

CAM Raleigh in Raleigh, NC

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of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Her work has been exhibited nationally at institutions including The Mint Museum (NC), Kathryn Markel Fine Arts (NY), Brandt Roberts Gallery (OH), Blue Spiral 1 (NC), and Bad Water (TN), and featured in publications such as *Textiel Plus*, *New American Paintings*, and *New York Magazine*.

Buckner has participated in residencies at Unlisted Projects (TX), Design Inquiry (ME), and Konstapedimen (Sweden), continuing to develop a practice that thrives on experimentation, collaboration, and the disruption of traditional hierarchies in art and education.

Andréa Keys Connell is an Associate Professor of Ceramics at Appalachian State University, known for her emotionally resonant figurative sculptures. Her work has been featured in Colossal, The New York Times, and exhibited internationally at institutions such as the Jane Hartsook Gallery in New York and the Gaya Culture and Art Center in Korea. Represented by Blue Spiral 1 (Asheville, NC) and J Mackey Gallery (East Hampton).

Connell has completed over 20 solo exhibitions and numerous public art commissions. Her recent collaboration with Susan Alexandra was featured in *Wirecutter*. A sought-after educator and speaker, she has led workshops at Penland School of Craft (NC), Haystack Mountain School of Crafts (ME), Arrowmont School of Arts and Crafts (TN), and The Metropolitan Museum of Art (NYC), and presented at conferences including the National Council on Education for the Ceramic Arts and Women Working in Clay.

Like a storm that both unsettles and awakens, Connell’s practice embraces chaos, care, and the transformative force of motherhood – each sculpture holding the tension between breaking and being held.

Jeana Eve Klein is a multidisciplinary artist and educator based in Boone, NC, where she is Professor of Fibers at Appalachian State University. Working at the intersection of textiles, digital media, and social practice, her studio practice explores themes of labor, memory, value, and the often-tenuous relationship between lived experience and its digital representation. From bead-woven recreations of family photographs to AI-generated weaving experiments, her recent projects examine the disconnect between physical reality and virtual perception.

Klein’s work has been exhibited nationally, with solo shows at OZ Arts (Nashville) and ArtSpace (Raleigh), and group exhibitions at the Museum of Design (Atlanta) and PULSE Contemporary Art Fair (Miami Beach). She holds an MFA from Arizona State University and a BFA from North Carolina State University and is a recipient of the North Carolina Arts Council Individual Craft Artist Fellowship.

Jenny Pickens is a self-taught, multidisciplinary artist born and raised in Asheville, NC, whose work spans over four decades and a wide range of media - from fiber arts and pottery to pen & ink, oils, and hand-crafted dolls. Deeply rooted in the Black experience, her work reflects stories of resilience, culture, and identity, often gracing public spaces, galleries, and publications such as *The New York Times*, *Mountain Xpress*, *The Laurel of Asheville*, and more.

Pickens has been featured on Blue Ridge Public Radio, *Samantha Brown’s Places to Love*, and *The Story of Art in America*, and is known locally for her celebrated murals, including her role as a lead artist for Asheville’s Black Lives Matter mural. In addition to her studio practice, she teaches art at Asheville PEAK Academy and leads workshops that empower youth and community through creativity. Whether through dolls, murals, or mixed media, Pickens continues to uplift and inspire, using her art as a bridge between generations and cultures.

Kenny Pieper is a master glass artist whose elegant vessels and sculptural works reflect the natural beauty of his home in the mountains of North Carolina. Raised in the region, he began his craft at the Penland School of Craft and went on to study at the Center for Creative Studies in Detroit and

earn his BFA from California College of the Arts.

After 16 years working as a glass-blower in the San Francisco Bay Area, Pieper returned to North Carolina, where he deepened his expertise in traditional Italian glass techniques while managing the glass studios at Penland. His work, known for its refined form and technical brilliance, is held in the collections of the Corning Museum of Glass (NY), Museum of Fine Arts Boston, Asheville Art Museum, and others.

Daniel Rich is a painter known for his precise, hard-edged depictions of architecture that explore the visual language of power, control, and memory. He received his MFA from Tufts University and the School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, and has exhibited widely, with solo shows at Miles McEnery Gallery (New York), StudioTrouble (Berlin), and the Museum of Fine Arts Boston, among others.

Rich’s work is held in public and private collections including the Museum of Fine Arts Boston, Collezione Maramotti (Italy), and the Hudson Valley Museum of Contemporary Art. Living and working between Blowing Rock, NC, and Berlin, Germany, Rich approaches painting with the focus of stillness in a storm – his compositions revealing the quiet, systemic forces that shape our built environment.

Jerrie Settles, known artistically as JEMS Creations Art, creates work deeply rooted in faith, family, and the enduring grace of God. Her creative journey began with the 2007 publication of her children’s book *A Prayer for Wings – A Journey of Nipaerilla the Caterpillar*, which she both authored and illustrated. Since then, her artistic expression has expanded to include tutoring, art therapy, and digital media, all united by a spiritual thread that runs through each piece.


Settles signs her work “JEMS,” a name infused with personal meaning, honoring her family and faith: J for Jerrie, E for Essie (her grandmother and childhood hero), M for Mae (a name she chose on her adoption day), and S for Settles (her married name). To her, JEMS also carries a divine message - Jesus Eternally Making Sketches - a reminder that God’s creative work is ongoing in her life. As a “Trusted Art Seller” with The Art Storefronts Organization, Settles proudly stands behind the quality and heart of every piece she creates.

