

# Francis Marion University in Florence, SC, Offers Works by Amiri Geuka Farris and Samantha Mack

The Francis Marion University in Florence, SC, is presenting *Converge*, featuring two colorful exhibits from Amiri Geuka Farris of Bluffton, SC and Samantha Mack of Savannah, GA, on view in the Steven F. Gately Gallery, located in downtown Florence, through Aug. 19, 2022.

Amiri Geuka Farris brings his larger than life show called *Analogous*. Each piece is an unfiltered look into the artist's reality, as seen through the prism of hues, culture, memory and perceptions of the artist's view of summer. Farris' works take people on an introspective journey, deep into the artist's view of this season of active conscience summer. Imagine yourself in the art dancing with a flamingo, tiger or butterfly through the fountains of the city.



Work by Amiri Geuka Farris

and juried museum exhibitions across the United States, including the US Capitol in Washington, DC, and the Smithsonian.

Samantha Mack's *Through a Kaleidoscope* takes you on a journey using yarn as her medium and a crochet hook as her tool. Her work explores cycles, energy, repetition, and remembrance, hybridizing the generational tradition of crochet with image, electricity, and motion.

"Through a process of meditative repetition, I work stitch after stitch of delicate crochet, forming it into a chain of lace, a granny square, or a thousand butterflies," said Mack.

Steven F. Gately Gallery is in University Place located on N. Dargan Street in downtown Florence, SC.

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings, call the gallery at 843/661-4638 or visit (<https://www.fmarion.edu/gatelygallery/>).



Work by Samantha Mack

"One of my goals is to make artwork more accessible to art lovers in out-of-the-way places and new viewers of contemporary art," said Farris. His work has been featured in more than 50 solo exhibitions

# University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, NC, Presents New Outdoor Art Installation

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, NC, is presenting *pARC*, an outdoor installation, on view at the Ackland Art Museum, through July 7, 2024.

*pARC* was created by the Urban Conga, an international award-winning multidisciplinary design studio made of a diverse group of creatives focused on sparking community activity and social interaction through open-ended play.

*pARC* is designed as an open-ended spatial gesture that comes to life when people engage with it. The spatial intervention serves as an extension of the conversations, activities, teaching, and programming offered inside the Ackland. The Urban Conga designed *pARC* to inspire a variety of ways to play. From constructive play to fantasy play, the installation is a transformative communal platform for all users to engage with the space, the Museum, and the University in new ways.



"We couldn't be more excited about *pARC*," said Lauren Turner, the Ackland's associate curator for contemporary art and special projects. "From the 10,000 UNC students who take part in classes each year at the Ackland, to the participants in our programs for families and children, to K-12 and community groups and countless passersby, I hope that everyone will take time to explore *pARC* and make it their own."

The interactive installation is made up of a series of archways that mimic the archway of the Ackland's front door. These interconnected arcs appear to grow up from the ground and frame a variety of social spaces that allow people to put their own identities onto the work, the Museum, and the surrounding space. Each of these archways frames or reflects its




surroundings, allowing users to look at the area through a different lens. As they pass by the work, they begin to notice that their movement changes the colors of the panels, which spark different filtered views of what is around them.

"Play is our natural driver as humans to discover, explore, and empathize with others. With this project we are focused on highlighting the value of utilizing open-ended play design to break down social barriers and connect people of all ages within the Ackland terrace space," said Ryan Swanson of the Urban Conga.



The installation responds both to the user and to the environment, reflecting and refracting the surrounding context through its colorful dichroic lenses while casting shadows onto the ground and the panels themselves. During the day, as the sun passes over, visitors can see their shadows thrown onto the framed panels creating a shadow play interaction that makes people literally part of the work itself. At night this same effect is created through the use of red, green, and blue lights that allow people to mix the colors of their shadows behind the panels. At each end of the installation sits a platform that serves as a social seating space but also a stage for people to perform their

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shadow plays on the work.

