

Exhibition Planned for 2023-24

Curated by Lex Lancaster, Gallery Director and Assistant Professor of Art History
USC Upstate Art Gallery - Chapman Cultural Center - Spartanburg, SC

Mission Statement

The USC Upstate Art Gallery pursues the academic and creative missions of USC Upstate and the Visual Arts Program through the presentation, interpretation, and discussion of contemporary art. This gallery serves the university and community by exhibiting the work of diverse artists working in the Upstate region, the Southeast, and beyond; creating programs that highlight the artistic innovations and cultural contributions of these artists; and providing hands-on learning experiences for students.

Sara Schneckloth

Sept 7 - Nov 4, 2023

Opening Reception: Sept. 7th

Artist workshop: Sept. 8th



[Sara Schneckloth](#)'s studio practice is motivated by the question of how science, imagination, and the body inform one another through the activity of drawing. By combining the visual languages of biology, geology, and physics into large-scale, mixed-media, and interactive drawings, she creates images that speak to the physicality of mark-making, the embodiment of memory, and our interpretation of natural systems and phenomena. As it bridges the concerns of traditional illustration, sculpture, and new media, her approach seeks to discover ways in which drawing operates as a site of trans-disciplinary inquiry. Schneckloth is Professor in the School of Visual Art and Design at the University of South Carolina, and she is based in both Columbia, SC and rural New Mexico.

Erika Diamond

Nov. 16, 2023 - Jan. 6, 2024

Co-sponsored by Women's and Gender Studies



Asheville-based artist [Erika Diamond](#) uses textiles to address the vulnerabilities and safety of the queer community, responding to recent events such as the Pulse nightclub shooting, "Don't Say Gay" bills, and the danger that visibility can bring for queer and trans people along with our mutual need for human connection. Diamond writes: "My research is rooted in the historical functions of textiles as protective shields, storytelling artifacts, and signifiers of identity, belonging, and value. Viewing the textile as an extension of my own body or a surrogate for someone else's, I use materials and make objects that imitate skin, acting as protective yet permeable membranes that can absorb our experiences and bear the scars of our encounters. With materials that range from brittle eggshells to resilient Kevlar, I create garments that simultaneously encourage, protect against, and document moments of physical interaction between people."

Morgan Lugo

Jan 18 - March 9, 2024

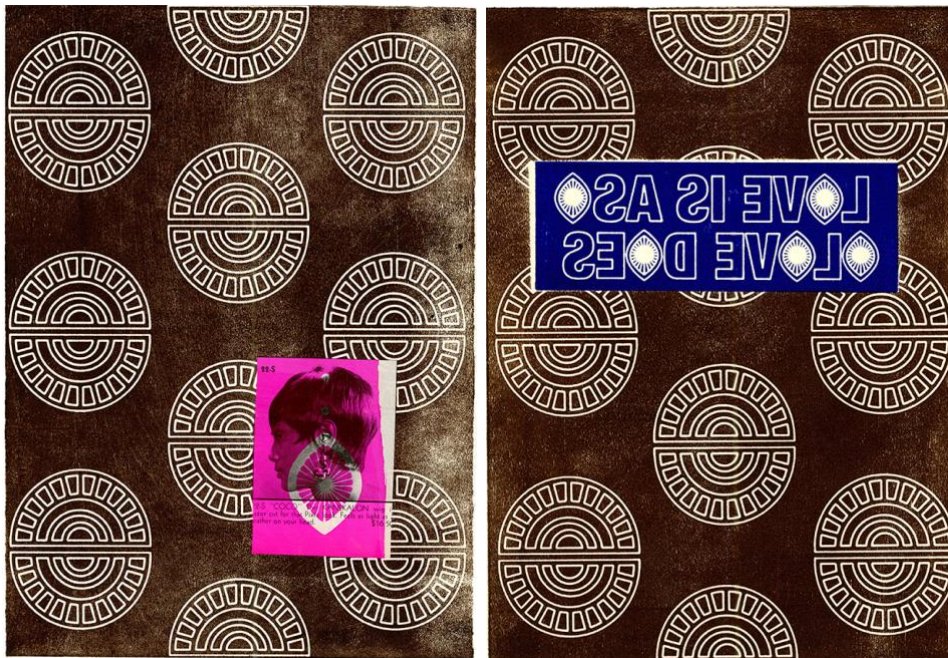


[Morgan Lugo](#) is a Sicilian/Puerto Rican post-surrealist sculptor based in Atlanta, GA. Lugo's practice is informed by a deep knowledge of mold making and metal casting from working as a professional foundry craftswoman for 6 years. After living through a severe head injury and losing her memory for a short period of time, Lugo became fascinated with what the physical representation of an idea or memory would look like. As she used her art practice to heal from the long-lasting side effects of brain trauma, much of her symbolism represents the reality in which she lives. Within the cosmology of her work, multiple faces, molecular structures, swirling visuals, and dream-like compositions take hold.

Wabwila Mugala

March 21 - May 4, 2024

Co-sponsorship with Center for African American Studies



[Wabwila \(wa-we-la\) Mugala](#) is a mixed media artist and graphic designer born in Zambia and currently based in North Carolina and Phoenix, AZ. Having moved often during her early life--Zambia, Sweden, and throughout the US--her work explores the ways we navigate inside and outside of cultures.

Mugala writes: "My work pulls from the various experiences I have had and the environments that I have existed in throughout my life, it is a singular one. However, these images and graphics layer together to paint a culmination of ties I have to different cultures and communities. Understanding that my entry point may not be far from those who find my work familiar or unfamiliar."

Freda Sue

May 16 - August 12, 2024



Printmaker [Freda Sue](#) is inspired by ancient Chinese culture, artifacts, literature, and symbolism. Using woodcut as her primary technique, Sue refreshes forms from the past and endows them with new conceptual and visual content through personal experience. Her prints register the creative process of her physical body, engaging with the repeated motion of carving transfers energy into a block, or how the printing process transforms her concept into the tangible imprint through layers of mark-making in ink. Freda Sue was born in Taipei, Taiwan and currently lives in Greenville, SC. She is Assistant Professor of Art Foundations at USC Upstate.