



Fred Galloway

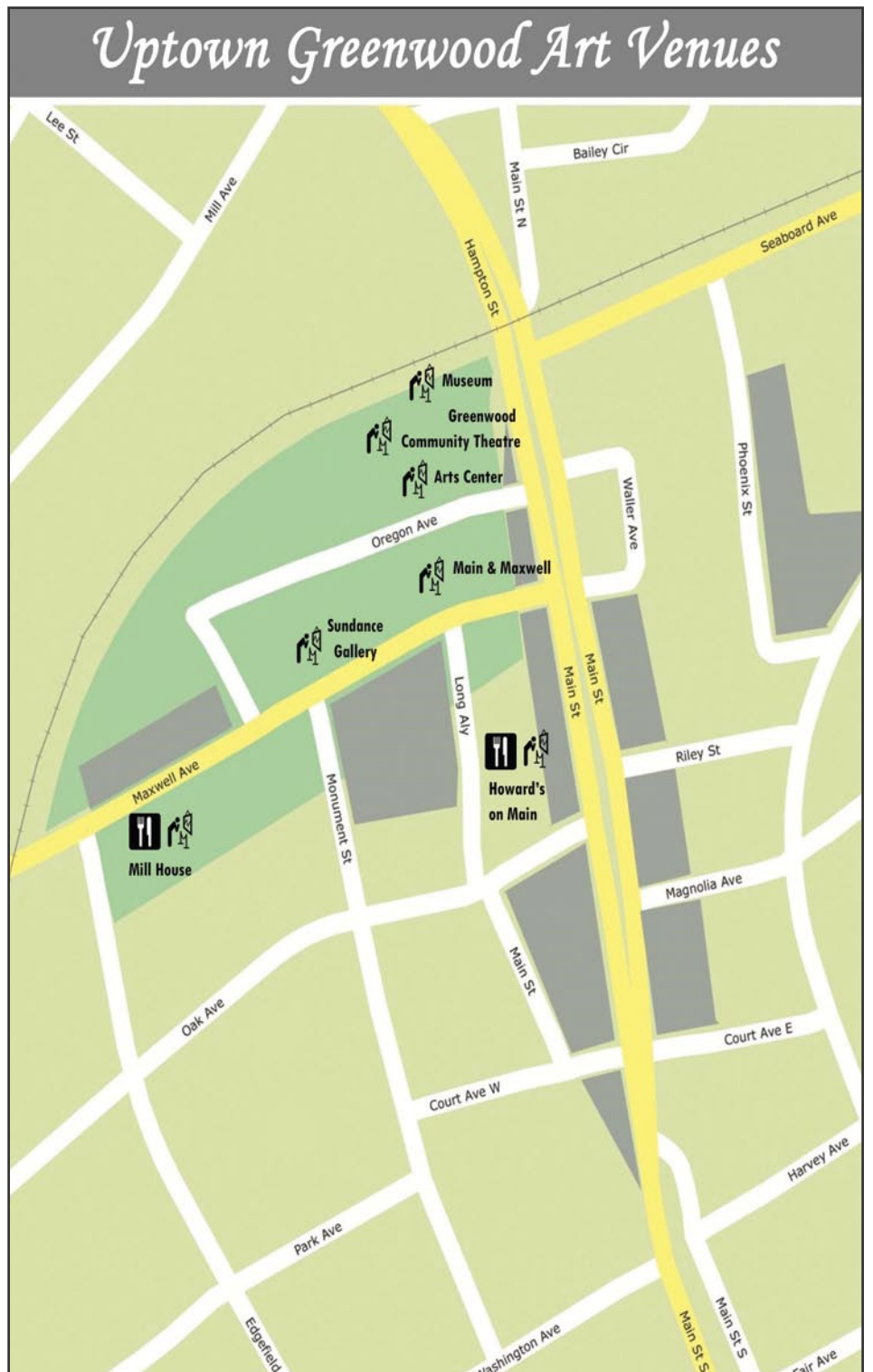


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## USC Upstate in Spartanburg, SC, Features Works by Ambrin Ling

USC Upstate in Spartanburg, SC, is presenting *No Real Desire*, a selection of recent works by HUB-BUB artist-in-residence Ambrin Ling, on view at the UPSTATE Gallery on Main, through June 28, 2019. A reception will be held on June 20, from 5-8pm, during Spartanburg's ArtWalk.

*No Real Desire* presents a series of landscapes, figurative paintings, and text-based works. The exhibition asks what it means to be the object of "real desire?" Materials often designated as low-value or mundane - watercolor paints, paper, and grass stains culled from lawn clippings - make up each piece. The work presents desire as a series of contradictions: poetic lines written in dripping grass juices and clippings, seductive cinematic stills and beautiful environments, yet devoid of that most revered of subjects, the human form.

"I am interested in how object and image-making not only reinforces perception, but can also recalibrate it," Ling said. "While I utilize classical representational techniques, my attention is not on the monumental or spectacular but instead on that which is marginalized, peripheral, or assigned low-value."

Utilizing wall texts and appropriated imagery from the 2016 film *Moonlight*, *No Real Desire* challenges perceptions of value, power, and centrality as they relate to what spaces are pictured and who is shown. In doing so, it asks us to question our desires as consumers of media-like images, objects, and the written word. Sometimes apparent absence is not a lack, but instead suggests resistance to fetishizing gazes and the fixation on the marginalized body of color; sometimes landscapes are not harmless and romantic nods to the past, but imply framing and controlling environmental forces and peoples. By moving through the languages of abstraction and representation, text and image, and contemporary and historical media appropriation, Ling folds



Work by Ambrin Ling

desire into broader explorations of identity, race, gender, and sexuality.

Ambrin Ling is a multimedia artist whose practice falls under an expanded notion of "works on paper" - drawing, painting, sculpture, and installation. While she references historical art modes such as landscape and traditional representational techniques, her work aims to slow down and complicate the ways in which viewers perceive written and visual languages as they frame identity, presence, and value. She received her Bachelor of the Arts from Carleton College in Minnesota and her Master of Fine Arts from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago.

Ling's work has been included in national and international exhibitions, including ARC Gallery in Chicago and Manifest Gallery in Cincinnati, OH. She has also participated in several artist residencies including her current HUB-BUB Artist Residency and an upcoming Vermont Studio Center Artist Residency. She has received honors for her work, including the Elizabeth Greenshield's Foundation Grant.

The UPSTATE Gallery on Main officially opened its doors in February of 2015. Showcasing the permanent work of artists Andy Warhol, Jerry Uelsmann and Beatrice Riese, the Gallery offers its visitors the opportunity to see a variety of contemporary, original exhibitions in downtown Spartanburg. Visitors can also enjoy guest exhibitions and student work. In addition to

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