

# Francis Marion University in Florence, SC, Features Creations by Jim Gleason



Works by Jim Gleason

Francis Marion University in Florence, SC, will present *Jim Gleason: A Study in Brass*, on view in the Steven F. Gately Gallery in downtown Florence, from June 4 through July 26, 2024. A reception will be held on June 13, from 5:30-7:30pm. Admission is free.

In a quiet corner of Florence, SC, lives a man fluent in creativity who opens the doors to whimsical worlds, inviting others to join him in seeing in new ways. These are worlds that Jim Gleason creates as easily as he breathes.



Works by Jim Gleason

As a Marine veteran and professional musician, Gleason became a master technician repairing brass and woodwind instruments. Now, after decades of experience, he is intimately aware of every particle that makes up an instrument allowing it to give

voice to notes on a page. When they can no longer do so, despite his best efforts, he gives them new lives as fanciful creatures and characters that flow steadily from his imagination, populating his studio, putting a smile on your face as soon as you see them.

Though reluctant to call himself an artist, visitors may have encountered Gleason's work in numerous other locations such as on display at the South Carolina Artisan Center in Walterboro or the State Fair, galleries such as the Seacoast Art Gallery or the Art and Soul Gallery in Myrtle Beach, SC, as well as juried shows throughout the Pee Dee region.

This exhibit will feature close to 100 pieces plus framed art prints. Prices range from approximately \$75 to \$5,000. An interesting point to note is that profits from the sale of artworks go to support repairs of brass and woodwind instruments for school music programs.

*Jim Gleason: A Study in Brass* is an exhibit for young and old alike. It is designed to let you relax. Let go of the cares of the day and simply enjoy the fanciful pieces before you. It is an ideal introduction to the art world for those who don't think galleries are their thing.

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings, call Dawn Fenimore at 843/661-4638 or e-mail to ([GatelyGallery@FMarion.edu](mailto:GatelyGallery@FMarion.edu)).

# Durham Arts Council in Durham, NC, Features Works by Jalen T. Jackson

Durham Arts Council in Durham, NC, is presenting *Searching for Liberation*, featuring large and moving portraits that show snapshots of the Black experience by Jalen T. Jackson, on view through July 6, 2024. A reception will be held on June 21, from 6-8pm.

"Oil painting has given me the opportunity to tell stories about how and why I've become the person I am today. With each brushstroke, I recall memories and scenarios that I've experienced throughout my life. My work combines surrealism and naturalism, depending on the message I explore. My ideas blossom from flashbacks from my childhood memories or words that touch my soul, both positively or negatively," said Jackson.

"I create a sense of nostalgia and give a representation of Black soul for whomever interacts with my work. My art is a reminder to acknowledge my past and where I come from. As an African American, I am aware that the urge to survive when facing adversity is within my bloodline," adds Jackson. "My paintings feature cultural references in the form of symbols, patterns, and figures, that aim to motivate those who face adversity. The woman who raised me has been the best mother, teacher, role model and muse I could ever ask for. My creations are the best way I can show my gratitude for my mother's support and motivation throughout my journey as an artist."

Jalen Jackson is a visual artist whose paintings explore African American culture, collective memory, and experiences. His paintings depict flashbacks of his childhood



Work by Jalen T. Jackson

and other memories, especially growing up as a son of a single mother. Jackson began college as a Business Management student at North Carolina A&T University. During his junior year, he signed up for a painting class and rediscovered his love for art he had fostered as an African American child growing up in Durham, NC. He received his BFA in Visual Arts from NC A&T State University in 2021 and has exhibited locally at CAM Raleigh, 311 Art Gallery, Anchorlight Studios, Wake Tech, Barton College, The Fruit and Artspace. He was the Inaugural HBCU Artist in Residence at Artspace in downtown Raleigh.

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, call the Council at 919/560-2787 or visit ([www.durhamarts.org](http://www.durhamarts.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.



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# Durham Arts Council in Durham, NC, Offers A Youth Curated Exhibit

Durham Arts Council in Durham, NC, is presenting *(RE) Clamation* by the Beautiful Project, a youth curated photography exhibition, on view through July 6, 2024. A reception will be held on June 21, from 6-8pm.

Featuring photographic and mixed media works from four young artists, Avery Foster, Le'Isys Diaz, Vivian Njoroge, and Naomi Nelms. Their work varies in themes but centralizes on the healing and representation of Black girls, nonbinary youth and women.

We all have a right to define ourselves. But for Black youth that right to define ourselves is not a given one. Colorism, texturism, racism, homophobia, sexism, and so much more tell us stories of ourselves that hurt. The ideas circling around about what it means to be good enough, Black enough, pretty enough, dignified enough ... and just simply enough cause stress and anxiety that affects their mental health and sense of identity. So what does it look like to powerfully (re)claim oneself as a practice of radical healing?

This exhibition explores art as a medium for confronting harmful experiences, affirming your worth, and reclaiming your

power. *(RE) Clamation* is a testimony to the artists' determination to be well and to claim themselves as loved, worthy, and more than enough.

This is a youth curated exhibition by the Arts & Activism Apprentices at The Beautiful Project, a group of trained Black girls and nonbinary youth activists who use photography, visual arts, writing & care to explore cultural activism within their artistry. Under the art direction of Madylin Nixon-Taplet and curatorial direction of Khayla Deans, *(RE) Clamation's* co-curators and featured artists are Avery Foster, Le'Isys Diaz, Vivian Njoroge, and Naomi Nelms. The Beautiful Project is a community-based arts organization in Durham, NC, that uses storytelling and visual arts to advance the healing and representational justice of Black girls, nonbinary youth, and women. This exhibition is made possible through the support of the Durham Arts Council and Tides Foundation. This exhibition is part of the Durham Arts Council Exhibit Program.

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, call the Council at 919/560-2787 or visit ([www.durhamarts.org](http://www.durhamarts.org)).

# Pastel Society of North Carolina Hosts 2024 Statewide Art Exhibition in Historic Hillsborough, NC

Artists from the three pastel societies in North Carolina will compete in the *On Common Ground: From the Mountain to the Sea* statewide juried exhibition. Finalists' work will be on display and for sale at the Orange County Arts Commission Eno Arts Mill Gallery, a vibrant artistic hub located in historic West Hillsborough, NC, from June 7 - 29, 2024.

The competition is hosted by the Pastel

Society of North Carolina and sponsored, in part, by the Orange County Arts Commission. The 2024 statewide event begins with a three-day pastel technique workshop followed by a First Friday award reception on June 7, from 6-9pm, in the Eno Arts Mill gallery located on Dimmocks Mill Road, in Hillsborough, NC.

The exhibition is a collaboration be-

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