

# West Main Artist Cooperative

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her MA and MFA in painting and drawing from the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque.

Regula will be exhibiting new works made by using various mixed media techniques. The works are three-dimensional relief wall hangings and free standing sculptures. From earliest memory she has always liked to make things by mixing many materials together. Over the past several years she has explored many new ways to use polymer clay. Not satisfied with traditional methods of working with this clay, she has developed techniques which allow her to incorporate other materials into the works of clay. Other materials may be string, metal, wood, glass etc. The works then become "canvases" on which she paints.

Regula states, "As I work with the clay, I allow the clay to show me in which direction it wants to go. I may start off with an idea or a sketch of what I want to accomplish but in the end, it is always about the clay and how the other materials added to the clay want to travel together. When their 'journey' together gets to an end, it is up to me to become a painter and travel with them to complete the piece."

Prater will be exhibiting new encaustic wax paintings. She says of her work; "I have always enjoyed discovering and exploring new media. Over the past five years I have explored the encaustic wax method of painting and enjoy its ability to create ethereal visual effects through its transparency and layering process."

In addition to direct painting Prater experiments with a variety of photography, collage, and transfer methods within the encaustic wax. Her newest work explores



Work by Beth Regula

the inclusion of oil medium within the layers of wax. Linear elements are created through incisions and scratches on the soft surface in which oil is captured.

"Visually the new works are meant to be playful dream-like worlds in which birds, boats, ladders, and horses are the methods in which to move from one place to another. My work explores the concept that our entire life is nothing but a constant journey," says Prater.

WMAC is funded in part by the Art Partnership and the South Carolina Arts Commission which receives support from the National Endowment for the Arts.

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings or call the Co-op at 864/804-6501.

## Furman University in Greenville, SC, Features Works by Peter Wexler

Furman University in Greenville, SC, is presenting *Creating a Digital Museum: The Art and Theatre Work of Peter Wexler*, featuring works by this renowned New York theatre designer, producer, painter, sculptor and photographer, on view in the Thompson Gallery of Furman University's Roe Art Building, through Oct. 5, 2013.

The exhibition is the product of an ambitious large-scale project involving the digitization of Wexler's professional art and design work by the Digital Collections Center of Furman's James B. Duke Library. The digitization project is made possible through a donation from Furman University trustee Todd Ruppert and his wife, Karen.

The exhibition centers around Wexler's work on the grand opera "Les Troyens" ("The Trojans") by Hector Berlioz and performed by the New York Metropolitan Opera in 1973. The opera depicts the ill-fated love affair between Aeneas and Dido and how the fall of Troy portended the birth of Rome.

Wexler assisted with the production concepts for "Les Troyens" and was responsible for set design, costume design, special effects, and film direction. As such, the exhibit materials include his costume design sketches, 3-D scale models of the set pieces, paint elevations, a Trojan helmet, and sculpture inspired by "Les Troyens." These physical pieces will be shown along with their digital counterparts displayed on a large flat-panel TV.

Rick Jones, manager of the library's Digital Collections Center, is leading a team of students who are photographing, scanning and editing more than 6,000 pieces of Wexler's art spanning more than 50 years. The materials are related to opera, theatre and concerts developed for clients such as the New York Philharmonic, the Metropolitan Opera, and the Boston Pops. Among the items in Wexler's collection are 3-D scale models of sets, costume design sketches, paint elevations, sculptures, photographs, 35mm slides, drawings, paintings, posters, documents and other ancillary materials.

Wexler loaned these items from his



Work by Peter Wexler

New York studio to the Digital Collections Center which is converting materials to digital format using high-quality digital cameras and flatbed scanners. Once complete, the digitized items will be paired with rich descriptions and made accessible through a truly unique and interactive website. The finished Peter Wexler Digital Museum will simulate the feeling of strolling through an art gallery in an online environment, and will provide the Furman community and general public a valuable resource for research, instruction and learning. The Peter Wexler Digital Museum is expected to be fully accessible by Sept. 2014.

The exhibition is funded in part by the Duke Endowment.

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings or call the Furman University Department of Art at 864/294-2074. For more info about the Peter Wexler Digital Museum, contact Christy Allen, Assistant Director for Discovery Services, Furman University Libraries by calling 864/294-2258 or e-mail to (christy.allen@furman.edu).

## Lander University in Greenwood, SC, Features Works by Todd Stewart

Lander University in Greenwood, SC, will present *Conduit*, featuring a sculptural installation and performance by Todd Stewart, on view in the Lander University Gallery, located in the Josephine B. Abney Cultural Center, from Sept. 2 through Oct. 4, 2013. A closing reception will be held on Oct. 3, from 5-7pm. The artist will lead an interactive performance piece during the reception and viewers are invited to participate.

