

# West Main Co-op in Spartanburg

continued from Page 16

has been showcased in dozens of exhibits across the country, with a concentration in the South. Her work is included in collections held by the Target Corp., Savannah College of Art and Design, and private citizens and companies.

Childers has been a member of West Main Artists Co-op since 2012, and she has participated in many of the agency's exhibits, such as *Open Doors*. "West Main is a wonderful community of artists of all backgrounds," she said. "We can learn from each other on different media."

West Main Artists Co-op is one of Spartanburg's leading non-profit art agencies. It is a membership-based venue with more than 50 members, most of whom are visual artists, but some are performing artists. Members specialize in many media, including painting, sculpting, photogra-

phy, fused glass, jewelry making, ceramics, and miniatures. Housed in a former Baptist church, the Co-op has about 30 private studios for its members, a ceramics studio, a printery, two stages for performances, three exhibition halls (including the Venue, which is in the church's sanctuary), and a two-room gift shop. Throughout the three-story building art hangs on nearly all walls, and 3-D pieces are stationed in hallways, public spaces, and outside. Routinely, the Co-op hosts three exhibits each month by its members and guest artists. It has the largest collection in the county of for-sell art by local artists.

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings, visit ([www.WestMainArtists.org](http://www.WestMainArtists.org)) or find it on Facebook.

## West Main Artists Co-op in Spartanburg, SC, Features Works by Thomas Koenig

West Main Artists Co-op in Spartanburg, SC, will present *Seeing Big*, featuring works by Spartanburg artist, Thomas Koenig, on view from Aug. 6 - 31, 2019. A reception will be held on Aug. 15, from 5-9pm.

Koenig will present more than 20 large-format photographs of extreme close-up of small things or details in other artists' creative work.

"The idea for this exhibit is constructed around photographic images that show arrangements that in their native physical appearance are very small and we would normally not recognize as things of visual interest," Koenig said. "The exhibit is constructed around a series of large-scale digital prints that are paired in part with the original artwork that they were based on. These things can be objects in repetition or can be close-up looks at items that have an interesting component or texture that the human eye may not recognize as visually interesting by looking at it without magnification. By producing and displaying oversized prints of these extreme closeups, attention can be brought to the beauty and aesthetics of items, materials, textures, and arrangements that are really tiny."

Many of the closeups that Koenig's exhibit will display were taken from the work of other artists. To give patrons a better understanding and perspective of the exhibit, the original artwork will be displayed next to Koenig's detailed images. "One focus of this project is to use pieces of local artists that are small in scale or have a component in technique, material or texture that is interesting on a different level if shown in large scale," he said. "The brush stroke by a painter may show a different level of interest if shown 400 times bigger than it appears on the texture of a canvas. The ridges of a cold wax applied in layers to a surface may show color changes that are not recognizable by the human eye, but can be revealed in its beauty in a large print."

This exhibit, which took about six months to create, was funded by a grant from Spartanburg's Chapman Cultural Center. "As a photographer I have traveled and have taken the lens around the country to show journalistic and artistic views of the world, and this show is a departure of that," Koenig said. "The entire project is structured around studio and macro photography." All of the prints and some of the original artwork will be for sale while the exhibit is up.

Koenig, who has been a Co-op member since 2015, is the creative lead at AGE K Media LLC, a Spartanburg-based communications agency that specializes in corporate design and identity, brand building, corporate literature, marketing communications, media planning, web design, trade show design and planning, and public relations. "I have been a graphics communications professional and communication designer for all of my adult life and have worked for more than 25 years on two different continents and in two differ-

ent languages," he said. "I have worked in all aspects of graphics communication, photography, design, and creative concept. In addition to my professional work, I have chosen photography as my artistic outlet with several exhibits in South Carolina. Art, photography, and graphics communication for me are not only a profession, they are personal, from changes in technique and technology to changes in communication itself."

Koenig was born in North Carolina, as the second son to Sibylla and Peter Koenig, but has spent the bigger part of his life with his family in Germany. He holds a degree in prepress production from a traditional German apprenticeship program and a diploma from the University of Applied Science Wiesbaden, Germany, in communication design and photography. In addition, Koenig has done research in semiotics and practical semiotic applications at the University of South Carolina Graduate School as part of the School of Journalism and Mass Communication. He has lived in Spartanburg since 1997.

In 2009, Koenig had a solo art show at Spartanburg Art Museum and has since been in several group shows in the US and Germany. "I would be a very happy camper if I could spend my entire professional life behind the camera. But there is still another passion, graphic design and anything that relates to the media. Semiotics are cool," he said. "I became a member of the West Main Artist Co-op to explore creative collaborations and to go back to my craftsman roots in print. The Co-op has been my artistic home for more than three years, and I am proud that I can share this opportunity with fellow members."

