

The Johnson Collection

continued from Page 17

and Ducks: *The Surprising Convergence that Saved the Carolina Lowcountry*. Her informal lecture on the synergy between sport and environmental stewardship begins at 6pm on Sept. 20, at TJC Gallery, located at 154 West Main Street in downtown

Spartanburg.

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings, call the gallery at 864/594-5834 or visit (<http://thejohnsoncollection.org/tjc-gallery>).

West Main Artists Co-op in Spartanburg, SC, Features Works by Joan Wheatley

West Main Artists Co-op in Spartanburg, SC, is presenting *Step Into My Little World*, featuring works by Spartanburg artist Joan Wheatley, on view through Sept. 15, 2018.

Many of the works are small clay figurines of personified mice living in folksy woodlands settings, such as treehouses or stumps. These settings and figures can easily be held in the palm of a hand. In addition, Wheatley paints with oils and acrylics, and is a photographer. Her work is often described as “whimsical.”

“I hope everyone who sees my exhibit will smile and just enjoy it,” the native of Connecticut said. “I love what I do, and I think it shows. Some will love it, while others might think I am nuts. Doesn’t matter. I will be having fun.”

All of the work on exhibit will be for sale, ranging from \$5 to \$300.

Wheatley was born and reared in Connecticut and spent her youthful summers on the shores of Lake Champlain in Vermont. “It was a perfect place to sketch, paint, and collect little acorns, twigs, and tiny stones,” she said. She still collects those things to this day.

For 10 years, she, her husband, and their children lived in the Netherlands, where she learned folk art from the village of Hinde-loopen and started painting on furniture. As she progressed, the works of art become smaller and smaller. She began selling her miniature furniture at shows in 1981 and continues to sell them today at events and through her website. She currently resides on the north side of Spartanburg, in the Boiling Springs community.



Work by Joan Wheatley

“I have no formal training, but that has never stopped me on my creative journey,” Wheatley said. “My goal is to make people smile when they see my art. I am now combining my love of nature with my photography, art, and miniatures. Nature has always intrigued me, and it plays a big part in my art. I have been making whimsical miniature treehouses for years, and just a few years ago, I ventured into making porcelain clay mice for these houses. Clay is addicting, and I love it: So magical what you can create.”

Wheatley has been a member of West Main Artists Co-op for six years. “I love the fact that I can exhibit here,” she said. “So many people have not seen all of the things I do, and that should be exciting.”

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

West Main Artists Co-op in Spartanburg, SC, Features Works by Dave Sawyer

West Main Artists Co-op in Spartanburg, SC, will present *Wildness*, featuring a collection of pottery and decorative wall art by Greer, SC, artist Dave Sawyer, on view from Sept. 20 through Oct. 13, 2018. A reception will be held on Sept. 20, from 5-9pm, during the Spartanburg ArtWalk.

“This is a celebration of nature and the importance of its wildness in our world,” Sawyer said. “As Henry David Thoreau proclaimed, ‘We need the tonic of wildness, to wade sometimes in marshes where the bittern and the meadow-hen lurk...’ More so now than ever before, this is true,” he explained. “This exhibit is a celebration of the variety of nature throughout America and hopefully a reminder of the importance of untamed wilderness and its counterbalance to our world of civilization.”

The exhibition of 15 works will consist of both vessels and wall art that will be an “enjoyment and a reminder of the importance of nature and its wildness,” Sawyer said. “It will be an artistic interpretation of wildlife and natural environs found across America using clay as a canvas and a variety ceramic glazes and firing techniques with a combination of detailed designs and free-form expression of color.” Sawyer has worked on this exhibit for the past year, and the pieces will be for sale, ranging in price of \$50-\$1500.

A native of Kansas, Sawyer’s professional career of 30-plus years was in urban planning, and he worked for various cities mostly along the Pacific Coast. He began exploring his creative side in 2008 with classes at an artisan studio and soon began



Work by Dave Sawyer

working with photography as well. Now retired, he and his wife live in Greer, SC. He has no formal education or training in art but has always appreciated both photography and ceramics.

Since 2016, Sawyer has been a member of West Main Artists Co-op, where he has a studio and is also the volunteer chair of the Development Committee and a member of the Management Board. He is also a member with Carolina Clay Artists in Spartanburg and Tryon Painters and Sculptors in Tryon, NC.

“I am thrilled and very blessed to have this exhibition of my ceramic work and most of all to have my granddaughter Kaydee exhibiting her awesome photography in a show of her own in the adja-

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cent gallery here at WMAC. WMAC has provided me with an opportunity to expand my artistic experience with both wonderful studio and gallery spaces and most important of all a refreshing and enlightening collaboration with other artists in a variety of artistic mediums.”

In his artist’s statement, Sawyer says: “Much of my ceramic work uses the Western Raku technique of firing. This technique combines the interaction of clay, glaze, and fire in a rapidly changing series of environments that results in unique and often unpredictable results. I enjoy combining detailed designs with the spontaneous effects of raku glazes and firing to present elements of both structure and freedom in

West Main Artists Co-op in Spartanburg, SC, Features Works by Kaydee Hughes

West Main Artists Co-op in Spartanburg, SC, will present *Unfettered*, featuring works by Greenville, SC, professional photographer Kaydee Hughes, on view from Sept. 20 through Oct. 13, 2018. A reception will be held on Sept. 20, from 5-9pm, during the Spartanburg ArtWalk.

