

Upstairs Artspace in Tryon, NC

continued from Page 24

gether when possible. Both are well known for work that is smart, original and bold.

Campefino Monetta, introduces Spartanburg, SC, artist Antonio Modesto Milian, a photo journalist and newcomer to the Upstairs. His colorful photographs are thoughtful, intense close-ups of migrant workers toiling the fields and orchards of South Carolina.

The Upstairs is grateful to the Polk County Community Foundation for ongoing support.

Upstairs Artspace is a nonprofit contemporary art gallery in downtown Tryon, NC. It is supported by public and private donations, sales of art, grants, and fundraising events. It is supported in part by the Polk County Community Foundation, the Mary F. Kessler Fund, and public and private donations.

Founded in 1978, Upstairs Artspace is Tryon's oldest fine art gallery and is operated by its a Board of Directors, members, and volunteers. It exhibits 10 to 15 shows annually that are generally conceived around themes or genres.

Upstairs Artspace maintains three gallery spaces totaling approximately 3000 square feet and rotates fine art exhibitions every six weeks that are selected by committee and independent curators. These exhibits include most forms of art media including painting, sculpture, mixed media, works on paper, prints, photography, digital media, videography and installations. The artists are selected for their



Work by Margaret Curtis

abilities and reputations, and while most are from our region, we also feature work from other parts of the country.

Upstairs Artspace is known throughout the region as a gallery featuring art that is contemporary and avant-garde. Artists are selected by qualified exhibits committee members. While most of the art in an exhibition is available for purchase, Upstairs Artspace is not a retail gallery and does not maintain a permanent collection.

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, call 828/859-2828 or visit (www.upstairsartspace.org).

Caldwell Arts Council in Lenoir, NC, Features Works by Mary Dobbin & Margaret Carter Martine

The Caldwell Arts Council in Lenoir, NC, will present *TOGETHER AGAIN*, featuring artworks by local artists, Mary Dobbin and Margaret Carter Martine, on view from June 8 through July 30, 2021.

Mary Dobbin grew up in Lenoir and has also lived in New York City. She received a Bachelor of Fine Arts in painting from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and a Master of Fine Arts from Pratt Institute in Brooklyn, NY. She also studied figure painting and watercolor techniques at The Art Students League in New York City. Currently, Mary lives in Lenoir, NC, and belongs to several local art groups.

Dobbin works in oil, acrylic, watercolor and collage with subjects focusing on still lifes, landscapes, portraits, and the figure. She has exhibited her work throughout North Carolina and her paintings are in collections around the United States. Recent works may be viewed locally at the Carlton Gallery in Foscoe, NC.



Work by Margaret Carter Martine

Margaret Carter Martine grew up in a home where art has always been an integral part of her life. Educated at Appalachian State University and holding an MFA in painting from The Savannah College of Art and Design, Martine's work is in numerous collections from Japan to Los Angeles. She taught art for years in the public schools as



Work by Mary Dobbin

well as at ASU. She is the owner/director of both Whippoorwill Academy and Village in Ferguson, NC and The Lenoir School of Visual Arts in Lenoir, NC.

Martine shares, "This past year has been a lesson in finding inner peace when there is so much turmoil during a global pandemic, a contentious Presidential race, social protests, atrocities committed against others in which justice seemed a far and distant dream, and in being isolated from family and friends. What does one do in seeking this inner peace? I discovered that I only had so much control for finding that inner peace and that control came in my studio."

Finding herself spending more and more time outdoors, Martine began creating outdoor art in the form of mosaics. She taught mosaic workshops at Whippoorwill Village, and enjoyed seeing new artists emerge and seasoned artists add another art form to their repertoire. "My paintbrushes were not laid to rest and often an indoor piece of art would result." So, was inner peace found during these difficult times? "Absolutely," she replied.

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings call the Council at 828/754-2486 or visit (www.caldwellarts.com).

Blowing Rock Art & History Museum in Blowing Rock, NC, Announces Summer Exhibitions



A view of the "TRANSFORMATION" exhibition

The Blowing Rock Art and History Museum (BRAHM) in Blowing Rock, NC, presents a captivating array of exhibitions this Summer 2021, featuring works from *TRANSFORMATION*, the *Alexander Collection*, the *Janet H. Wilson Collection* and the highly anticipated opening of *Drawn to Detail: Metalsmiths of North Carolina*. Focusing on an exciting range of mediums, from painting, to photography, to metals, BRAHM selected North Carolina collectors and curators to weave together various local and national narratives, pointing to connections in difference for this season's exhibitions.