Featuring a year-round calendar of special exhibitions and dynamic public programs, the Ackland Art Museum on UNC-Chapel Hill's historic campus is a local museum with a global outlook that bridges campus and community. Admission to the Ackland is free and accessible to all. The Ackland's holdings include more than 20,000 works of art. The collection spans cultures and time periods, showcasing the breadth of human creativity. A vital teach-

ing resource, the museum's mission is the art of understanding. Visitors can connect with the complexity and beauty of the wider world by getting close to art — the familiar, the unexpected, the challenging.

The Ackland Art Museum is located on South Columbia Street on the UNC Chapel Hill campus. Visit us online at ([ackland.org](http://ackland.org)) to explore our collection, educational activities for all ages, interpretive guides, virtual events, and more.

# Orange County Arts Commission in Hillsborough, NC, Offers Group Exhibit

The Orange County Arts Commission (OCAC) will present *Insight*, featuring work by paper artist Audrey Pinto, photo sculptor Mar Hester, and fiber artist Christine Hager-Braun, on view at the Eno Arts Mill Gallery located at 437 Dimmocks Mill Road, Suite 17, in Hillsborough, NC. The exhibition will open on Aug. 5, with a reception from 6-9pm during the Eno Mill Gallery and Studios Open Friday. The artwork will be on display through Aug. 31, 2022.

In this 3-person exhibit, each artist shares a different focus of their intuitive practices including Audrey Pinto's three-dimensional paper weavings that invite the viewer to look deeply at the layers that speak of a history of depression, healing, and strength, Mar Hester's sculptural forms using digitally altered photographs that question what one identifies as reality, and Christine Hager-Braun's abstract line art using textiles and stitching that celebrate resilience and perseverance.

The artists invite the viewers to look deeply at what is revealed and what remains hidden between the margins within their works.

Audrey Pinto offered the following statement, "I am a paper and fiber artist who is interested in exploring the margins between contemporary fiber and textile art and craft. I am drawn to the ancient arts of weaving and embroidery - the old crafts where women and community have played a central, collaborative role in the making and creating process. Using paper rather than thread and yarn allows me the freedom to examine weaving using found and recycled materials and to experiment with multiple layers and overlays that bear resemblance to tapestries from the past. My weaving process is intuitive where the placement of each strip of paper tells a story, speaks of a memory or thought, and makes a statement about my personal history and community.



Work by Christine Hager-Braun

The rhythmic, repetitive process of weaving connects me to my heart and soul and to a space where the noise and static around me slows.

Christine Hager-Braun offered the following statement, "Inspired by our inner strength to cope when faced with adversity, tragedy, or severe health issues, my work revolves around the topics of personal growth, the gift of resilience, and the power of positive mindset. My abstract fiber art is based on the deep awareness, acceptance, and connection to my own emotional growth through the challenges I have faced, in particular my experience with depression. However, my work does not focus on difficulties, pain, or struggle. Instead, by piecing together a multitude of brightly colored, soft fabric strips I reflect on the many lessons I have learned to believe in my ability to heal and to trust in my perseverance. Using my voice as artist I strive to reveal insights, normalize the conversation about mental health, and provide visual encouragement through my art.

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings or visit (<https://artsorange.org/enomill/>).

# Hillsborough Gallery of Arts in Hillsborough, NC, Offers New Exhibit

The Hillsborough Gallery of Arts in Hillsborough, NC, will present *Out of the Woods*, featuring works by member artists Marcy Lansman, Ellie Reinhold and Jason Smith, from Aug. 23 through Sept. 24, 2022. A reception will be held on Aug. 26, from 6-9pm.

During COVID, walking in the woods

was a life-saver for painter Marcy Lansman, a way to spend time with friends without masks, without worry. So it's not surprising that many of the paintings she created during this period were inspired by what she saw on these walks in the woods. "A typical pattern these summer mornings has been for

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