

# Greenville Center for Creative Arts

continued from Page 11

each individual's life.

Jessica Burke's *Dressed Up in Bones & Sugar City* drawings serve as investigative tools to unearth the fictions of identity and the fragility of life. In posed still-life compositions in which the figures are replaced with skeletal features, Burke creates striking metaphors for lived experience that provide insights into human nature that are intimate, provocative or sometimes humorous.

GCCA will hold two free workshops in coordination with the *Mementos of Life Beyond Death* exhibition. *The Prose Poem: Objects in Memoriam*, a writing and photography virtual workshop with Jody Servon and Lorene Delaney-Ullman will be offered on Jan. 6, from 7-8pm and *Talking to Grief: Finding Healing Through Poetry* community poetry reading with Kimberly J Simms and Shay Black of Wits End Poetry will be held on Jan. 20, from 7-8pm. Register online at (<https://www.artcentergreenville.org/exhibitionschedule>).

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings, call the Center at 864/274-0355 or visit ([www](http://www)).



Work by Jody Servon  
[artcentergreenville.org](http://artcentergreenville.org).

## Artists Collective | Spartanburg, SC, Features Works by John Lever

Artists Collective | Spartanburg in Spartanburg, SC, is presenting *Close to Home*, featuring works by Upstate photographer John Lever, on view in Gallery III, through Dec. 24, 2021. The exhibit will be part of the Spartanburg ArtWalk from 5pm, Thursday, Dec. 16.

The restrictions of the COVID-19 pandemic gave a different perspective on life and his art. His creations through that time, along with some of his earlier works.

"My wife and I had all kinds of travel plans – that's where I do most of my photography in normal times," says Lever, a native of Florida. "We all know what happened to those plans because of the pandemic. I think the restrictions of the pandemic, not allowing travel to new destinations, induced me to spread my photographic reach, looking to new approaches in my photography close to home."

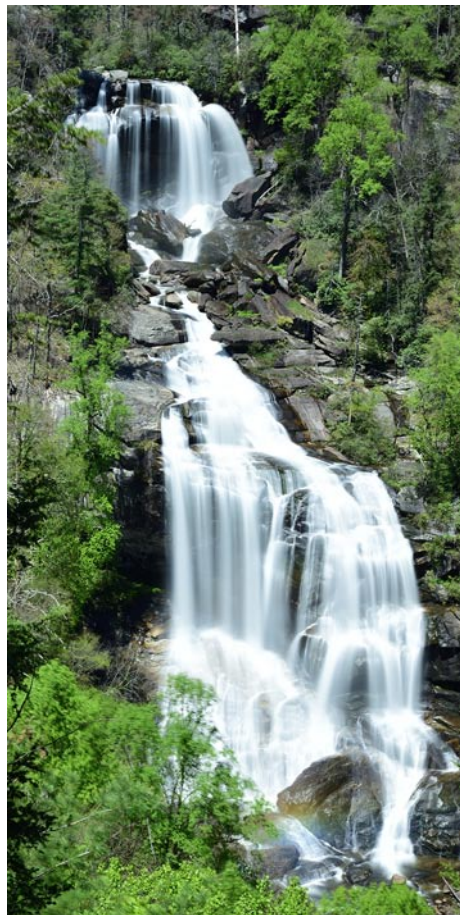
For the visitor to the gallery, Lever says at first, the exhibit "may seem a little haphazard, but it has one theme, and that is the expansion of my photography into the somewhat more abstract. It begins with some photographs that are more traditionally my style – natural scenes – but then I explore a bit with moving water taken at long exposure to make a creamy, silky look. Later, I explore some of my newest directions with some laser illumination and what I call droplet photography – you will have to see it to understand."

"Displayed will be a series of prints that represent my time during the pandemic, shaped by the constraints it imposed," Lever adds. "When life gives you lemons ... but all of us had much worse than lemons. Maybe my message is 'keep your chin up.'"

"The inspiration for my photography comes from my desire to share my views of my travels and of the natural world," he says. "Whether this takes form as a snow-covered mountain, a tropical island or a bird in flight, the theme is the same: connect the viewer with my personal view of the world."

Over the past few years, a big part of Lever's photography has been while sailing aboard S/V Georgia with his brother, Paul, and sister-in-law, Chris. "This has taken me to places I might not easily get to and has afforded me a unique platform to see these places. Another major influence on my photography has been travel to the iconic parks of the American West – Yosemite, Sequoia, Banff, etc. To a person who spent his formative years on flat ground, the mountains hold a special feeling for me."

Another inspiration for his photogra-



Work by John Lever

phy is birds, especially hummingbirds, Lever says. "So visually appealing and so hard to see – they are a natural challenge to photograph. All this comes together in what I photograph."

Twenty of Lever's work will be included in the exhibition and will be offered for sale with prices ranging from \$70 to \$150.

Lever says he has been an avid photographer since the days of film photography, and he has augmented key skills and aesthetics learned at Tulane University, UNC and Carolina's Nature Photographers Association with extensive reading and experimentation. He has been a member of the Artists Collective | Spartanburg since 2018 and is a member of its management board.

"I guess I've been an artist all my life, but I only thought of myself as an artist when I joined ACS," he says. "It is a great arts organization."

The Artists Collective | Spartanburg is located on W. Main Street, and 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](http://artistscollectivespartanburg.org)).



## Happy Holidays from Carolina Arts

Photograph of Charleston, SC, courtesy of Larry Watkins  
More on Instagram @larry\_watkins\_photography

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