

SC Festival of Flowers in Greenwood

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& 2, 2018.

An Arts & Crafts Show will be held at the Uptown Greenwood Market, on June 1 & 2, 2018. The event features original work from talented artists and crafts people from all over the Southeast. All juried exhibitors' work has been handmade by the exhibitors and must be their own original design and creation. See the creative process in action with several of our exhibitors demonstrating their craft in their booths. Something for every taste and budget with items from the most contemporary to the most traditional.

Beside these visual art offerings there will be many other events taking place during the month of June. For further



Street flowers in downtown Greenwood

information visit www.scfestivalofflowers.org.

West Main Artists Co-op in Spartanburg, SC, Features Works by Shelley Sperka

Tryon, NC artist Shelley Sperka is showcasing her latest work in fused glass, in the exhibit, *Murmurs*, featuring works by Tryon, NC, fused glass artist, Shelley Sperka, on view through May 12, 2018.

The 14 pieces of colorful and delicate sculpture convey the artist's concern for the environment, creating emotional reactions of exuberance, sorrow, resignation, and determination.

"I was inspired by the dying of the earth," the 66-year-old New York native said. "We are documenting this death. This is my way of acknowledging and expressing my sorrow. The art is not sad. It is the message that is sad."

Indeed, the art at first consideration is jewel-like: non-representational constructions with vivid colors and striking shapes. Using a wide variety of glass, some of the pieces suggest water and space by incorporating circle of various shades of blue and green into a circular pattern. Other pieces use a dominant red-orange-yellow palette in conflicting and overlapping shapes that might suggest nature's struggle to survive.

"I came to realize that I was an artist late in life," Sperka said. "I started making fused glass in 1984 and came back to it in 2006 after rearing my children. I have been working with fused glass for 20 years," she said. Sperka's mother was a watercolorist, stained glass artist, and painter, and was Sperka's major influence as she slowly discovered she wanted to create art as well. She believes her mother taught her "how to see."

"This work is a departure from what I've done in the past," she said. "I have larger works and more abstract works, as well as some functional pieces." It took Sperka four months to create this exhibit, and all of the works will be for sale, ranging in price from \$20 to \$300.

In her artist's statement, Sperka said, "I use a painterly approach to creating fused glass. I don't think of glass as 'hard.' Rather, I approach it as if it were pliable as part of a palette. I am always interested in how the colors react with light and with each other. I don't really know how to describe the origins of my ideas. They sometimes wake me up: Often I daydream and suddenly I have an idea about making a piece. My work tends toward the abstract. It's a way to express myself and my relationship to the world."

Sperka attended her first glass workshop when her children were young. She instantly fell in love with the process. Between that October and Christmas of 1988, she made more than 200 pendants. She was on fire with love for the glass and the process. She has made abstract landscapes, frit (crushed glass) paintings, bowls, and plates. She has studied with Karoline Shaffer O'Rourke and John O'Rourke, the late Jo Harrison, and



Work by Shelley Sperka

attended three Slumpfest workshops at Slumpy's in Belmont, NC. She attended Open Glass Studio at Tryon Arts and Crafts School with other creative and supportive glass artists.

Besides being an artist, Sperka is the Director of Systems and Applications at Wofford College's library.

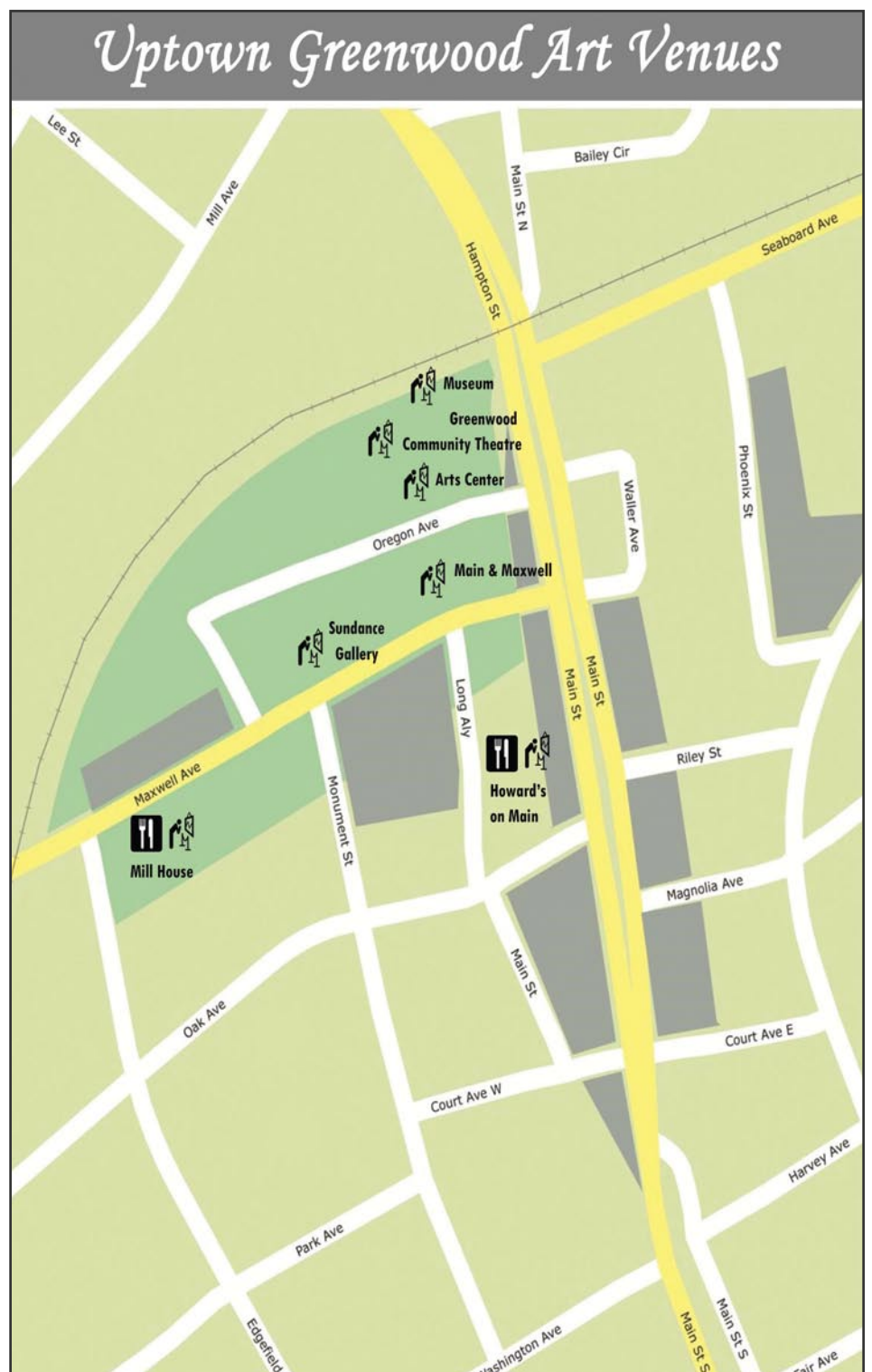
Sperka has been a member of West Main Artists Co-op for a year. "I am very excited about this exhibit, because WMAC a very supportive group of artists, and because this is my first solo exhibit," she said. "As I have gotten ready for this exhibit, I have received wonderful advice, information, suggestions and therapy from those who have gone before. It is a real pleasure to be a part of this Co-op."

