

# West Main Artists Co-op - Plein Air

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hibits Dwight Rose, who is an established watercolorist. "I thought having them exhibit at West Main would be a good way to give them exposure and to bring in some of the community's most respected artists who practice plein air. It takes a bit of understanding to truly appreciate plein air," Rose said. "Most of the time artists work in their studios, but plein air artists work in the field, using natural light and often times dealing with a changing environment. They have to work fast, and sometimes they come back to a location to finish the work. Normally, I'd say, the work is spontaneous, in the moment, and less detailed than studio work. But each artist is different with different styles and techniques. The trick is applying your style and technique to working outside in the open spaces."

Each of the six artists will provide at least seven paintings, most of which will be for sale, starting at \$50.

"I like the immediacy of the process. Looking at the scape and responding to it in an immediate way," Barnes said. "It is not overworked. It is much like our heroes paintings in the impressionist world. "Our backgrounds are different in that some are potters, fabric designers and mixed media artists," Barnes continued. "All of us have been art teachers. That alone shows that we have a streak of bravery in our makeup. Sometimes it is intimidating to sit and paint an almost finished work in public. The Co-op is gracious to share its space with us. Between us, we have 351 years of experience in appreciation and of making art. The oldest member is a native of Spartanburg. The others came from Massachusetts, North Carolina and Georgia. We all enjoy painting."

"First you look. You search for your composition. Or you sit, observe and find a composition that feels right and interesting," Turner said. "The view and surroundings become yours. This position can be

outside in the fresh air or inside. It can be comfortable, blazing hot or numbing cold. Being up close with the experience has its rewards. Perhaps the extremes or pleasantness will show and really make your art relevant, especially when you view your painting and relive the moment. Observers may get a feel or an identity with your expression."

"The process of painting never really took hold of me during most of my life. I wasn't passionate about it," Link said. "As an artist I am more of a maker of things, not so much a painter. The images in my head that push me to work are always three-dimensional and the process and intricacies of how it will be constructed is the main challenge. That is until I travelled with two friends to a plein air watercolor workshop to Tahiti. I was hooked. Now, I love to paint, mostly outside on a sunny warm day. The experience of the outside is a draw as well as looking for the lights and darks, working fast and being spontaneous. The biggest draw though is sharing the experience with by painting buddies. It is such a pleasure to go paint with friends. We laugh, share and see how each person paints the same area completely different."

West Main Artists Co-op is a non-profit arts agency in Spartanburg that is dedicated to local artists and art. It provides affordable studio space to its member artists, as well as a retail outlet and several galleries to sell and showcase their work. The facility has the most extensive collection of locally made artwork for sale in Spartanburg, and it includes pottery, jewelry, paintings, sculptures, prints, quilts, and other artistic creations. In addition to hosting three different exhibits each month, the Co-op also provides public workshops.

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings or visit ([www.WestMainArtists.org](http://www.WestMainArtists.org)).

## Rensing Center's Library in Pickens, SC, Offers Installation by Susan Lenz - July 12, 2018

On Thursday, July 12, 2018, from 6-8pm, The Rensing Center's Library at 1165 Mile Creek Road in Pickens, SC, will host a public art reception for Susan Lenz's large-scale fiber installation, *The Cocoon*.

As one of the Rensing Center's summer session residents, Lenz spent five weeks transforming her enormous collection of vintage household linens, antique garments, and assorted old fabrics into a soft enclosure. Built on a pipe assemblage structure purchased through a South Carolina Arts Commission quarterly grant, this unique space became an ideal location in which visitors can share family stories of past stitching relatives, learn to attach a button, and find inspiration for their own treasured textiles.

Lenz is from Columbia, SC, but needed both time and space in which to create her installation. "Because I'd been to the Rensing Center in 2015, I knew the location would be perfect for my needs. I'm so very happy to have been accepted for this opportunity. It's such a pleasure to work with a view to nature and to be surrounded by people supporting my vision," says Lenz.

The stash of vintage linens came from yard sales, thrift stores, and auctions. They are the unfinished quilt tops, fabric napkins, calendar dish towels, and the typical Grandma's doilies. By stitching these things into 8' panels, Lenz has created a setting straight out of yesteryear but with a 21st century twist.

Lenz continues with, "My hope is that



Part of the installation by Susan Lenz in progress

mothers can show daughters how to thread a needle, and that fathers can point out memories from their childhood. This installation pays homage to all those anonymous makers who filled their homes with comfort. Yet, it is also a place to take a stitch, add another doily or piece of lace, without having to follow any hard-and-fast quilting or sewing rules. Anything goes!"

The reception is family friendly. Unlike some museum art receptions where photos are forbidden, Lenz encourages selfies and social media coverage. This installation is meant to be shared widely. It is meant to inspire visitors to use their own precious possessions.

The Rensing Center is pleased to host this event and hopes many come for inspiration and especially for the concept of reusing rather than replacing functional objects.

For further information call 864/380-1267.

