

North Carolina Museum of Art, Winston-Salem, NC, Offers Two New Exhibitions

The North Carolina Museum of Art, Winston-Salem (formerly SECCA) is proud to present *Tell Me if the Lovers Are Losers*, an exhibition of paintings and drawings by John Brooks, and *THERE*, an exhibition of textile-based works by Jordan Nassar, both on view Oct. 17 through Dec. 29, 2024, in the Potter Gallery at NCMA Winston-Salem. The exhibitions are organized by the North Carolina Museum of Art and curated by Jared Ledesma, curator of 20th-Century Art and Contemporary Art. A dual opening reception with the artists will be held on Oct. 17, from 6-8pm.

"These exhibitions celebrate two dynamic artists, John Brooks and Jordan Nassar, who bridge the gap between tradition and contemporary experience," said curator Jared Ledesma. "John Brooks' first museum show marks a pivotal moment in his career, exploring queer identity and community. Jordan Nassar, with 10 new works alongside a monumental piece, presents an elegant synthesis of Palestinian craft, culture, and concept that speaks to the present moment. Together, their work reshapes artistic traditions to create something entirely their own. Devoting the Potter Gallery to these two exhibitions is exciting, each highlighting the unique vision of these phenomenal artists."



John Brooks, "Take This Longing", 2023. Courtesy the artist.

Tell Me if the Lovers Are Losers presents the work of Los Angeles-based artist John Brooks (b. 1978). The gathering of vigorous paintings, drawings, and their diverse subjects form a conceptual exploration of the nuanced experiences within queer communities. Influenced by the daring art of early-20th-century German expressionists, American poets like Carl Sandburg, and iconic figures such as James Baldwin and Marlene Dietrich, Brooks amplifies the enduring spirit of those who defy societal norms through invigorating forms and contexts.

Growing up in central Kentucky during the 1980s and '90s, Brooks showed an early interest in art but lacked a familial tradition to engage with it. After he made a begrudging attempt at professional golf and completed his studies at the College of Charleston in South Carolina, his path shifted with a move to London in 2005. Immersed in the city's rich artistic heritage, Brooks underwent a transformative period of introspection and creative exploration, fully embracing his intuition as an artist.

Today Brooks creates works that blend his personal history with cultural critique. Resisting a strictly narrative approach, he employs vibrant, expressive brushwork to craft alluring and contemplative compositions wherein historical and contemporary figures appear side by side. This union of temporalities carves a queer space through the disruption of time. Moreover, Brooks highlights his subjects' kinship as part of a queer and rebellious diaspora, while integrating those from diverse backgrounds and experiences to reveal the myriad intersections within.

Artworks Gallery in Winston-Salem, NC, Celebrates 40 Years of Artistic Freedom and Community

Artworks Gallery in Winston-Salem, NC, offers a 40 year celebration exhibition featuring works by gallery artists, on view Page 32 - Carolina Arts, October 2024



Jordan Nassar, "Skies Follow Skies", 2021. Courtesy the artist, James Cohan, New York, Anat Ebgi, Los Angeles & The Third Line, Dubai. Photo by Dan Bradica.

In the exhibit *There*, Jordan Nassar (b. 1985) intricately weaves cultural narratives, personal heritage, and the art of Middle Eastern embroidery. Nassar was born in New York City to a Palestinian father and a Polish American mother, and his ethnicity profoundly shapes his art. Drawn to tateez, a traditional Palestinian embroidery, he uses this craft to explore the complex interplay between ritual and diasporic life.

In recent years Nassar has created distinctive embroidered designs with the participation of craftswomen in the West Bank. This process, uniting makers across regions but connected by heritage, embodies the concept of diaspora. Nassar's geometric compositions feature traditional patterns, and embedded within them are his impressions of landscapes in imaginative colors. When various embroidered panels are combined, their imagery—which contrasts but also seamlessly blends—reads as a cohesive whole, mirroring elements of hybrid identity.

This exhibition takes its title from a poem by Lebanese American poet and artist Etel Adnan, who explores themes of isolation and marginality in her prose. Featured is Nassar's large-scale *Shade of the Cypress*, alongside a selection of new work. While *Shade of the Cypress* was created with craftswomen in Bethlehem, Hebron, and Ramallah, Nassar's latest embroideries were produced solely by him in his New York City studio due to current events in Palestine. Despite these challenges, and perhaps especially at this critical juncture, Nassar's work invites us to reflect on hybrid and diverse landscapes that, through varied perspectives, color combinations, and orientations, encourage meditation on homeland and the formation of selfhood.