Margo Vaughn is an abstract painter whose layered, exploratory process blends expressive drawing with contemporary painting fundamentals including color, composition, texture, and balance. Working primarily in acrylic with elements of collage and mixed media, her pieces invite viewers into a deep, immersive space where surface and emotion intertwine. Each painting becomes a quiet excavation, encouraging close inspection and dialogue with what lies beneath. Rooted in the psychology of the shadow self, Vaughn’s work gives form to unspoken emotions – grief, memory, fear, and longing offering a visual language for the complex and often hidden corners of human experience.

Rigoberto Mena: Skin of the City, is the other exhibition at CAM Raleigh, on view in the CAM Lower Level Gallery. Step into the emotional topography of Cuba as seen through the eyes of acclaimed abstract expressionist Rigoberto Mena.

In *Rigoberto Mena: Skin of the City*, Mena draws inspiration from his homeland’s urban landscapes and vibrant spirit, peeling back its surface to reveal raw textures, rhythmic chaos, and quiet resilience. Through large-scale grids of color and gesture, *Skin of the City* offers a captivating dialogue between place, politics, and cultural identity where the clash of tradition and modernity underscore Mena’s gritty visual language. These tattoos of concrete, memory, and movement speak to Cuba’s past, present, and future - an invitation to experience this place not as a backdrop, but as a body.

As one of Cuba’s most renowned abstractionists, Rigoberto Mena (b. 1961, Artemisa, Cuba) draws inspiration from the urban landscapes of his homeland and the continued above on next column to the right



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resilient spirit of the Cuban people. In 2011, following the success of his solo exhibition *Hablando en Lenguas*, Mena was selected for inclusion in the collection of the National Museum of Fine Arts in Cuba.

Mena’s work is also featured in the collections of the Museum of Latin American Art (MOLAA) in Los Angeles; the Consejo Nacional de las Artes Plásticas in Havana, Cuba; and the Centro de Arte Contemporáneo Wifredo Lam, also in Havana. Additionally, Mena’s art has been exhibited widely in China, Germany, the Netherlands,

Mexico, Spain, France, and across the United States, including in Miami, Boston, Washington, D.C., and California.

CAM Raleigh is financed by the Contemporary Art Foundation, a 501(c)(3) non-profit that relies on membership and donor funding for many of the museum’s programs and exhibitions.

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, call CAM Raleigh at 919/513-0946 or visit (<http://camraleigh.org/>).

City of Raleigh, NC, Features Works by Martha Thorn & Tonya Solley Thornton

The City of Raleigh, NC, is presenting *Harmonic Chaos*, is a two-person show featuring the colorful works of artists Martha Thorn and Tonya Solley Thornton, on view in the Block Gallery (inside Raleigh Municipal Building), through Aug. 15, 2025.

Each artist approaches their work with different intentions, but both have mastered their mediums. While Thorn’s painted layered method is a controlled chaos, it is in Thornton’s chaotic approach to making where the similarities in their practices intersect. Both Thorn and Thornton demonstrate the highest artistic merit in the way they work with their chosen materials. They embody the commitment to their craft and push the boundaries of traditional working methods.



Work by Martha Thorn

United Arts Council grant. She has exhibited work in group and solo exhibitions at Cameron Art Museum, GreenHill Center for North Carolina Art, The Carrack Modern Museum, and other venues throughout the Southeast. Thorn currently has a studio at Anchorlight Studios in Raleigh, NC.

Tonya Solley Thornton’s work is deeply rooted in play and experimentation with her studio materials. She often works with found objects and fabrics sourced from thrift stores and flea markets. Using collage and found-object sculpture, she explores the expressive potential of shape, color, and texture, allowing the found materials to guide her compositions.

She earned her BFA from Florida State University and her MFA from Mills College in Oakland, CA. She has received several awards and fellowships, including the United Arts Wake County Artist Support Grant. She has had solo exhibitions at Anchorlight and the Durham Art Guild and has participated in group exhibitions at CAM Raleigh, Artspace, Lump, Peel Gallery, Wilson Arts Center, and the Durham Art Guild.

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, contact Stacy Bloom Rexrode, Curator of Exhibitions and Collections, Raleigh Arts, by calling 919/996-4687 or visit (<https://raleighnc.gov/arts/block-gallery>).



Work by Tonya Thornton

Don’t dismiss these two artists’ sophisticated use of the mediums and technical accomplishments simply because of their dazzling use of color, texture, and shape.

Placing a high value on intuition and materials, Martha Thorn makes paintings that employ multiple paint application techniques to layer high-chroma drips, sprays, and paint pours. Planes of colors serve as comforting places to land in peace before the next wave of confusion. Thorn is a full-time painter residing in Raleigh, NC.

She received a BFA with a concentration in Graphic Design from Western Carolina University. Thorn is the recipient of a

The deadline each month to submit articles, photos and ads is the 24th of the month prior to the next issue. This will be June 24th, at 5pm for the July 2025 issue and July 24, at 5pm for the August 2025 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 to (info@carolinaarts.com).