As a portrait and wedding photographer, Hughes’s mission is “to capture the rawest emotion possible. With my images, I set the mood for these moments with rich contrast and bold highlights.” As the exhibit will show, much of her work is considered creative, dark, and moody. The works were inspired by “My personal battles and triumphs,” the 25-year-old said. It is her hope that this exhibit will send a message of “release from restraint or inhibition.”

“Each photograph is a piece of my heart,” Hughes said. “My photographs are how I express myself. They are a direct reflection of me.” Hughes spent about four months putting this exhibit together, and the prints will be for sale, starting at \$200 each.

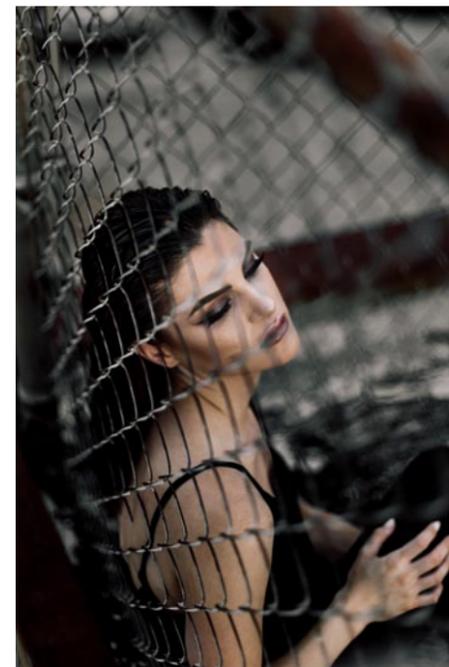
A native of Southern California, Hughes relocated to South Carolina in 2012 and started her career in photography. She is married to tattoo artist Justin Walker. The self-taught photographer said, “I love my family. I have given myself the title ‘Mom-ographer’ because I love being a mom with a camera. It has given me a hunger to capture every fleeting moment that I can. I use my photography as self discovery.”

In her artist’s statement, Hughes says, “Photography is a huge part of my life. I grew up seeing the world around me through my viewfinder. Throughout my photography career, I have photographed the most-cherished moments in my clients’ lives - weddings, births, as well as important milestones. When I am not shooting, I am always on the hunt for amazing architecture

my pieces. My inspiration comes from the world around us and reflects my love of history and God’s great gift of nature.”

West Main Artists Co-op is one of the leading arts agencies in Spartanburg. The non-profit and membership-based organization is housed in a converted church on West Main Steet, with about 30 working and/or gallery studios, three public galleries, a gift shop, a printery, a ceramics studio, and photography dark room. Each month, three exhibitions are held, showcasing the work of members and guest artists from throughout the state and region.

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



Work by Kaydee Hughes

lines and neat shadows. With my photography, I want to be a light in the dark place, a safe place in my community.” When Hughes isn’t photographing families, she spends her time collaborating with creative people in her community.

“I am so honored and thrilled for this exhibit, to display my photographs at West Main Artists Co-op,” she said. “It’s a wonderful opportunity to be surrounded by like-minded creatives in my community. I am beyond grateful for my supportive family of creatives, Justin Walker Tattoo and Dave Sawyer (her grandfather).”

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West Main Artists Co-op in Spartanburg, SC, Offers Work by Four Local Artists

West Main Artists Co-op in Spartanburg, SC, will present *Caution: Wet Paint & Whimsy*, featuring works by four Spartanburg artists, on view from Sept. 4 - 30, 2018. A reception will be held on Sept. 20, from 5-9pm.

For the second time in 10 years, four Upstate South Carolina artists, who are personal friends, will have a group exhibit. This time, Monta Anthony, George “Buck” Brandt III, Ann Crenshaw, and Karen White have contributed to *Caution: Wet Paint & Whimsy*. Each artist is contributing 10 paintings to the exhibit.

“This will be one of our more eclectic exhibits,” Curator Dwight Rose said. “Other than these people being respected artists who paint mostly in oil and who are good friends, I don’t really know their common bond. I do know from seeing their work, this exhibit will be interesting. It is sort of like having four mini-exhibits come together. They are calling it *Caution! Wet Paint & Whimsy*. Originally, I had reached out to just one of them, but on that artist’s suggestion that it be a group exhibit, I said, ‘Sure. Let’s see what you’ve got.’ They’ve got some really great



Work by George “Buck” Brandt III

art individually, as well as a group.”

All of the canvas paintings were done in oil. Generally, Anthony’s work is considered to be colorful and impressionistic, and some of her favorite subjects are landscapes, animals, and cars. Brandt’s work often has highly defined and dense colorful images with overlapping graphic elements giving the painting a modernist appeal. Crenshaw often paints landscapes and people doing routine tasks. Her paintings have a soft impressionistic quality with shadows giving depth to the composition. And White’s paintings have a dream-like quality used to depict horses,

continued on Page 19