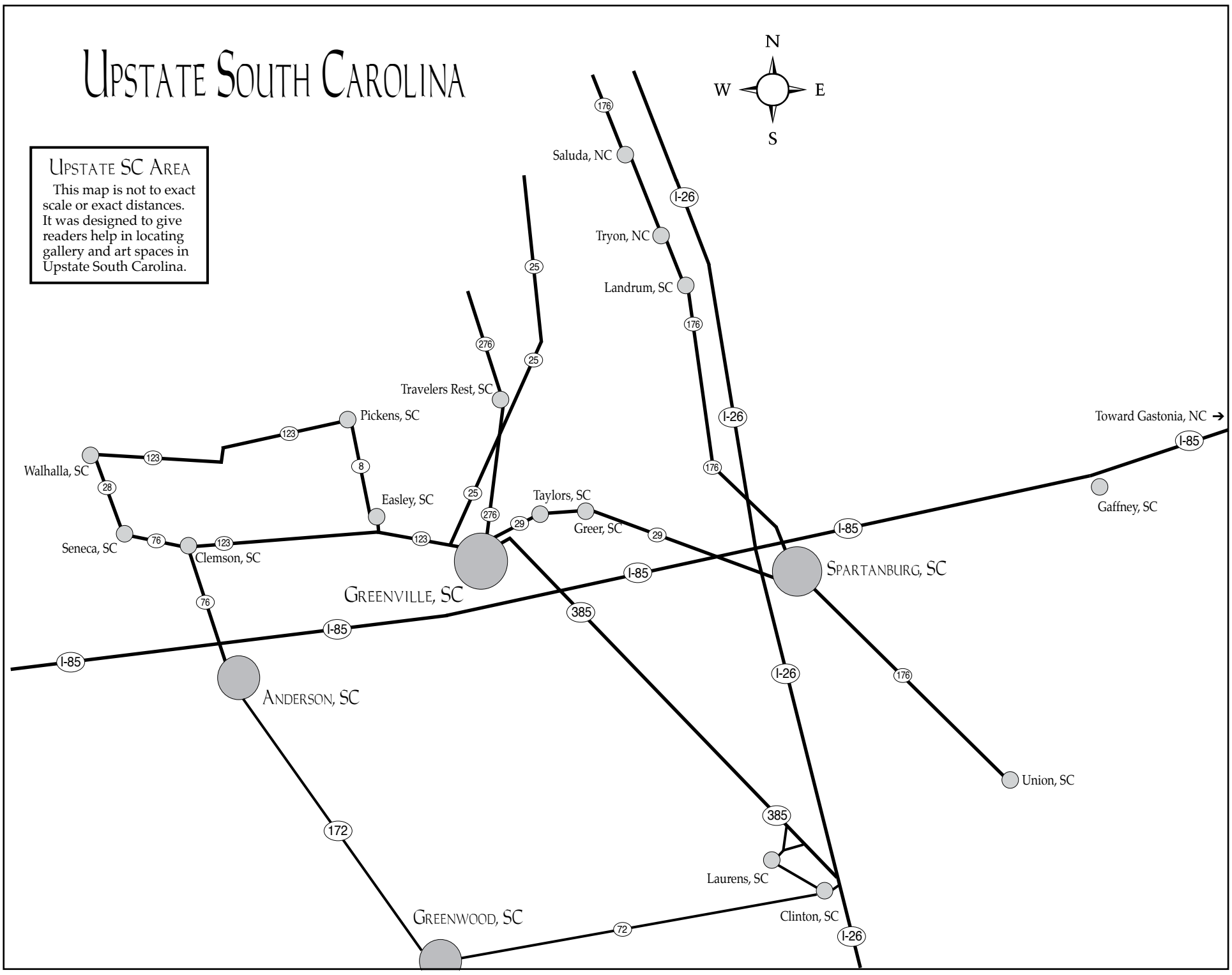

Greenville County Museum of Art in Greenville, SC, Features Works by Ashley Norwood Cooper

The Greenville County Museum of Art (GCMA) in Greenville, SC, is presenting an exhibit of works by Ashley Norwood Cooper, on view through Sept. 8, 2024.

