

Upstairs Artspace in Tryon, NC

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ated on a mass scale, and like all material culture, reflect our desires from their time of use. These items, designed and built by so many hands, are held by hands once more to be dissected and shrouded, contrasting processes of labor, mass production and slow stitch.”

Arden Cone, an artist born and raised in South Carolina, unpacks southern identity through her sculptures, paintings, and site-specific installations. In 2012, she received bachelor's degrees in studio art and Spanish, graduating summa cum laude from Hollins University. In 2018, she earned a master's degree in fine art from Boston University's Painting Program. Since then, Cone has completed residencies at the Chautauqua Institute School of Fine Arts, the Vermont Studio Center, and the Pike School of Art.

Cone has exhibited her work widely across the US and was named a finalist for the 2017 \$10,000 Arthur & Dorothy Yeck Award at Miami University. She immerses herself into the arts through art making, exhibiting, and writing for publications, including *BURNAWAY*, *The Brooklyn Rail* and her own *One South Contemporary*.

In Cone's artist statement, she said, "My work interprets the socio-political culture of the American South, acknowledging the history that has shaped its dominant worldview for centuries. In the nearly discarded refuse around my family's farm, which I incorporate into my sculptures, paintings, prints, and installations, I feel out parallels that are descriptive of the southern condition. Busted boards, battered pipe gates, and worn down tractor tires, all vestiges of the land, have suffered blows and distress through time's irreverent passage. So have the people of the South."

"The mileage takes its toll, both collectively and individually, the past informing outlooks on the present," adds Cone. "Its unthinkable pain lingers on, the hatchet yet unburied. Through my art, I expose the ways in which collective grief has torn apart the region's societal fabric. Those who have archived this past have left a perilously imperfect tracing of time's passage, leaving much of the story unaccounted for."

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Wilkes Art Gallery in Wilkesboro, NC, Offers Several New Exhibits

The Wilkes Art Gallery in Wilkesboro, NC, is presenting several new exhibits including: *Gonzo and John's Blues and Bluegrass Jam* with *Wilkes Heritage Museum*, on view through May 11, 2023.

Rob Gonzo, (aka. Robert Wolverton, Jr.) is an Outsider Artist living in Wilkesboro. Having been drawn to art at the age of 6, Wolverton continued to follow that rising passion, studying famous painters on his own while experimenting with various materials and techniques in his garage. His art career followed the path of a typical Outsider Artist creating and painting on anything that didn't move. He now mainly uses canvas and occasionally wood, using mixed media collage.

John Maddocks handcrafts instruments from a selection of renewable tonewoods sourced from the North Carolina Appalachian Mountains. His instruments are crafted with an artist's eye, a musician's ear, and a willingness to reach beyond the known or comfortable. Currently his shop makes guitars in four different sizes/styles, two sizes of mandolins, open-backed banjos, and traditional NC mountain dulcimers.

The Wilkes Heritage Museum collects and preserves historic structures, artifacts, and documents of Wilkes County and serves as a resource center for



Work by Millicent Kennedy

the City of Greenville, BMW Manufacturing Company, Michelin North America, Inc., SEW Eurodrive and the South Carolina Arts Commission. Upstairs Artspace is funded in part by the generosity of the Polk County Community Foundation.

Upstairs Artspace is a nonprofit contemporary art gallery in downtown Tryon, NC. It is supported by public and private donations, sales of art, grants, and fundraising events. It is supported in part by the Polk County Community Foundation, the Mary F. Kessler Fund, and public and private donations.

Founded in 1978, Upstairs Artspace is Tryon's oldest fine art gallery and is operated by its Board of Directors, members, and volunteers. It exhibits 10 to 15 shows annually that are generally conceived around themes or genres.

Upstairs Artspace maintains three gallery spaces totaling approximately 3000 square feet and rotates fine art exhibitions every six weeks that are selected by committee and independent curators. These exhibits include most forms of art media including painting, sculpture, mixed media, works on paper, prints, photography, digital media, videography and installations. The artists are selected for their abilities and reputations, and while most are from our region, we also feature work from other parts of the country.

Upstairs Artspace is known throughout the region as a gallery featuring art that is contemporary and avant-garde. Artists are selected by qualified exhibits committee members. While most of the art in an exhibition is available for purchase, Upstairs Artspace is not a retail gallery and does not maintain a permanent collection.

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, call the gallery at 828/859-2828 or visit (UpstairsArtspace.org).

every Wilkes County citizen and visitor. Through exhibits, educational programs, performances, and research, the Wilkes Heritage Museum interprets the history of Wilkes County and western North Carolina. Shortly after opening the Old Wilkes County Courthouse as a museum in the fall of 2005, the Wilkes Heritage Museum began working with musicians and music lovers to create the Blue Ridge Music Hall of Fame.

The Blue Ridge Music Hall of Fame exists to showcase and preserve the rich musical heritage of, not only Wilkes County, but, the greater Blue Ridge Mountains from northern Georgia to northern Virginia. The Hall of Fame educates, defines, and interprets the history of music and musicians in all genres from the region with exhibits and an annual celebration of inductees.