West Main Artists Co-op is one of Spartanburg's leading nonprofit arts agencies. It is a membership-based agency housed in what was once a three-story Baptist church



Work by Thomas Koenig

on West Main Street. It has more than 50 members of which about 30 have studios at the venue. Among the members are painters, ceramists, sculptors, photographers, actors, and artists who make jewelry and deal in fused glass. Each month, the Co-op hosts three art exhibitions by its members and guest artists. In addition to his members'

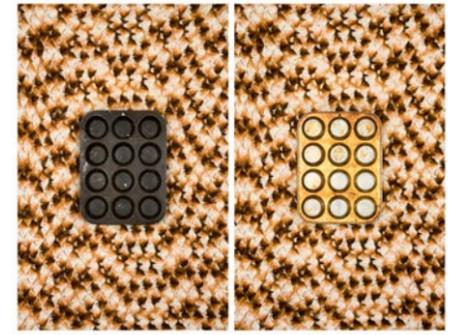
studios, it has two performance stages, three art galleries, a printery, a ceramics studio, and a two-room gift shop. The Co-op has the largest collection in the city and country of for-sale art made by local artists.

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings or visit ([www.WestMainArtists.org](http://www.WestMainArtists.org)).

## Arts Council of York County in Rock Hill, SC, Presents 3 Exhibits

The Arts Council of York County in Rock Hill, SC, will present three exhibits including: *Permanence*, works by Erin Zerbe and Amber Eckersley, on view in the Dalton Gallery at the Center for the Arts, from Aug. 2 through Sept. 8, 2019; *Bent Knee*, featuring works by Josiah Blevins, on view in the Perimeter Gallery, Aug. 2 - Sept. 8; and *The Rock Hill Elementary Schools' Children's Fall Show*, on view in the Edmund D. Lewandowski Classroom Gallery, through Oct. 27, 2019. A reception will be held on Aug. 15, from 5:30-7:30pm.

Erin Zerbe and Amber Eckersley's works explore the permanence of life through the transformation of objects by virtue of the imprecise reflection of memories.



Work by Amber Eckersley

Erin Zerbe and Amber Eckersley's works explore the permanence of life through the transformation of objects by virtue of the imprecise reflection of memories.

Erin Zerbe and Amber Eckersley's works explore the permanence of life through the transformation of objects by virtue of the imprecise reflection of memories.



Work by Erin Zerbe

"This body of work seeks to explore the convergence of archaic technology and precious crystals and minerals," said Zerbe. "By combining natural and found objects paired with discarded, broken, and obsolete tech items, Zerbe calls attention to how quickly tech transitions from treasure to trash and the impermanence it has in our lives. However, like these crystalline forms in the pieces, these tech objects are made of materials that will far outlive us and continue to impact our planet long after we are gone. She wonders what new minerals will form from the objects that are so carelessly discarded and replaced?"

Zerbe earned her BFA in Kinetic Sculpture from Virginia Commonwealth University, received her MFA and Certificate of Post-Secondary Art Education from the Maryland Institute College of Art. She is currently an Associate Profes-

sor of Art at Marietta College, and Visiting Professor of Graphic Design at Siena Heights University. Her works have been on display in more than 40 shows including solo exhibitions.

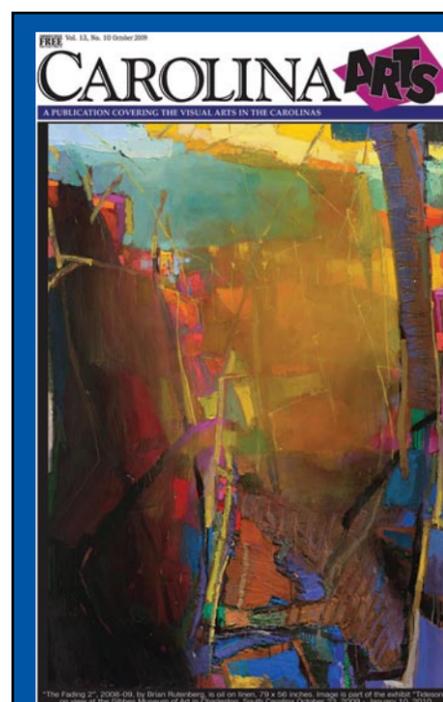
"This series of work explores the fragmented nature of memory, investigates the dynamism of my grandma's kitchen, and subverts nostalgia typically associated with the South," said Amber Eckersley. Each image in the series represents a particular memory, set of memories, or fragment of memories from Eckersley's childhood of planting, growing, and picking food with her grandma as well as preserving it and cooking it with her.

Eckersley, born and raised in Conway, SC, received her MFA in Visual Arts from Clemson University and her BA in History from Coastal Carolina University. Amber's work is strongly influenced by her experiences growing up pulling weeds with her mother, hunting with her father, and canning tomatoes with her grandma under the unrelenting humidity of South Carolina summers. Her work explores themes of memory and residue, utilizing various mediums including photography, scanning, video, and audio.

Exhibits in the Dalton Gallery at the Center for the Arts are sponsored by O'Darby's Fine Wine & Spirits. The Arts Council is headquartered in downtown Rock Hill, a state-recognized cultural district.

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings, call the Council at 803/328-2787 or visit ([www.yorkcountyarts.org](http://www.yorkcountyarts.org)).

 **Carolina Arts is now on Twitter!**  
 Sign up to follow  
 Tom's Tweets, click below!  
 [twitter.com/carolinaarts](https://twitter.com/carolinaarts)



Visit **Carolina Arts** on Facebook

Go to this [link](#) and "like" us!



continued above on next column to the right