner of a commercial art gallery and you've never seen your exhibits included with others presented in your area. You might even be an individual artist who is having an exhibit in a non-profit space or commercial space and you don't see your exhibits included. My question to you is - How long will you put up with that before you ask someone, "Why that is the case?" If you're not included - it's your fault. Send your info about exhibits to "Carolina Arts" by e-mail to (info@carolinaarts.com). Our deadline is the 24th of the month "prior" to the month your exhibit starts. So now you know what to do when it come to your next exhibit - just sit on your hand again - no! Send us your info.

You can contact us by calling 843/693-1306 or by e-mail at - info@carolinaarts.com but do it before the 24th of the month prior to our next issue. You want to be in that next issue don't you?