Born and raised in Greenville, SC, Ashley Norwood Cooper (born 1970) received her BA from the University of Georgia, where she majored in Latin. She taught Latin for a time before moving to Bloomington, Indiana, where she earned her MFA in Painting from Indiana University in 2000.

Cooper's work depicts intimate, middle-class life in vibrant colors applied with bold, expressive brushstrokes. Optimistic and hopeful, her scenes of seeming domestic tranquility also hint at the unpredictability and fragility of family life and community. Informed by Abstract Expressionism, her large-scale figurative paintings have been the subjects of numerous solo and group exhibitions in the United States.

Considered the premier American art museum in the South, the GCMA is home to the world's largest public collection of watercolors by iconic American artist Andrew Wyeth. The GCMA also has an impressive collection of paintings and prints by contemporary artist Jasper Johns.

Ashley Norwood Cooper (born 1970) "Campfire with Ghost Rabbits" 2022. oil on linen

Ranging from Federal portraits to contemporary abstractions, the GCMA's acclaimed Southern Collection invites viewers to survey American art history through works with ties to the South.

The GCMA is the only museum in the Upstate to be fully accredited by the American Alliance of Museums.

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings, call the Museum at 864/271-7570 or visit (www.gcma.org).

Spoonbill Gallery in Greenville, SC, Features Works by Bess Whittington

Spoonbill Gallery in Greenville, SC, will present *Wondrous Wild,* featuring works by Bess Whittington, on view from Aug. 2 - 31, 2024. A reception will be held on Aug. 2, from 6-9pm.

Discover the hidden, often overlooked beauty and richness of nature, in this intricate collection of pieces.

Inspired by the Italian term, sottobosco, which translates to "undergrowth" or "underbrush" in English, Greenville native, Bess Whittington will release *Wondrous Wild* in August. As reflected in the surfaces of her mixed media pieces, sottobosco refers to the dense, diverse layers of vegetation found on the forest floor, beneath its canopy. This layer is characterized by a rich tapestry of small plants, shrubs, herbs, fungi, mosses, and decaying organic mat-

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ter. This exhibition encourages viewers to appreciate the small wonders and intricate details that make up the natural environment and this enchanted exhibition.

This exhibition, influenced by the spirit of 18th and 19th-century naturalists, invites viewers to embark on a journey of discovery and appreciation for the hidden wonders of nature. *Wondrous Wild* showcases a captivating collection of works that blend detailed observation and curiosity with Whittington's reflections on the enchanting beauty of the natural world. Each piece in this body of work is a tribute to nature's intricate and often overlooked elements, encouraging viewers to pause, observe, and treasure their encounters with nature.

Work by Bess Whittington

Whittington's work contains a variety of processes including collagraph printmaking, woodworking, and sculpting. "The inspiration for this collection comes from the countless hours spent exploring my father's garden, where every leaf, flower, and creature seemed to tell a story," Whittington shares. "I wanted to create a space where viewers could experience that same sense of wonder and curiosity, inviting them to find and treasure encounters of their own."

Visitors will find themselves immersed in a world where the delicate interplay of light and shadow brings flora and fauna to vivid life, capturing the essence of the sottobosco.

Bess Whittington's work is an exploration of the natural world. Her pieces encompass scraps of wood, paper, bone, and fabric along with both found and crafted specimens. Each art piece contains a variety of processes including collagraph printmaking,

Work by Bess Whittington

building, and sculpting. There is a certain practicality and reflection to her work.

Whittington works with things that have died but left a beautiful reminder of their existence (e.g., skulls, vertebrae, fossils, and insects). She is inspired by the sense of discovery of 18th and 19th century natural history collections, and the reliquaries housed in the great cathedrals. As they do, her art invites a closer study and preservation of the earth around us.

Spoonbill Gallery is vibrant and experiential providing a unique and immersive art experience for the Greenville, SC, community and beyond. Founded by nationally award-winning artist, Joseph Bradley, and located adjacent to his studio, the gallery's collection features a variety of national artists complemented by a showcase of rising talents. Spoonbill Gallery is dedicated to fostering a deeper appreciation for art and culture, serving as a hub for artistic expression and creativity in the southeast.

For further information check our SC Commercial Gallery listings, visit (www.spoonbillgallery.com) or @spoonbillgallery on Instagram.

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, at 5pm, prior to our next issue.