The *Wilkes Heritage Museum* exhibit will be featured in the Kulynych Gallery and will showcase historical and musical artifacts pertaining to the history of music in Wilkes County and the Blue Ridge Region.

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, call the Gallery at 336/667-2841 or at (www.wilkesartgallery.org).

Franklin G. Burroughs-Simeon B. Chapin Art Museum in Myrtle Beach, SC, Features High School Art Works and Annual Guild Show

Franklin G. Burroughs-Simeon B. Chapin Art Museum in Myrtle Beach, SC, is presenting the *23rd Annual Horry-Georgetown County High Schools Juried Art Exhibition*, on view through May 21, 2023, and the *26th Annual Waccamaw Arts & Crafts Guild Juried Art Exhibition*, on view through June 4, 2023.

A diverse array of media and artistic styles fills our galleries with color, life and originality - an extraordinary opportunity for area high school art students to gain experience in the actual process of having their art exhibited in a professional setting.

This year, Folly Beach-SC exhibiting fiber artist Jennifer York will judge the art. York grew up in rural Indiana, earned a BFA in Sculpture with a minor in Art History from Pratt Institute (NY) and a MFA in Fibers from Savannah College of Art and Design (GA). In 2003, she founded Jennythreads Studio in Asheville, NC, producing fine handmade apparel for women for 19 years. Following a four-month-long international trip to a dozen countries for art residencies, York relocated to Folly Beach, SC, where she retired from Jennythreads and has shifted her creative focus to fine art full-time.

The *26th Annual Waccamaw Arts & Crafts Guild Juried Art Exhibition*, on view through June 4, 2023.

The Art Museum was conceived by a small but visionary group of local art enthusiasts, among them a group of artists formed

in the late 1960s called the Waccamaw Arts & Crafts Guild. Beginning in the spring of 1969, a pattern of art exhibitions was established that continues today. To honor the integral role that the Guild played in the Museum's establishment, the Museum proudly hosts the Guild's annual spring juried art exhibition, which is now also in its 26th year.

A diverse array of media in both two and three-dimension, all completed by local artists within the past two years, will be exhibited. This year's judge is South Carolina artist Linda Daly Baker, AWS/NWS, whose watercolors are known for their dramatic renderings of light and shadow and subtle, earthy palette.

Myrtle Beach's Franklin G. Burroughs-Simeon B. Chapin Art Museum strives to be one of the finest visual arts museums in the Carolinas. With 11 galleries that change throughout the year, Myrtle Beach's only art museum offers exhibitions featuring paintings, textiles, sculpture, photography, video, ceramics, assemblage, collage and more. A visit to the Art Museum's exhibitions can be enhanced by its lively programming, including artist receptions, tours, lectures, workshops and classes for both adults and children.

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings, call the Museum at 843/238-2510 or visit (www.myrtlebeachartmuseum.org).

Black Creek Arts Council in Hartsville, SC, Offers Works by Catherine Conrad

The Black Creek Arts Council in Hartsville, SC, will present *Nature Enlightenment*, featuring conceptual, abstract paintings by Catherine Conrad, on view from May 4 through June 2, 2023. A reception will be held on May 4, from 5:30-7:30pm.

Afflicted by chronic autoimmune diseases at an early age, Conrad uses her art to explore concepts related to health, faith, and transformation. Despite the heavy subject matter of her works, she strives to provide her viewers with optimism based on the promise of restoration.

Nature Enlightenment delves into the healing power of nature, as well as the hidden gems in nature that often are overlooked. Conrad describes finding inspiration in nature, especially before her 2020 heart surgery and the recovery after being diagnosed with takotsubo syndrome earlier in 2023. "Witnessing the changing of the seasons is inspiring to me. A dead, fallen tree might find itself home to a luscious carpet of moss. A small trickle of water during the summer might turn into a moving stream come fall. Nature has a way of rejuvenating itself, which brings me hope that my body might find itself revitalized in glorious ways during a new season."

Conrad hopes to capture the essence of

nature through her abstract paintings. She not only focuses on what can be seen by the human eye, but also what is unseen and can only be sensed. Her works are full of her signature organic shapes (often described as nests, seeds, oysters, eggs, wombs, or cells) that she purposefully leaves undefined, inviting the viewer to recognize their own life journeys inside of her paintings. She personally identifies this organic shape with hope and possibility.

Conrad is a relative newcomer to the art scene, having only resumed her art career in 2021 after a nearly three-decade hiatus. Based in Spartanburg, SC, she is a member of National Association of Women Artists (NAWA), NAWA's South Carolina chapter, and the Artists' Guild of Spartanburg. Her works have been shown at the *Piccolo Spoleto Juried Art Exhibition*, the Trask Gallery of the National Arts Club, the Transylvania Community Arts Council, as well as the *Rocky Mount National Juried Art Show*, and the *Southworks National Juried Art Exhibition*, among others.

The Black Creek Arts Council is located on West College Avenue in Hartsville, SC.

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings or visit (<https://blackcreekarts.org/>).

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www.carolinaarts.com



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