Check us out at ([www.carolinaarts.com](http://www.carolinaarts.com)) or e-mail to ([info@carolinaarts.com](mailto:info@carolinaarts.com))

The deadline each month to submit articles, photos and ads is the 24th of the month prior to the next issue. This will be July 24th for the August 2018 issue and Aug. 24 for the September issue. After that, it's too late unless your exhibit runs into the next month. But don't wait for the last minute - send your info now.

And where do you send that info?

E-mail to ([info@carolinaarts.com](mailto:info@carolinaarts.com)).

## Latin American Contemporary Art (LaCa) Projects in Charlotte, NC, Celebrates 5th Anniversary

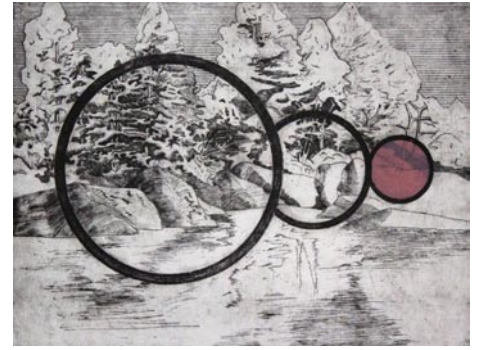
The Latin American Contemporary Art (LaCa) Projects in Charlotte, NC, is pleased to present its *Fifth Anniversary Collective*, on view through Aug. 13, 2018. This group show features nine selected artists, who have exhibited with the gallery since its opening in March 2013, and LaCa Projects celebrates its fifth year in operation.

The category of Latin American contemporary art, based on the origins of its artists, was formally established in approximately 1970. It has since emerged as one of the most important and influential in the evolution of the globalized contemporary art market, in spite of its broadly generalized categorization and continued challenge of being a less-recognized force as compared to more popular geographical originations.

In addition to the vast cultural differences between its 33 nations, which adds weight to its significance, the evidence of its importance has recently been reinforced by the establishment of departments and curators dedicated to collecting, researching, and exhibiting Latin American art in many major museums and art institutions across Europe and North America, including Tate Britain (London), The Museum of Modern Art (New York), The Museum of Fine Arts (Houston) and the Hammer Museum (Los Angeles).

Additionally, the most recent edition of Pacific Standard Time, an initiative of the Getty with arts organizations throughout Southern California, was titled *PST: LA/LA - A Celebration Beyond Borders*. It was the largest initiative ever assembled to focus on Latin American and Latino Art, with the participation of over 70 art institutions throughout Los Angeles and Southern California.

*Fifth Anniversary Collective* at LaCa Projects highlights the exceptional talents of nine artists, all whose distinctive styles and



Work by Juan Dolhare

approaches have been influenced by their identities as Latin American artists.

Included in this exhibition will be works by Eduardo Cardozo (Uruguay), Juan Dolhare (Argentina), Carlos Estévez (Cuba), Vicente Hernández (Cuba), Santiago Quesnel (Argentina), Cristina Toro (Puerto Rico), as well as artists Karina Juárez, Alejandra Laviada, and Humberto Rios, who were presented during the LaCa Projects segment of the Charlotte-wide *In Focus: Contemporary Photography in Mexico* exhibition in Sept. 2017.

Some works offer responses to past or present social or political environments in each of their respective native countries; others offer invitations into the artists' passions, psyches, and deeply personal experiences, from their childhoods to present-day. While thematic concepts range greatly, the common impression is the level of sophistication, complexity, and form from which these artists create, offering the viewer a heightened sense of awareness of the social and material conditions that surrounded these artists in the past, and the contemporary realities of a 21st century artist.

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings or visit ([www.lacaprojects.com](http://www.lacaprojects.com)).

## ClearWater Artist Studios in Concord, NC, Presents Global Art Project, Live Collaborative Paintings

ClearWater Artist Studios in Concord, NC, is pleased to be collaborating with local artist/ curator, Mikel Frank, to realize an exciting and unique art exhibit and related events entitled *Visual Strategies: A Collaborative Project*, on view in ClearWater's Main Gallery from July 1 through Aug. 2018.

The opening reception with a Live Painting Event will be held on July 1, from 3-5:30pm. Selected artists participating in the show will create a painting, live, on large-format paper in the gallery.

The show is being organized and co-curated by Frank who recently moved to Charlotte from the New York City area and a 29-year career at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and now serves as an adjunct art instructor at Rowan-Cabarrus Community College and collaborating curator and artist, Carl Heyward, founder of the Global Art Project, who resides in Northern California.

Participating members of the Global Art Project (GAP) are shipping their collaboratively constructed artworks in from all over the world for the exhibit, and there will be three live-collaborative-painting events open to the public. One is open for anyone to participate in. Check



Work by Robert Reed and Gregory J. Rose

with the gallery about those events at ([www.clearwaterartists.com](http://www.clearwaterartists.com)). As part of the show, three collaborative live-painting events will be held for the public.

For further info check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, call the gallery at 704/784-9535 or visit ([www.clearwaterartists.com](http://www.clearwaterartists.com)).



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