NCMA Winston-Salem (formerly SECCA), an affiliate of the North Carolina Museum of Art and division of the NC Department of Natural & Cultural Resources since 2007, offers a front row seat to the art of our time through exhibitions, experiences, and education programs with a focus on regional working artists. Founded in 1956 and located on the scenic James G. Hanes estate in Winston-Salem, SECCA offers unique large-scale indoor and outdoor settings for exploring the intersections of contemporary art and culture.

NCMA Winston-Salem is located on Marguerite Drive in Winston-Salem, NC 27106. Recent exhibiting artists include Alana Clarke, David Gilbert, Basil Kincaid, Neka King, William Downs, Raj Bunnag, Lakea Shepard, Beverly McIver, Kara Walker, Elizabeth Alexander, and Esteban Cabeza de Baca.

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings or visit (SECCA.org).

through Oct. 26, 2024. An opening reception and celebration will be held on Oct. 6,

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Discover the Seagrove Potteries

Seagrove is a Community of Working Potters & home to the North Carolina Pottery Center

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Seagrove is located in the Center of North Carolina 40 miles south of Greensboro on Hwy. 220 (future I-73, I-74)

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from 2-4pm, with a closing reception held on Oct. 26, from 2-5pm. The DADA First Friday Gallery Hop takes place on Oct. 4, from 7-9pm. An Art Crush will be held on Oct. 18, from 7-9pm.

Artworks Gallery, the longest-running cooperative art gallery in Winston-Salem, is thrilled to announce its 40th-anniversary exhibition. The celebration will take place throughout October at the gallery's long-time home at 564 N. Trade Street.



Work by Owens Daniels

Founded in 1984, Artworks Gallery has served as a creative haven for local artists, providing a space to showcase and sell their work while fostering an open and supportive environment for artistic expression. The gallery's journey began with its first show at Salem College in April 1984. In 1990, Artworks established its permanent home on Trade Street and played a vital role in transforming the neighborhood into the vibrant Arts District it is today. At the time, Artworks Gallery was one of the few galleries or art-related businesses in the neighborhood.

In addition to its regular group show, all member artists will create unique, small, framed artworks available for purchase at a special anniversary price of \$40 each. All proceeds from these sales will go directly toward supporting the gallery's daily operations, ensuring that it continues to be a pillar of the local arts community for years to come.

Arts Council of Winston-Salem and Forsyth County in Winston-Salem, NC, Features Works by "The Dot Man"

Arts Council of Winston-Salem and Forsyth County in Winston-Salem, NC, is presenting *A Dotted Tribute*, celebrating the life and art of Sam "The Dot Man" McMillan, featuring sculptures, installations, and stories, on view through Oct. 26, 2024.

This exhibition will showcase local Winston-Salem folk art legend Sam "The Dot Man" McMillan and the remarkable works of living artists Natalie Jester and Angel Fant. Held at the Main Gallery of the Milton Rhodes Center for the Arts, the show will be on view through Oct. 26, 2024.

A Dotted Tribute is a celebration of the life and art of Sam McMillan, affectionately known as "Sam the Dot Man." Born in Robeson County in 1926, McMillan eventually made Winston-Salem his home. His life was as colorful as his art, with a career that spanned work in tobacco and cotton fields, truck driving, furniture making and repair, and various handyman jobs.



Work by Marion Adams

The gallery's rich history is a testament to the vision of its founders: Lea Lackey-Zachmann, Tenley Shewmake, Ed Shewmake, Mitzi Shewmake, Alix Hitchcock, Roberta Tefft, Bill Mangum, Ida Shen, Miska Petersham, Doris Petersham, Martha Dunnigan, Patrick Clancy, MacDonald Bane, Jim Lankton, Jean Parris, Torey Casey, Billy McClain, Beth Sutherland, Linda Gitter, Laurie Burger, and Irmagard Mczyk. Two of these original founders, Lea Lackey-Zachmann and Alix Hitchcock, continue to be active members, contributing to the gallery's dynamic and evolving presence.

Artworks Gallery is proud to celebrate 40 years of art, community, and creativity. This anniversary is not only a celebration of our past but a commitment to our future. The gallery invites all art enthusiasts, community members, and supporters to join in the 40th-anniversary celebrations and experience firsthand the creativity and passion that have made Artworks Gallery an institution in the Winston-Salem arts scene.

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



Sam "The Dot Man" McMillan

Remarkably, McMillan didn't begin painting until his 60s. His art, known for its lively scenes adorned with a multitude of colorful dots, transformed everyday objects into joyful masterpieces. Even his beloved Dalmatian, Helen, who fittingly had spots of her own, appeared in some of his paintings. McMillan was a regular presence at folk festivals, particularly the Kentucky Festival,

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