

## Artspace in Raleigh, NC, Offers Works by Amy Gross and Barry Sparkman

Artspace in Raleigh, NC, is presenting the exhibit, *Microcosms/Macrocosms*, featuring works by Amy Gross and Barry Sparkman, on view in Gallery 2 through Mar. 31, 2012.

*Microcosms/Macrocosms* presents the work of two artists exploring similar concepts, though utilizing vastly different media and techniques. Amy Gross' two- and three-dimensional works are stitched, sculptural fiber works, while Barry Sparkman's mixed media works incorporate printmaking and painting techniques.



Work by Amy Gross

Gross' works are an attempt to merge the natural observable world with her own inner life. Gross notes that she is "trying to remake nature sieved through my experiences. I've always been attracted and frightened by things that are in their fullest bloom but on the verge of spoiling. There's beauty and sadness in them, heightened by the undeniable inevitability of their ending in death. This fascination and fear describes my own psychology more than I would like to admit."

The process forces Gross to consider that which she would rather not – the heedlessness of time, of aging, and of the stealthy undermining of illness. Works similar to those exhibited at Artspace began when some people closest to Gross were diagnosed with illnesses that at the time were mostly unknown. With few symptoms or signs, Gross began a process that made the microscopic – essentially the invisible – real. Her current stitched works mimic both the microscopic and life forms in our human eye scale. These forms grow, take over, and climb. Though they diagram stages of decay and change, the different is that these forms are not corporeal – they cannot evolve or die. Gross recognizes that making these objects doesn't alter reality, but for the artist, it freezes time, if just for a little while.

Gross was born and raised on Long Island, NY, and received her BFA from The Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art in NYC. After attending The Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture in ME, she returned to NY and established Color Box Studio, Inc., a design company specializing in textile and surface design, and Amy Designs, Inc., concentrating on children's product development. Following a move to South Florida in 1999 Gross began working in fiber. Her pieces evolved from beaded, painted, and embroidered works on canvas to three-dimensional embellished objects.

Gross' works has been widely exhibited including in Florida at the Boca Raton Museum of Art, The Donna Tribby Gallery, The Armory Art Center, and 18 Rabbit Gallery, as well as nationally including at Three Graces Gallery and the Portsmouth Museum of Art, Portsmouth, NH, Target Gallery, Alexandria, VA, London House Gallery, Lexington, KY, and Kenise Barnes Fine Art, NY. Her work is represented by Watson MacRae Gallery. Gross' work has appeared in the summer 2009 issue of *Fiber Arts* and the winter 2009 issue of *Visual Overtures* magazine. In 2012, her work will be included in the botany-themed issue of HESA Inprint.

Barry Sparkman uses abstraction to suggest the sense of a subconscious universe. Lines and shapes twist and stream through multicolored environments to create the sense of a fourth-dimensional space accessible through the artist's imagination. The spiraling tendrils and

wave-like forms often seem to allude to living organisms; the ambiguous space they inhabit simultaneously suggests a microcosm and a macrocosm. While his imagery typically arises spontaneously, based upon formal or emotional impulses, more recently he has been inspired by images from biology, particularly microbiology.

Sparkman often works subtractively when creating his oil paintings, laying down paint and then scraping off lines and layers to create complex, textured surfaces and subtle color effects. His recent monoprints have provided another means for layering colors and textures through the use of photo-silkscreen. The swirling, colorful, other-worldly environments that he creates are simultaneously beautiful and alien, even while the organic and spatial elements refer distantly to our more familiar, mundane world.

A native of Tennessee, Sparkman was an artist from an early age. After completing his BFA at Middle Tennessee State University, he earned a MFA in painting at Louisiana State University in 1989, and recently earned a second MFA in printmaking from the University of Miami. He has held a variety of jobs while pursuing his art career, including working on a ranch in Montana and running a convenience store. Sparkman also has worked as a museum preparator and galleries manager at the Art Museum of Florida International University and the Lowe Art Museum at the University of Miami. He has taught at Florida International University, Miami and Clarion University, Pennsylvania, among others.



Work by Barry Sparkman

Sparkman has shown his work extensively, including solo shows in Miami, Nashville, Atlanta, and Chapel Hill, as well as group shows across the country from Provincetown, MA, to Alamosa, CO. He currently works out of his studio in Phoenix, AZ.

Artspace, a thriving visual art center located in downtown Raleigh, brings the creative process to life through inspiring and engaging education and community outreach programming, a dynamic environment of over 30 professional artists studios, and nationally acclaimed exhibitions. Approximately 95 artists hold professional memberships in the Artspace Artists Association. Thirty-five of these artists have studios located at Artspace. Artspace is located in Historic City Market in Raleigh at the corner of Blount and Davie Streets.

Artspace is supported by the North Carolina Arts Council, the United Arts Council of Raleigh and Wake County, the Raleigh Arts Commission, individuals, corporations, and private foundations.

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, call the center at 919/821-2787 or visit ([www.artspacenc.org](http://www.artspacenc.org)).

