

Orangeburg County Fine Arts Center

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way that is gentle on the earth, pleasant for the eye, and satisfying for the spirit," says the artist, who has been wheat weaving now for twenty-five years.

The ceramist Jeri Burdick, who resides in Eutawville, SC, and is nationally known for her clay work, offered some of her latest pieces for the show. "I have been adding cellulose fibers to my clay body, which has forced me to use different tools and techniques. The results keep me interested in and excited about pushing the envelope further with this process."

Jim Carr, Orangeburg, SC, whose medium is wood, pushed the creative envelope as well by fabricating sculptures using copper and cable wire. "This was only possible because I work for a company that makes high voltage power cable for utility companies and had access to scrap strands." He then wondered where the scrap and his imagination would take him. Carr's sculpture, *Supplication*, is made with copper wire on a pine base.

Recycling and found objects are media used by several artists in the show. The jewelry designer, Tabitha Ott, of Columbia, SC, is known for her wearable art. "I am constantly transforming objects and materials that would normally be thought of as wastes into wearable art through repurposing and upcycling. By utilizing color, movement and tactile qualities, I am encouraging a playful interaction between wearer/viewer and the artwork."

Also, of Columbia, SC, Flavia Isabella Lovatelli's delicate and very intricate coiled pieces are "created with strips of recycled paper collected from magazines, flyers and papers found in my daily life. I am intrigued with the colors and textures in everyday printed matter." For Lovatelli, her work is an ongoing visual experiment.

Intricate detail concentrates the mind of metalsmith, Thomas Bosse, originally from Florence, SC. Bosse is attracted to the malleability of pewter, a metal alloy dating back to the Bronze Age. His piece *Gorilla Flassk*, which uses a metal object prized through the ages, is bold and complex.



Work by Flavia Isabella Lovatelli

Fabrics are well represented in the show, with the works of Susan Livingston and Leo Twiggs, both residents of Orangeburg, SC. Livingston's installations and her use of indigo and fine hand stitching demonstrate her ability to create across mediums using linen, silk, cotton and metallic thread, as in her piece *Lit From Within*. "For many years I have been using needle and thread (of some type) to define, to illustrate. I've experimented with many ways to treat the fabric before stitching begins." Presently, she uses natural dyes, rust, contact printing and other eco-inspired treatments. Livingston explains that she uses natural fiber fabrics and is attracted to vintage linens.

"For me there is an inherent history, past ownership, that is somehow woven into those threads." Livingston's use of the naturals extends to once living elements. "Often I use found objects and natural elements such as a butterfly wing



Work by Jim Carr

or a feather. In my mind, I am celebrating that life, honoring that creature."

Internationally renowned batik artist Leo Twiggs loaned the show four pieces from his private collection. All represent a significant period in his artistic journey and are not only statements about his method and techniques, but the ideology that inspired him. The four framed pieces, *Blue Boy Blues*, *Targeted Man-Emerging*, *Night Bird* and *Requiem for Mother Emanuel (9 Series)*, are joined by batik on silks, four pieces of Twiggs' very early experimentation, when honing his skills in the use of canting, the pen-like tool used in the batik-making process.

"These pieces are being seen by the public for the first time," Twiggs noted. While he was encouraged to commercialize these exquisite designs, he declined. "That would have interfered with my work. I couldn't allow that to happen."

Orangeburg artist Janet Kozachek, whose talents span across many media, offered both ceramics and mosaics. "For the length of the infamous COVID-19 Pandemic year, my energy was focused upon dispatching with this excess clay by making creative musical instruments and other, mostly pit-fired ceramics." The small pieces in Kozachek's collection are ceramic whistles, ocarinas, and pinch pots that are created with underglaze color patterns, a clear overglaze, and then embellished with mother-of-pearl and 24K white gold enameling in a second firing. "The delicate details were made with a fine Chinese brush and my steady hand trained in traditional Chinese calligraphy."

Kozachek offered to sum up the artists' reaction to participating in the show: "The artists in this exhibition have been engaged in labor intensive work and they take great pride in their creative art, making this show very popular through their sharing with friends, colleagues, students, and mentors. It quite simply makes us all happy."

Glover, who curated the show in the center's Lusty Gallery, said this exhibition has many local and universal narratives tied to the arts and the artists. Of *A Fine Hand*, "We are very proud and excited about the very unique collection making up this exhibition, and so are the sixteen contributing artists." They include: Bohumila Augustinova, Thomas Bosse, Jeri Burdick, Katherine Caldwell, Jim Carr, Jocelyn Châteauevert, Janet Kozachek, Susan Livingston, Flavia Isabella Lovatelli, Lee Malerich, Tabitha Ott, Robert Simoneau, Alexander Thierry, Leo Twiggs, Ian J. Welch and Olga Yukhno.

The Orangeburg County Fine Arts Center is located on Riverside Drive in Orangeburg, SC.

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listing, contact Heather Rast by e-mail at (hrast@orangeburgarts.org) or call 803/536-4074.

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