

# Society of Bluffton Artists

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and discovered his interest in painting while attending Washington & Jefferson College.

The Society of Bluffton Artists is the heart of the flourishing art hub in Old Town Bluffton's historic district at the corner of Church and Calhoun streets. As a non-profit art organization, SOBA

offers regular art classes, featured artist shows, exhibitions, scholarships, outreach programs and more.

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings, call the Society at 843/757-6586 or visit ([www.sobagallery.com](http://www.sobagallery.com)).

## Artisphere in Greenville, SC, Takes Place on May 12-14, 2023

The 19th annual Artisphere presented by TD Bank, is Greenville, SC's signature cultural event that engages, inspires, and enriches the community through a celebration of the arts. This event is free to the public and will take place May 12-14, 2023 (Mother's Day Weekend) in downtown Greenville from Court and Main Streets to Wardlaw and Main Streets.

With 143 juried visual artists on Artist Row representing 17 different mediums (glass, jewelry, painting, ceramics, wood, furniture, etc.), there's something for everyone! The festival also gives patrons the unique opportunity to meet exhibiting artists and see art-making in process. In addition to Artist Row, a number of signature Artisphere experiences will be offered: Kidsphere free craft area, Live Art Demonstrations, Street Chalk Art, The Art Lab (sign-ups opened mid-April), live music, local performing arts, and more.

The Culinary Arts Café will feature five local restaurants, and new for 2023 is the student-centered stARTup, anchoring the south end of the festival and featuring the *Fine Arts Center Exhibit*, a stage for student performers, and the Greenville County Culinary Career Center tent where festival goers can enjoy a menu crafted and created by Greenville's next generation of top chefs.



View from a previous "Artists on the Rise" exhibit

Named the "#3 Best Art Show in the Country" (USA TODAY), a "Top 10 Fine Art Show in the Country" (Art Fair Sourcebook), and "Best Art Fair in America" (ArtFairCalendar.com), Artisphere is a fantastic community event that you don't want to miss!

Besides the Artist Row event featuring 143 artists from around the US, the visual arts component also includes, the *2023 Artists of the Upstate Juried Exhibition*, a local art exhibition presented by Artisphere and supported by a grant from the Metropolitan Arts Council. This exhibit features work by artists living in Upstate South Carolina, and

## Woodbine Studio & Gallery in Greenville, SC, Features Works by Anthony Collins

Woodbine Studio & Gallery in Greenville, SC, will present *Afterimage: A Flash of Understanding, The Church, and Then Some*, featuring the work of Rock & Roll photographer Anthony Collins, on view from May 6 through June 10, 2023. A reception will be held on May 6, from 6-9pm. (Steve Kilbey of The Church to potentially join the event via Skype). A closing reception will be held on June 10, from 6-9pm.

Anthony Collins, a local artist and rock-and-roll devotee, will hold a special viewing of his photography, which features 50+ carefully selected pieces, at Woodbine Studio & Gallery in downtown Greenville - the highlight being blown-up prints of his celebrated coffee-table book featuring the legendary Australian psychedelic space-rock band, The Church. This is the first time



Work by Kent Ambler, part of the Artist Row

it seeks to recognize the outstanding quality and diversity of work being generated by artists of Upstate South Carolina.

The 16th annual exhibit was juried by Kate Ledbetter, Executive Director at Redux Contemporary Art Center in Charleston, SC, and features work by 50 local artists.

Artisphere also offers the *Fine Arts Center Student/Teacher Exhibition*. This exhibit showcases talented young artists and teachers from the Fine Arts Center of Greenville.

Founded in 2003, Artisphere's mission is to create a nationally recognized Fine Arts festival that enhances the quality of life and economic vitality in South Carolina. The 15th Anniversary of Artisphere in 2019 was a huge success. Applications reached 952, average artists' sales were over \$9,730, attendance neared 70,000 and economic impact grossed an astounding \$9.1 million.

Artisphere has grown into a centerpiece of Greenville's cultural calendar and has distinguished itself as both a national and regional destination while generating a total economic impact of nearly \$9.1 million in 2019. The festival is one of the country's top art shows. It has been named the Best Overall Arts Fair by (ArtFairCalendar.com) the #1 website for art fair event listings and landed at the #3 spot in *USA Today's* 10 BEST Reader's Choice Contest for Best Art Festival in 2015. Greg Lawler's Art Fair Sourcebook consistently ranks Artisphere in the TOP 10 out of 600 festivals across the country, and readers of *Sunshine Artists* magazine regularly put Artisphere among the 100 Best Fine Arts Shows in the country.

For complete information visit ([artisphere.org](http://artisphere.org)).



Work by Anthony Collins

a photographer has held such a viewing in the Upstate which exclusively features musical groups, both on the stage and off.

