

# Artworks Gallery in Winston-Salem

continued from Page 30

with the work.

When working on a painting, Mizel enjoys the process of moving paint across the canvas or paper, pushing it forward, drawing it back, selectively removing it, mixing it such that each color embraces its neighboring colors. If things go well, colors appear to float above foundational forms.

## University of North Carolina in Greensboro, NC, Offers Exhibit of Contemporary Rugs

The University of North Carolina in Greensboro, NC, will present *RugLife*, an exhibition featuring the work of contemporary artists, on view at Weatherspoon Art Museum, from May 24 through Aug. 9, 2025.

This summer, the Weatherspoon is excited to present *RugLife*, an exhibition featuring the work of contemporary artists who use rugs as an inventive medium to address a range of cultural topics, from housing and the environment to technology and global politics.

These artists explore the complexity of our contemporary world through an ancient form, mixing traditional patterns and motifs with popular imagery ranging from Superman to basketball courts. Simultaneously, they reimagine the form of the rug itself by making the familiar object not only from the woven yarns we might expect, but also such surprising materials as cardboard, video, hair combs, collage, and plastic furniture. No matter the substance it uses, each of the rugs in *RugLife* weaves a thoughtful discourse about many issues and concerns - on both personal and global scales. Whether they turn our thoughts to home or our place in the larger world, to aesthetics or ethics, these artworks confirm that the age-old rug continues to be a powerful vehicle for contemporary artistic expression.

Participating artists include: Nevin Aladağ (Germany, born Turkey), Azra Ak-samija (United States, born Bosnia), Ali Cha'aban (Lebanon, born Kuwait), Sonya Clark (United States), Liselot Cobelens (Netherlands), Nicholas Galanin (United

At the end, hopefully, the work is alive. Everything is in motion. Everything becomes possible.

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, call the gallery at 336/723-5890 or visit ([www.Artworks-Gallery.org](http://www.Artworks-Gallery.org)).



Ai Weiwei, "Tyger", 2022, Hand-knotted, hand-spun, hand-dyed natural Ghazni wool, 80 x 80in. Unique with two artist's proofs. Image © the artist and WWF-UK. Courtesy the artist and WWF-UK

States/Tlingit- Unangax'), Johannah Herr (United States), Oksana Levchenya (Ukraine), Noelle Mason (United States), Wendy Plomp (Netherlands), Stéphanie Saadé (France/Netherlands, born Lebanon), Slavs & Tatars (Germany, Kasia Korczak born Poland and Payam Sharif born United States), Ai Weiwei (Portugal, born China), and Andrea Zittel (United States).

*RugLife* was organized by the Museum of Craft and Design, San Francisco, and guest curators Ginger Gregg Duggan and Judith Hoos Fox of c2 curatorsquared.

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, call the Museum at 336/334-5770 or visit (<http://weather-spoon.uncg.edu/>).

## Red Springs Artspace in Red Springs, NC, Features Works by Henryk Fantazos

Red Springs Artspace in Red Springs, NC, will present *Magic Dixie: The Art of Henryk Fantazos*, on view from May 11 through June 11, 2025. A reception will be held on May 11, from 2-4pm.

This solo art exhibition of Henryk Fantazos will feature 48 paintings and 35 intaglios. When Henryk Fantazos immigrated to America in the late 1970s, he had already earned a master's degree from the Fine Arts Academy of Krakow in his native Poland. He wound up in North Carolina, which has been equally beneficial for him and us. The recurring themes of his paintings, as he puts it, are "wandering, social grotesque, commedia dell-arte and circus, and love of the South."

The theme of wandering, as he tells us, flows from his experience as an immigrant, experience that was precipitated by the Soviet invasion of his native land. His love of the South, where he has lived for the last forty-three years, is evident in paintings from his "Face of the South" cycle. He characterizes the American South as "a fragrant land of overabundant nature."

Many of his paintings have their origin in unbidden visions not unlike those that came to William Blake. But the vision is only the beginning. It must eventually be "clad in appearances." The details of his works, he reports, "finally coalesce and unite into a continuum, a new being." In contrast to Blake, who attempted to pen-



Work by Henryk Fantazos, "Blessing Cotton"

etrate the metaphysical reality beyond appearances, Fantazos wants to "stay where appearances are" because, as he puts it, "They promise a much jollier party." Appearances, he says, "spread themselves lavishly and boldly, beckoning for closer scrutiny. And the show is breathtaking."

While his attention to detail is inspired in part by the paintings of Jan van Eyck, Fantazos' works are sometimes taken as surrealistic, which he regards as a mistake. As he puts it, "Whoever does not know surrealism calls my art surrealistic." Whereas surrealist painters celebrate absurdity, Fantazos has "no use for the absurd." His objective is to build a "poetical sense within the window of continued above on next column to the right



## Boundaries

April 26 – May 31

Artists explore the limits, edges, and intersections that define our lives.

Sunset  
River  
GALLERY

What Draws Us Near, Sharon Hill, detail

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each painting." The details impart to his work a sense of rediscovery. In his words, "The process of creating a piece of art is in isolating one object after another and asking: 'Is this object rediscovered as a living, expressive being?'"

Red Springs Artspace is an art gallery located in Red Springs, NC, owned by artists Jeffery Geller and Irina Shin-Geller. The gallery showcases a diverse range of artworks, antiques, and curiosities, providing a platform for local and international artists. With its historic setting and forward-thinking approach, Red Springs Artspace enriches the cultural landscape of its community and beyond. Currently the gallery is open by appointment only.

For further information check our NC Commercial Gallery listings, call the gallery at 910/240-2887 or visit



Work by Henryk Fantazos, "Distracted Gardeners"

| (<https://www.redspringsart.space/>).

## Sunset River Gallery in Calabash, NC, Offers Juried Show

Sunset River Gallery in Calabash, NC, is presenting *Boundaries*, a Juried 2D Show, on view through May 31, 2025.

A total of 34 pieces of 2D art from artists in North and South Carolina were accepted by juror Lynn Golitz, an abstract artist from Morehead City, NC.

Participating artists were invited to explore the limits, edges, and intersections that define our lives. Where does one thing end and another begin? They examined both personal and physical boundaries, conceptual and societal boundaries.

Samantha Spalti, director for Sunset River Gallery, said, "We were looking for work that would inspire conversations on how boundaries are drawn or how they're erased. It's about offering a space for reflection and dialogue. I'm excited for gallery visitors to experience this show! Many of the artists (and the juror) will be at the opening reception. I hope people will engage them."

Located in coastal Brunswick County, NC, Sunset River Gallery caters to both area visitors and a growing local commu-



Work by Becky Steele

nity of full-time residents seeking fine art for their homes and businesses. Featuring works by over 100 fine regional artists including Betty Anglin Smith, Marcus McClanahan, Janet Sessoms, and Richard continued on Page 33