Stewart will transform the Lander University Gallery into a sculptural emotional gymnasium filled with interactive sculptures that invite the viewer to take part in the exhibition. Stewart's large sculptures stimulate the senses providing a visual, tactile and emotional experience.

For this exhibit, Stewart proposes that "By creating functional devices designed for interaction, passive viewing is transformed into an active, full body experience. The experiences that these sculptures initiate explore the mechanics of how sensation is transformed into feelings."

Stewart holds a BFA from Winthrop University and an MFA from Clemson University. He is an award winning artist exhibiting throughout the Southeast region



Work by Todd Stewart

and was recently featured in the 1st Annual ArtFields Exhibit in Lake City, SC. Stewart's colorful and textural sculptures use humor to actively engage the viewer. This installation of touchable, interactive work will not be your ordinary gallery experience. The exhibit is free and open to the public.

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings, call 864/388-8810 or visit (<http://www.lander.edu/Monsanto-Gallery.aspx>).

## Artists' Guild of Spartanburg, SC, Features Works by Lauren Hill

The Artists' Guild of Spartanburg in Spartanburg, SC, will present *Never Forget*, a solo exhibit by Lauren Hill, on view in the Guild Gallery, located at the Chapman Cultural Center, from Sept. 3 - 27, 2013. A reception will be held on Sept. 19, from 6-8pm, with an art talk at 7pm.

The exhibition is a powerful sharing of Lauren Hill's observations of families who have or have had members serving in the US. Military. As we enter the month of September, the searing memories of 911 flood our minds and hearts, and we think of those near and dear that have sacrificed lives, bodies, time and families, so our freedom is secured. It is a great honor to share with our community this exhibit that calls us all to offer thanks to our service men and women daily, as we are encouraged by this beautiful artist and her incredible art work, to "Never Forget".

Hill describes her exhibit with honesty: "I don't have any family in the military. But that doesn't matter. I don't always agree with our country's political agenda. But that doesn't matter either. I have watched families' hearts break. I have felt the sting of worry with every released war torn story that ticks across the evening news... waited and wondered if a phone call would come tomorrow. Watched mothers crumble to their knees as they're told their baby is not coming home. I have met widows and widowers who were met by Class A's at the door. I've seen a body torn apart by shrapnel, leaving wounds for a lifetime, and heard the story of how he lived and his best friend died. I've seen a man broken to the point where he no longer knows who he used to be, but only the soldier he has become."

"That is what matters," adds Hill. "And it should be so many Americans who enjoy the freedoms these war torn men and women have afforded them."

"Most of the touching things I've experienced were not said with words. It was in the gaze between two soldiers, two brothers, whom would lay down their life for the other that I was most inspired. The things they couldn't bear to talk about, expressed in a look or a pat on the back that no civilian could understand. Things they'd seen together that would never be spoken of. A nightmare of a world you and I will never see, tucked behind a brave face and a strong heart, hidden where only those who go looking can see."

"There in the shadows of life experience and heartbreak, I found my inspiration. I found a scene that the world needed to see. And so I began my journey through paintings of the soldier that you don't see



Work by Lauren Hill

on the evening news: the men and women who are known only by their family and friends, and to a stranger only a faceless weapon. I want to create a conversation about these selfless individuals who often aren't even thanked... because you and I wouldn't last a minute in most of their shoes. And we live peacefully in ours because of them," say Hill.

Hill was born in 1988 in Knoxville, TN. At a young age she began moving frequently with her family across much of the eastern United States. Despite the various moves, one thing remained constant: Hill loved creating art and was intent on learning to capture a person's likeness.

In 2006, Hill began attending Savannah College of Art and Design to major in painting. There she enjoyed working primarily realistically in oils. Through exploration of technique, she began experimenting with layered images, multiples of figures, and the concepts of time and movement across a two dimensional plane. Lauren was fascinated with capturing a moment in time and the memories that surround it. She graduated in the top of her class from SCAD in May 2010 with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Painting. Hill works both in Charlotte, NC and the Upstate of SC.

Hill continues to depict the human condition and is inspired by the emotion that art can bring. "My paintings demonstrate my desire to capture the time, form, and movement of an individual's life. I not only want to depict the human condition, but to also unpack moments of a person's life across a two dimensional plane. My work explores what the eye sees in a matter of seconds, slowing an action down, wrapping it around the body, and capturing it at various rates and resolutions."

"Time seems to pass at a constant rate, though we sometimes experience it

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