

University of South Carolina Upstate in Spartanburg, SC, Offers Works by Aaron Tucker, Mark Flowers & Jeremy Phillips

The University of South Carolina Upstate in Spartanburg, SC, is presenting *Faces, Places & Layered Dreams*, featuring works by Aaron Tucker, Mark Flowers and Jeremy Phillips, on view in the USC Upstate Art Gallery, located at the Chapman Cultural Center, through Aug. 16, 2025. May 15 – August 16 , 2025

Flowers, Phillips and Tucker are all based out of Asheville, NC, and create abstract paintings and/or collages that stem from representational imagery. Various degrees of abstraction seen throughout the works in this exhibit range from obscure to more defined depictions. Each of these seasoned artists has developed and honed his own style, uniquely showcasing his artistic skill and reflecting his own personal identity. Each uses photographs as reference, layering paint and imagery to express an underlying personal narrative.

Each member of this trio actively participates at Pink Dog Creative in Asheville's River Arts District, which offers the opportunity for close proximity to one another. This enables regular, active conversations about surface, mark-making, critique and shared observations regarding each other's artwork. Ongoing dialogue between them offers a creative community that is similar or akin to that, which often exists in a graduate school setting. As friends and admirers of each other's work, the three share camaraderie and mutual respect, which influences their individual artistry. While



Work by Mark Flowers

personal processing of life experiences is reflected in the individual artist's work, the pieces in this show feature differing themes as subject matter.

Tucker's focus could be viewed as traditional portraiture, except the women portrayed in the paintings are unknown so that their personage is not the intention, rather the painting itself acts as the driver.

Phillips' paintings are centered on places that he has lived from a bird's eye or aerial view, in which landscapes become compositions that allow his exploration of the possibilities of oil paint.

In Flowers' work, he also relies on place by capturing cell phone images through the windows of commuter trains, which are then printed, layered with paint and mixed media, becoming emotive narratives. In all three cases, these artists present compelling compositions that offer an expressive glimpse into each of their own stories.

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings or contact Leah Cabinum, Gallery Director by e-mail at (lcabinum@uscupstate.edu).

Artists Collective | Spartanburg in Spartanburg, SC, Features Works by Janis M. McElligott

The Artists Collective | Spartanburg in Spartanburg, SC, will present *Random Thoughts ... That Slip Away*, featuring acrylic paintings by Janis M. McElligott, on view in Galllery III, from June 3 - 28, 2025. A reception will be held on June 19, from 5-8pm, during the Spartanburg ArtWalk.

Upstate artist Janis M. McElligott's latest acrylic paintings offer a reflection on serious topics, emotional matters to gentle, silly, fun images. The exhibit will display 18 to 20 original acrylic paintings in various sizes and color palettes and will be offered for purchase with prices ranging from \$30 to \$1,800.

"This artwork reflects my random thoughts on various topics that flash through a news cycle" says McElligott, a native of Massachusetts who now lives in Taylors.

"For the paintings in this exhibit I utilized canvas size and a broad paint palette ranging from dark hues to bright colors to enhance and capture the moods of the various subject matters, which range from current news topics to light, silly thoughts of pure imagination," she adds. "I hope this exhibit conveys how quickly we move from one thought to another, or one emotion to another, with no connection between them. These paintings are an attempt to give pause and reflection on a topic or feeling for just a moment more. These days we rarely have time to build on a thought. We just move on."



Work by Janis M. McElligott

"In today's world, information comes at record speed and through various media – print, radio, television, film, video, audio recording and internet," adds McElligott.



Work by Janis M. McElligott

ott. "Even if we don't want to consume information, we are eating it. Headlines are read, hooks are heard, thoughts are planted, with no time given to understanding what we have consumed. The paintings in this exhibit put on display some of my fleeting thoughts inspired by the media."

McElligott says her message through the paintings in the exhibit is, "It's good to stop and think about the information we consume. In today's explosive environment we are assaulted with messaging and that messaging quickly transforms into thoughts, with or without understanding. These painting are a presentation of my thoughts"

McElligott takes inspiration from a quote by author James Baldwin – "All art is a kind of confession."

"My paintings are mine," she says. "They are composed of things I've seen or emotions I share – all put on canvas as my declaration to loving life's moments. The simplest sights can help the heart remember what's important. Whether it be a loving pet continued above on next column to the right

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remembered, a little girl feeling the crash of an ocean wave or the silence of snow. All these things provoke a wide range of emotions. These varying emotions are captured by using the gaiety of vivid colors to the solemnity of gray scale. It's my hope that you too feel the moment."

McElligott is a self-taught artist with no professional art training. She has practiced her love of drawing, with a focus on realism, for a lifetime. She carried her sketch pad with her wherever she went, serving to either capture a moment or escape one. In retirement, her sketching expanded to acrylic painting, adding color to life's moments. Her art has been exhibited in galleries, juried shows and private collections. She currently is working on commissioned paintings and juried shows.

A member of the Artists Collective |

Spartanburg for five years, McElligott says she is excited about the upcoming exhibit. "It's a blessing for an artist to have a space available to display a body of their work. The Artists Collective supports both the artist and the community. Artists gather here to share their artwork and knowledge and skills with each other and the community. The Artists Collective offers space for gatherings, art classes and much more. It's a great place for all who share the love of art."

The Artists Collective | Spartanburg is located on W. Main Street, provides a forum and home for the arts and creative population of Spartanburg, providing facilities and services to artist members for exhibits, performances and creation.

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

Artists Collective | Spartanburg in Spartanburg, SC, Features Works by Robyn Crawford

Artists Collective | Spartanburg in Spartanburg, SC, will present *Celestial Spirits: Sacred Light of the Sun, Moon and Stars*, featuring works by Robyn Crawford, on view in Gallery II, from June 3 - 28, 2025. A reception will be held on June 19, from 5-8pm, during the Spartanburg ArtWalk.

North Carolina artist Robyn Crawford's latest mixed media works are a continuation of her "goddess series," celebrating myths and legends that connect us. The 18 pieces in the show will be offered for purchase with prices ranging from \$150 to \$2,500.

"This is a celestial-inspired exhibit celebrating the divine essence of the moon, sun and stars, embodied through creations using crystals, glass and resin," the Hendersonville artist says. "Each piece radiates energy, connecting earthly materials to the mystique of the heavens. This work is a continuation of my goddess series I have been creating for three years



Work by Robyn Crawford

now."

The exhibit is "a celebration of the [continued on Page 17](#)