

# Art League of Hilton Head

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is for sale and exhibits change every month. Located mid-island on Shelter Cove Lane, inside Arts Center of Coastal Carolina, next to the box office,

Art League Academy welcomes artists and students in all media at all skill levels, including true beginners. Taught by professional art educators, students can choose from many art classes and workshops in most media. "Inspiring visual arts for our

community and its visitors through exhibitions, education and partnerships" is Art League of Hilton Head's mission.

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings, call the League at 843/681-5060 or visit ([www.ArtLeagueHHI.org](http://www.ArtLeagueHHI.org)), follow Art League of Hilton Head on Facebook, Instagram, or connect on LinkedIn.

## Society of Bluffton Artists in Bluffton, SC, Features Works by John Meckley

The Society of Bluffton Artists in Bluffton, SC, will present *LowCountry Backyard*, featuring works by John Meckley, on view from May 6 through June 2, 2024. A reception will be held on May 10, from 5-7pm.

Meckley's exhibition will reflect the South Carolina Lowcountry's beautiful marshes and majestic egrets.

"What inspires my brushstrokes to a canvas here in the Lowcountry are the images of soft, warm breezes floating on top of the many coloring changing marsh grasses," Meckley said. "Also inspiring is how the white Egrets seem to glide effortlessly in slow motion across the backdrop of the majestic skies, making the long journey back to their tree top nests."

Meckley traces his artistic roots back to the age of 13. His inherent love for art blossomed through self-taught techniques, drawing inspiration from the timeless masterpieces of Rembrandt and the esteemed Wyeth family artists. Meckley's unique style intertwines elements of these revered artists with his own signature of soft, smooth, and warm brush strokes, complemented by a carefully curated palette of warm, earthy tones. His subjects emanate a profound sense of serenity and tranquility, inviting viewers into a world of contemplation and peace.

Meckley's artistic journey took a significant turn at the age of 17 when he clinched his first juried art show award in Pennsylvania. Since then, his talent has garnered widespread acclaim, earning him numerous accolades in juried exhibitions across Pennsylvania, Maryland, Florida, and South Carolina. Notably, his exceptional craftsmanship has been recognized



Work by John Meckley

on an international scale, with one of his masterpieces proudly adorning the walls of the Russian Embassy in Washington, DC.

However, it was a pivotal moment two years ago that marked a profound shift in Meckley's artistic focus. Relocating to the picturesque surroundings of Bluffton, SC, he found himself enraptured by the breathtaking beauty of the landscape. A transformative experience unfolded as he drove across a bridge, with the gentle patter of rain and the radiant glow of the sun casting a surreal ambiance. A vibrant rainbow arched across the sky, while a mesmerizing flock of egrets danced gracefully across the marshes. In that transcendent moment, Meckley felt an undeniable connection to nature, interpreting it as a divine sign guiding his artistic path.

SOBA 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)).

## Anderson Arts Center in Anderson, SC, Features Works by Brian Rutenberg

**Editor's Note:** I waited for someone to send me a press release about this exhibition last month, but it never came - not even in time for our *Afterlife* section. Rutenberg was the Featured Artist during the 4th Conference of the International Network of Michelin Cities (INMC) taking place in Anderson in April. He also gave a lecture at Anderson University.



Work by Brian Rutenberg

The Anderson Arts Center in Anderson, SC, is presenting the *Banner of the Coast: Works by Brian Rutenberg*, on view in its Atrium Gallery, through May 31, 2024.

Rutenberg is originally from Myrtle Beach, SC, but now lives and works in New York City, NY. In the Carolinas he is represented by the Jerald Melberg Gallery in Charlotte, NC.

Rutenberg is known for atmospheric,



Work by Brian Rutenberg

abstract landscape paintings executed with a lush and vibrant impasto surface. Rutenberg traces his inspiration back to his fascination with the unique quality of light found in the South Carolina Lowcountry, the place where he grew up. Rutenberg says, especially inspiring is that point when the land meets the water and for a moment the two become blurred. Rutenberg received a Fulbright Fellowship to study in Ireland in 1997. While there, he was honored with studio space at the Irish Museum of Modern Art in Dublin.

Rutenberg has been the recipient of numerous awards including a Fellowship in Painting at the New York Foundation for the Arts in 2004, a Spring Island Trust Award in 2002, a Peter S. Reed Foun-

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## Pluff Mudd Art Gallery in Bluffton, SC, Offers Works by Donna Varner

Pluff Mudd Art Gallery in Bluffton, SC, will present an exhibit of mixed media works by Donna Varner, on view from May 1 - 31, 2024. Visit Pluff Mudd Art throughout May to see Varner's work. Stop in on May 14 and 25 when she will be in the gallery. Meet the artist, learn about her process, and see her art in person.

Varner is a mixed media artist, and a ten-year veteran of Pluff Mudd Art. Her formal education is in business (MBA, PhD from Ohio State). Prior to moving south from Columbus, OH, she had careers in retail merchandising and academia. In 2004 she left the business world to follow her muse. She has since traveled down a creative path that began with photography and expanded into other mediums.

Varner's art is experimental in nature and reflects her affinity for depth and texture. Visually complex, cerebral, and colorful, the art invites contemplation. The more you look, the more you see.



Work by Donna Varner

Her methods incorporate painting, drawing, gluing, sanding, scraping, scribing, burning, and an abundance of experimentation - whatever her muses and the artwork move her to do. Her process is very much in-the-moment, where art and artist are in a dialogue. The result is artwork with deep history that invites you to discover its soul.

Varner has exhibited at local arts festivals and juried exhibitions, at ArtFields, Lake City, SC, and locally with Les Bonnes Artistes and the Art Beyond Tradition Group. She is currently exhibiting at USC-Beaufort, Center for the Arts with the Art Beyond Tradition Group. In addition to being a member of Pluff Mudd Art, she also shows her work at the Art League of Hilton Head.

For further information check our SC Commercial Gallery listings, visit ([www.pluffmuddart.com](http://www.pluffmuddart.com)) or check out their Facebook page at (<https://www.facebook.com/pluffmuddart>).



Work by Donna Varner

As a mixed media artist, the mediums that she mixes include painted collage papers, acrylic paints, various inks, photographs, graphite, and collected ephemera.

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A PUBLICATION COVERING THE VISUAL ARTS IN THE CAROLINAS

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