"I'm very excited to share my work with the Greenville community," says Collins. "This has been a passion of mine and I have

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been fortunate to be able to capture so many special performances and intimate tour moments of The Church on stage."

Collins "stumbled" into photography as he likes to say. It began as a passionate hobby that evolved into a career. "I am self-taught, both as an artist and photographer," he says. "One day in 1997 I decided to buy a camera on a whim. There was an Atlanta, Georgia band, named The Tender Idols, playing a club in my hometown on that very day. I quickly read my camera's owners' manual and, armed with a couple of rolls of T-Max 3200ISO B&W film, I shot the band, developed the pictures, and thought: 'these aren't bad.' I made some prints and gave them to the band and they liked them too. In fact, they wanted to use the pictures on their upcoming CD."

Although Collins's portfolio of work features many rock bands and performers at various stages of their career, it is his work with The Church that he has become best known for. His masterful book *Afterimage: The Church, My View In Reverse 2017-1998*, was released in 2019. The band themselves have become quite the fans of Anthony's work. "Anthony Collins is officially my favorite photographer of The Church," says founding member Steve Kilbey. "This stuff makes us look like rock gods for the one second that Anthony captures before we coalesce down back into players in this band The Church. I heartily endorse this cool book of some of Anthony's very best shots."

Life-long Greenville resident, Anthony Collins, is the owner of Supermoon Photography + Design. He specializes in capturing the essence of bands, musicians, and the magic of live performance. Collins started his career in marketing as an



Work by Anthony Collins

Art Director for a variety of consumer and business-to-business brands. He picked up the camera one day on a whim and realized that not only did he enjoy taking pictures, but that he had a real knack for it. Today, his photography work comprises the majority of his creative output, as he is continually striving to capture intimate moments in time that effectively erase the barriers between audience and performer.

Woodbine Studio is located in downtown Greenville in The Meyer Center complex on Rutherford Road.

For further information check our SC Commercial Gallery listings, call Meredith B. Skinner at 864/421-5730 or visit ([www.woodbinestudio.com](http://www.woodbinestudio.com)).

## Greenville Center for Creative Arts in Greenville, SC, Features Works by Caroline Hughes & Deborah Puret Grove

Greenville Center for Creative Arts in Greenville, SC, will present *Messages From the Past*, featuring works by Caroline Hughes and Deborah Puret Grove, on view in GCCA's Community Gallery, from May 5 through June 28, 2023. A reception will be held on May 5, from 6-9pm.

In *Messages from the Past*, Caroline E. Hughes and Deborah Puret Grove test the processes that connect us to each other and our past. Through textures and patterning, we see how textiles, prints, and technologies can be a connecting force to bring understanding and advance towards the future.

Hughes investigates personal experiences with place and community through large scale textile works. Aspects of rural living are present in her work. Hughes places an emphasis on her history in those settings as a catalyst for connections and shared experience.



Work by Caroline E. Hughes

Deborah Puret Grove uses semiconductor plates as metaphors for extending personal memories and connecting people all the time everywhere. In her many series of work, deeds, titles, letters, and family photos, from 1890 - 1950 are juxtaposed by references of semiconductor prototypes of the 1990s to further elaborate on the idea of memory extension.

Caroline E. Hughes is a Textile Artist, Educator, and Historian living and working in Upstate South Carolina. She bases her themes of work, tacit knowledge, and craftsmanship in the fading histories of her hometown in rural South Greenville County. That fading, and the changes that affect it, are the basis of the ideas explored by Hughes in her textile work.

Hughes' work seeks to bring atten-



Work by Deborah Puret Grove

tion to the importance of a way of life and thought, largely passed over in our modern day-to-day existence. The study of the past is to inform the future. With this belief as a mainspring, her works are created using traditional craft methods and tell an inherent multi-faceted story of craft, community, and belonging.

Deborah Puret Grove received an MBA from the American Graduate School of International Management in Glendale, Arizona and a BA from UCLA and Lund University, Sweden. Grove completed an MA in TESOL at California State University, and hundreds of hours in post graduate art history courses. Grove has traveled to over 40 countries and speaks four languages. Since 1977, Grove has worked within the IT industry in Hong Kong and Redwood City, CA. She has exhibited at the San Jose Museum of Art, San Jose, CA; Stanford University; Krannert Art Museum at University of Illinois; Napa Valley Museum & the Berkeley Art Museum in California, among many others.

Greenville Center for Creative Arts is a non-profit organization that aims to enrich the cultural fabric of the community through visual arts promotion, education, and inspiration.

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings, call the Center at 864/735-3948 or visit ([www.artcentergreenville.org](http://www.artcentergreenville.org)). Check out GCCA on Facebook (Greenville Center for Creative Arts) & Instagram (@artcentergvl).

Check us out at ([www.carolinaarts.com](http://www.carolinaarts.com)) or e-mail to ([info@carolinaarts.com](mailto:info@carolinaarts.com))