

Artists Collective | Spartanburg in SC Offers Photography Exhibition

The Artists Collective | Spartanburg in SC will present *Click 2022: Photographs from ACS Members*, on view in Gallery II, from July 5 through Aug. 27, 2022. A reception will be held on July 21, until 9pm, during the Spartanburg ArtWalk on the third Thursday each month, hours are extended until 9pm

Seven Upstate photographers have combined their talents for an exhibition. Select works from these ACS-member photographers will be on display and available for purchase: Chuck Bishop, Evan Givens, Pete Harding, John Lever, Cynthia Manuel, Thomas Koenig and Patty Wright. Prices for the 25 works in the exhibition will range from \$50 to \$200.

"This exhibition is an example of the breadth and depth of ACS's photographic artists," says Lever, who is coordinating the exhibition. "Each person has selected a few pieces to represent the style of each person's perspective."



Work by John Lever

Lever says they hope viewers will come to understand that cameras and people see life differently. Neither is right or wrong, they are just different. The human race is blessed with excellent vision and great video processors, but the camera has its own advantages," he adds. "These differences give us the opportunity to see the world in a new way. I hope visitors will gain some appreciation of these new views.

"ACS is a great place for photographers to develop artistic talents and furnishes great opportunities like this to exhibit our pictures," Lever adds.

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).



Work by John Lever

The inspiration for the exhibit comes from "the desire to show off the range of incarnations of photography," Lever says.

"I think the appropriate saying is 'birds of a feather flock together.' The photographers of ACS are birds or at least act that way. A few of us were thinking about doing an exhibit like this and then things fell in place," he adds.

Artists Collective | Spartanburg in SC Offers Works by presents works by Christina Laurel

The Artists Collective | Spartanburg in SC will present *Interconnect*, featuring works by Greer paper artist Christina Laurel, on view in the Solomon Gallery, from July 5 through Aug. 27, 2022. A reception will be held on July 21, until 9pm, during the Spartanburg ArtWalk on the third Thursday each month, hours are extended until 9pm, with an art talk at 7pm.

The exhibition features an installation of suspended 3-D elements constructed of shoji-paper accompanying each 2-D series, Laurel says. "Butterfly drapes with my 'Remnants' series, ginkgo strands with my 'Survivor' series, and lily pads with my 'Fossilized' series. Plus, as an acknowledgement of how COVID affects my art, paper fans with my latest 'Mask' series.

"Interconnect is a continual evolving activity that is paramount to our and all species' survival," she adds. "Interconnect – an active verb, a common thread of benefit to the planet. Butterflies, lily pads, ginkgo – they pollinate and detoxify. Recognizable beauty, fragile yet strong, ephemeral yet enduring. Finding balance as quiet and chaos interconnect in our world today."

Laurel was inspired by biodiversity scientist E.O. Wilson, saying she was "moved" when she learned from him that even butterfly species are becoming extinct. "Influenced by a Japanese aesthetic, especially the Edo period, I began using shoji paper to construct suspended butterfly cocoons, ginkgo strands and lily pads as my chosen nature motifs," she says. "Metaphorically, the motifs represent the temporality of life – the butterfly – as well as the 200-million-year survival of life – the ginkgo. I continue to be moved."

As for what she hopes visitors to the exhibit take away, Laurel says, "What I hope and what people take away from any exhibit cannot be prescribed. My hundreds of hand-traced, hand-cut and assembled shoji-paper installations, as well as intricately pieced mixed-media/collage pieces, represent



Work by Christina Laurel

a dedication to the creative process, the energy I invest in the creative process. Hopefully this energy will remain palpable within the work.

"I appreciate hearing what each viewer brings to the artwork," she adds. "I often wish I could walk into an exhibit and see my work as if 'for the first time.'"

The 30 pieces in the show will be offered for sale, with prices ranging from \$50 to \$3,600.

"The team at Artists Collective | Spartanburg is earnest in a dedication to bring a variety of art experiences to the Spartanburg community," Laurel says.

Laurel, a native of Syracuse, NY, has been an artist for more than 40 years. Her studio is in the City of Greer Center for the Arts. She was an artist-in-residence at ArtRez, Virginia Center for Creative Arts, Hambidge Center for Creative Arts, and Paducah Arts Alliance. She was a 2014 grant recipient from Greenville's Metropolitan Arts Council; and a 2011 Strategic Op-

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