

West Main Artists Co-op - Louka

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by immersing them in familiar scenes embedded with descriptive imagery. In the work selected for the current exhibit the characters occupy an altered reality scattered with expressive elements that set the scene for the questions and thoughts that come after the moment has passed. I invite viewers to ponder the relationships of the imagery to the body language of the figures when making their own presumptions of the various narratives that could be told.”

Louka is a native of Spartanburg, who now lives on the east side of town. She holds a bachelor’s degree in fine art from Clemson University and a master’s degree in art education from Lander University. She is National Board Certified in Early and Middle Childhood Art. She has taught at the Cleveland Academy of Leadership and is currently teaching at Jesse Boyd Elementary. Also, she is an adjunct art history instructor at Spartanburg Community College.

The work in this exhibit will range in size from 8 by 10 inches to 48 by 42 inches. It will be priced from \$75 to \$750. The majority of the paintings were created during the past few months, however, a few were created as long ago as three years, inspiring the latest work.

“Each painting carries its own stories,” she said. “There is no one correct interpretation. My work is created very intuitively and subconsciously. I let each element lead me to the next, and when the work is complete the message is very clear to me what my mind was solving. I expect this to be true and unique to each viewer as well. I want them to ponder and use their intuition, to pull meaning uniquely significant to them – go deep to connect with their emotions that we sometimes feel the need to keep to ourselves, because the human condition will always influence our state of mind. Once life’s emotional queries are expressed and out in the open we are often able to move on.

“The overarching theme of the exhibit



Work by Claire Louka

As it Lingers, expresses the message of lingering thoughts, feelings, emotions, and questions, whether it be seconds or years after a fleeting moment passes us by,” adds Louka. “I have included many images of birds in my current work, presenting the idea of migration and moving on, forward. However, not all birds migrate. Also, these birds have held significant cultural symbolism over the course of our human history and I am completely aware of each bird’s symbolism when including them in my work. I also use other animal symbolism as well as color and various other imagery.”

Her advice to people who see her exhibit is, “Only wonder what I was thinking for fun. It’s what you take from it that really matters. And these are always my intentions. It will be much like a room filled with people, they can expect to see a range of expressions, stories, energy and emotion but all relatable to one and other.”

West Main Artists Co-op is a nonprofit and all-volunteer arts agency located at on West Main Street in Spartanburg. It has three galleries, two retail shops, and studio space for about 50 artists. It is a grassroots arts agency that welcomes everyone, and it has a philosophical slant toward “Art by the people, for the people.”

For more information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings, call the Co-op at 864/804-6501 or visit (WestMainArtists.org).

Furman University in Greenville, SC, Offers Works by Sara Pedigo

Drawings and paintings by Flagler College Associate Professor Sara Pedigo will be on display Feb. 23 through Mar. 23, 2018, in the Thompson Gallery on the Furman University campus. The artist will present a talk during a reception in the gallery on Feb. 23, from 6-7:30pm.

The exhibition, *Apperceptions*, is free and open to the public and is sponsored by the Furman Department of Art.

In a statement, Pedigo says, “There is no life without light. I am enthralled and preoccupied by light’s incredible power to transform my perception of objects, spaces, and the human body. Visual reality is in constant flux, forms shift as they become obscured or revealed. Light is fleeting. Life is fleeting. Shadows move across the living room, white curtains become a dance of pale blue and evening’s orange light; my own skin dissolves or emerges from a blue wall. The inherent beauty I see in these small interactions drives my artistic practice. In the form of mark, value and color, I record the beauty and complexity inherent in my mundane surroundings, giving testament to my conscious effort to be present in this world.”

Pedigo grew up in the American South. She received her MFA in painting from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, in 2007. She serves as chair of the art department at Flagler College (Saint Augustine, FL), her undergraduate alma



Work by Sara Pedigo

mater.

Pedigo has exhibited nationally, with solo exhibitions at The Cultural Center at Ponte Vedra Beach in Jacksonville, FL, Wynn Bone Gallery in Annapolis, MD, and Barton College, Wilson, NC. Group exhibitions include the Cue Foundation, First Street Gallery, and Blue Mountain Gallery in New York City, Manifest Gallery in Cincinnati, and the Naples Art Museum in Naples, FL.

In 2006, she was included in the Outwin Boochever Portrait Competition at the Smithsonian National Portrait Gallery in Washington, DC, and received a Joan Mitchell Foundation MFA Grant.

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings or call the Furman University Department of Art at 864/294-2995.

Vista Studios in Columbia, SC, Transitions Into Stormwater Studios

Stormwater Studios is Columbia, SC’s latest evidence the Capitol City is commitment to visual arts as a valued factor in residents’ quality of life. The complex of artists’ working studios is located only

blocks away from Vista Studios which served a similar purpose for more than two decades.

Moving this month into the new com-

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