## Adam Cave Fine Art in Raleigh, NC, Offers Works by Joseph Cave

What happens when a renowned Southern landscape painter turns his full attention to floral still-lives and interiors? When the artist is Joseph Cave, a whole new genre is born. Adam Cave Fine Art in Raleigh, NC, will present *The Floral Reimagined*, an exhibit of twelve new oils on canvas, on view from Mar. 1 through Apr. 14, 2012.



Work by Joseph Cave

Cave reimagines the traditional still life in paintings full of bold color, playful pattern, and rich, abstract brushwork.

There is nothing still about these still-

lives. The artist starts with the simplest of ideas, placing a bouquet of flowers in a jar or vase, and painting what he sees. But in each work we see amazing flights of fancy as patterns of tablecloths and shadows on the wall all compete with the flowers themselves for the viewer's attention. This controlled chaos moves the viewer's eye around the canvas of which there is not one square inch lacking in visual interest. Gone is the traditional subject and background we are used to. The resulting paintings seem more alive than the flowers that they depict.

Cave has been painting professionally for almost fifty years. Born in Columbia, SC, the artist attended the University of Georgia followed by the San Francisco Art Institute and San Francisco State University. Following his MFA he spent years in Northern California, as well as Europe, returning to the South in the late 80's.

Cave settled in Durham, NC, and now resides in the mountains near Asheville, NC. Adam Cave Fine Art is located on the second floor of a 120-year-old historic building in the heart of downtown Raleigh.

For further information check our NC Commercial Gallery listings, call the gallery at 919/838-6692 or visit ([www.adamcavefineart.com](http://www.adamcavefineart.com)).

## Progress Energy Center for the Performing Arts in Raleigh, NC, Offers Annual Exhibit Featuring NC Artists

The Raleigh Fine Arts Society is proud to host its *34th North Carolina Artists Exhibition*, on view from Mar. 4 through May 2, 2012. This juried exhibition for multimedia visual art features established and emerging artists from more than 60 counties across North Carolina. The exhibit will be on view in the Betty Ray McCain Gallery at the Progress Energy Center for the Performing Arts in Raleigh, NC. An awards reception will begin at 2pm on Mar. 4, with a juror's lecture offered in Meymandi Hall at the Progress Energy Center for the Performing Arts.

This year's juror is Mark Sloan, Director and Senior Curator of the Halsey Institute of Contemporary Art at the College of Charleston, School of the Arts in Charleston, SC. In his twenty-seven year career he has organized hundreds of exhibitions, ranging from contemporary Japanese installation art to 19th Century Baluchi tribal weavings. Several of his exhibitions have traveled to institutions such as the High Museum in Atlanta, Yerba Buena Center for the Arts in San Francisco, the New Orleans Museum of Art, and others. Sloan will be viewing 584 works submitted by 309 artists. He will select approximately 65 for the show.

Event sponsors are John William Pope Foundation, Smith, Anderson, Blount, Dorsett, Mitchell & Jernigan, LLP and Mary Duke Biddle Foundation.

In 1978-79, the Raleigh Fine Arts Society sponsored its first juried show for multimedia art created by Wake County artists. This exhibition expanded over

the years and now attracts artists from all over the state. Thousands of spectators who come to the Progress Energy Center for the Performing Arts enjoy having this opportunity to view and purchase artwork created by North Carolina artists.

The Raleigh Fine Arts Society had its beginning in 1964 when a small number of volunteers staged an exhibition of local art at the Olivia Raney Library in Raleigh. The following year the Raleigh Fine Arts Society, Inc. was formed. The role today of The Raleigh Fine Arts Society remains as it was in 1965: To encourage the pursuit of art, music and the written word. That means identifying, supporting and recognizing creative people and helping assure their work is seen, heard and appreciated. This organization has established and nurtured the essential links among those who support these pursuits, those who enjoy them and those whose hands, hearts and minds create them.

Since the 1970's, The Raleigh Fine Arts Society has been actively involved in a variety of projects that support the arts. In addition to the art exhibition, other projects include an annual Choral Celebration for elementary schools in Wake County and an annual Literary Contest, open to short story writers from every high school in Wake County, public or private.

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, call 919/787-7480, ext. 1064 or visit ([www.raleigh-finearts.org](http://www.raleigh-finearts.org)).

## Ackland Art Museum in Chapel Hill, NC, Features Works by Thomas Hart Benton, Thornton Dial, and Quilts

The Ackland Art Museum in Chapel Hill, NC, will present several new exhibits including: *Chords of Memory: Lithographs by Thomas Hart Benton*, on view from Mar. 9 through May 13, 2012; *Thornton Dial: Thoughts on Paper*, on view from Mar. 30 through July 1, 2012 and *Piece by Piece: Quilts, Collages, and Constructions*, on view from Mar. 30 through July 1, 2012..

Associated with the Regionalist move-

ment, Thomas Hart Benton wanted to create a "living art" that presented American subjects in a way that was easily accessible to everyday people. He traveled on sketching trips around America's heartland during the Depression, often playing his harmonica in exchange for room and board. His lithographs record his travels, paying homage to the people and places that he encountered.

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The deadline each month to submit articles, photos and ads is the 24th of the month prior to the next issue. This will be Mar. 24th for the April 2012 issue and Apr. 24 for the May 2012 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)).