TRANSFORMATION, on view until Aug. 21, 2021, and guest curated by prominent collectors of contemporary photography Dr. Carlos Garcia-Velez, Mr. Allen Thomas, and former Director of The North Carolina Museum of Art (NCMA), Dr. Lawrence Wheeler. *TRANSFORMATION* brings together an international group of photographers capturing various social spheres of a changing world. The exhibition features work from the prestigious North Carolina private collections of Garcia-Velez, Thomas, and Wheeler, as well as Hedy Fischer and Randy Schull, and Chandra and Jimmie Johnson. *TRANSFORMATION* is an impressive statewide collaborative effort presenting significant contemporary photographs and highlighting the outstanding private collections of photography emerging in North Carolina, as well as several important works from NCMA's permanent collection.

The gathering of these renowned contemporary photographers, including: Hiroshi Sugimoto, Pieter Hugo, Mickalene Thomas, Vera Lutter, Eve Sussman, and Vik Muniz, reveals stories of a world undergoing a myriad of transformations. Climate and the physical environment, race and social reorganization, queer identities and empowerment, immigration and geographic boundaries, and the looming influence of cultural politics in a rapidly changing world... These are the primary themes being explored through these transformative images. This spring, BRAHM welcomes visitors to be inspired by this celebration of change in *TRANSFORMATION*.



A view of the "Alexander Collection" exhibition

The exhibition, the *Alexander Collection*, will be on view through Aug. 1, 2021. Guest curated by BRAHM's docents, the *Alexander Collection* is comprised of a number of important pieces from the museum's permanent collection of American impressionist paintings.

Made possible, thanks to the generous donation and loan of artworks by Welborn and Patricia Alexander, the collection has served as a major anchor of the museum's collection since 2014. The Alexanders have contributed to the growth of the museum since its inception and continue to give through additional donations of artwork from their personal collection.

BRAHM is committed to exhibiting select works from the *Alexander Collection* throughout the year, so that visitors and the Blowing Rock community can continue to access and experience these important works of art.

The exhibition, *Janet H. Wilson Collection* will be on view through Aug. 1, 2021. The *Janet H. Wilson Collection* is made possible by North Carolina collector, Janet Wilson. While Wilson spent most of her adult life in Lenoir, NC, she was born in New York City and grew up in New Jersey. After the gift of NYC Central Park scenes by Edward Dufner, which she inherited from her parents, Wilson began her lifelong journey in local art collecting. She would later develop a keen interest in collecting women artists.

The *Janet H. Wilson Collection* marries two entwined interests by exhibiting a collection of women artists who studied with the well-known artist Elliott Daingerfield and later formed The Philadelphia Ten, a leading group of women in American Art.

Wilson was an admirer of beauty, an empathetic educator, an advocate for women, a stickler for accuracy and honesty, and a curious and generous scholar all her life. This exhibition highlights this dynamic collector whose contributions to and legacy at BRAHM continue to be meaningfully felt.

The exhibition, *Drawn to Detail: Metalsmiths of North Carolina*, will be on view through Sept. 19, 2021. From functional design to decorative and experimental studio practices, *Drawn to Detail: Metalsmiths of North Carolina* highlights the extensive possibilities of metal art and design. Ranging from precious gold and silver, to pliant pewter and copper, and steel and aluminum, *Drawn to Detail* showcases the material variability of metal by displaying a variety of fabrication methods and designs.

Color presents itself in these pieces through the different shades of metals and patinas, paint additions, as well as enamel and stone settings. Metalsmiths of all types contribute to the vibrancy of this show, in their expansive roles of designer, fabricator, enamelist, jeweler, blacksmith, bladesmith, pewtersmith, silversmith, and goldsmith.

Guest curated by practicing artist and metalsmith, Adam Whitney, viewers leave this show with a better understanding and appreciation for the diverse techniques employed in North Carolina's rich and continuing tradition of excellence and innovation in the metal arts.

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, call BRAHM at 828/295 - 9099 or visit (www.blowingrock-museum.org).

You can contact us by calling 843/693-1306 or by e-mail at - info@carolinaarts.com but do it before the 24th of the month prior to our next issue.