When patrons see her latest work, the message she hopes to convey is "Creativity is available to all of us," she said. "Creating art is a sacred activity. It is a way of communicating without using words, which are often inadequate.

"The most important thing to be said is 'please come see the exhibit,'" she continued. "Visiting galleries and art openings is a two-part communication. I am communicating with you by creating and show my work. You cannot receive my communication about my work unless you come see it."

West Main Artists Co-op is a nonprofit, all-volunteer arts group on West Main Street in Spartanburg. It is housed in the former West Main Baptist Church and is continuously renovated by its members who are 50-plus strong. It provides affordable work spaces for more than 30 artists in the 20,000-square-foot building. In addition, the Co-op has the largest collection of locally made art for sale with extremely diverse buying options, including pottery, jewelry, paintings, sculptures, quilts. Each month, the Co-op hosts three new exhibits by its members and nonmembers, some of whom enjoy regional and even national recognition.

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings or visit www.WestMainArtists.org.



Hampton III Gallery in Greenville, SC, Offers Works by Yuri Tsuzuki

Hampton III Gallery in Greenville, SC, is presenting *Forest Meditation - Shinrin-Yoku* (a mental walk through the forest), featuring paintings and sculptures by Yuri Tsuzuki, on view through May 26, 2018.

Featured are small works on paper that date back to the early 1990's. In 1994 the Greenville County Museum of Art presented a solo exhibition of Tsuzuki's work which included many of the small paintings that are being shown in this exhibition. Along with the intimate paper works, several large canvases and recent sculpture will be on display.

Tsuzuki offered the following artist statement, "My art is like calligraphy in space. It is a means of finding a voice in the absence of vocabulary. In my work, I value the negative space as much as the positive. The negative space may be the gaps of silence in a conversation - gaps like our memory which are sometimes erased and absent. As I work in different sites, spaces, and countries, I am often times reminded of my own childhood - a time of living and bridging two very different worlds: Nagoya, Japan and Greenville, S.C. This experience compelled me to create art that speaks and appreciates many languages, mediums, and cultures."

"After graduating from Princeton University in 1989, I had the opportunity to work closely with the environmental artist, "Christo and Jeanne-Claude," on the Umbrella Project in both Japan and California," added Tsuzuki. "Christo's guidance and exuberant passion for public dialogue and art gave me my first taste, insight, and interest in pursuing public art. Later, after completing my Masters degree at Columbia University in 1994, I worked for several years with John Szarkowski (Director of Photography) and Peter Galassi (Head Curator of Photography) at the Museum of Modern Art. All through this time, I worked for NHK, the primary Japanese tv broadcasting network.



Work by Yuri Tsuzuki

I reported the news every day from our offices in Rockefeller Center for *Good Morning Japan*. This was a convenient way for my parents to check in on me every morning!"

"During all these years, I continued my work as an artist. At the time, my studio at Union Square was a tiny 100 square feet but it had a great view of The Empire State Building."

"My work in steel began during six years spent in Bogota, Colombia. Steel, in all the many forms it takes, is a challenge both physical and mental," says Tsuzuki. "As an artist, I respect its properties, its limitations and its potential. Steel can be cold, unbending, and stark. In my sculptures, steel reflects light. It plays with shadows. Burnished to a shine, it shimmers. Powder coated in colors, it

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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 May 24th for the June 2018 issue and June 24th for the July 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).