

# BRANCHING OUT

North Carolina Contemporary Artists  
Interpret Nature

A GROUP EXHIBITION



presented by The Umstead Gallery + Artsuite

100 Woodland Pond Drive • Cary, NC 27513

April – July 2021

This Spring and Summer, the Umstead Gallery and Artsuite will present a group show of notable contemporary North Carolina artists inspired by the natural world. We are delighted to welcome Hannah Cole, Jim Lee, Tim Lytvinenko, Beverly McIver, Thomas Sayre, Randy Shull, Shelley Smith, Leah Sobsey and Damian Stamer to display their art work at the Umstead Hotel and Spa.

For artists, poets and philosophers, there has long been a strong connection between art and nature. In the words of Maya Angelou, "No one comes from the earth like grass. We come like trees; we all have roots". Monet states, "The richness I achieve comes from nature, the source of my inspiration". Paul Cezanne writes, "Art is a harmony parallel with nature". Aristotle writes, "Art takes nature as its model". "Look deep into nature, and then you will understand everything better", says Albert Einstein.

During the last year, the world has experienced a global pandemic, economic, social and political unrest, and limited gatherings with friends and family. People around the globe have longed for connection and have sought inspiration and comfort in nature. The Umstead Gallery is a destination where nature and art unite. The permanent art collection and the dedicated gallery space at the Umstead Hotel present an opportunity for visitors and our community to engage with art and experience new perspectives on nature.



# ARTSUITE.

#### About The Umstead Gallery

<https://www.theumstead.com/art>

#### About Artsuite

<https://artsuite.com/pages/about>





"I paint the daily surroundings that normally go unnoticed—a glimpse of the bookshelf, the manhole cover I walk over on my route to the grocery store, my pliers hanging on a pegboard.

My paintings are at once rooted in the unique experiences of my own life, and in conversation with the larger history of American painting. If you're an art nerd like me, you may notice some cheeky nods to our painting forefathers; Agnes Martin, Franz Kline, Barnett Newman. I make every mark by hand, without shortcuts. This practice is one part meditation, one part Yankee work ethic."

Hannah is a painter living in Asheville, North Carolina. She studied at Yale University and Boston University, and has exhibited internationally. She is represented by Slag Gallery in New York. Her work was shown recently at The Drawing Center, NYC and at Volta, Basel. Last year she had her fourth solo show in New York at The Lodge Gallery and a solo museum show at the University of Maine Museum of Art. Her show *The Persistence of Weeds* was exhibited at the Turchin Center for Visual Art in 2018. Hannah was featured in the 'Front Burner' exhibition at the North Carolina Museum of Art in 2020.



**Persists, Takes Up Space, Turns Toward Light, 2019**

Acrylic on Canvas

36" x 36" \$5,500



**Life After Hard Winter, 2017**

Acrylic on Canvas

37" x 24" \$4,700



**Red Creeper, 2018**

Acrylic on Canvas

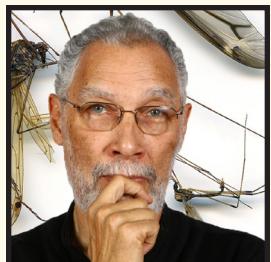
27" x 27" \$4,200



**Dead Chicory, 2017**

Acrylic on Canvas

20" x 18" \$3,000



**JIM LEE**

Jim Lee is a multi-dimensional, self-taught artist whose work is heavily influenced by his love of nature, science, psychology, and technology. Working with cameras, scanners, lighting and collections of found and fabricated objects, Jim creates photographic images that range from the darkly mysterious and figurative to the elegantly simple and abstract. One rarely leaves one of Jim's pieces without some question and that is exactly what he wants. His work has been featured in numerous solo and group exhibitions and can be found in collections at American Tobacco Campus, Andrew Young Enterprises, Cassilhaus, and Duke University Medical Center.



**Cutout #9, 2018**  
Archival pigment print  
mounted to acid-free board  
17" x 21" framed \$400



**Cutout #34, 2018**  
Archival pigment print  
mounted to acid-free board  
17" x 21" framed \$400



**Cutout #39, 2018**  
Archival pigment print  
mounted to acid-free board  
17" x 21" framed \$400



**Cutout #58, 2018**  
Archival pigment print  
mounted to acid-free board  
17" x 21" framed \$400



**Cutout #65, 2018**  
Archival pigment print  
mounted to acid-free board  
17" x 21" framed \$400



**Cutout #67, 2018**  
Archival pigment print  
mounted to acid-free board  
17" x 21" framed \$400



## TIM LYTVINENKO

Tim Lytvinenko is a photographer and printmaker. With a background in computer science and 15 years as a fine art and documentary photographer, he explores ideas of what it means to be human. Experimenting heavily with print processes and manipulating digital photographs, Lytvinenko creates emotional and detailed multi-media works on the subject of self. His pieces can be, at once, large scale and intimate, technical and improvisational. His recent work can be seen across the Raleigh skyline on the 66-foot-tall facade of The Dillon, at the 21c Hotel in Durham, and in private collections across the east coast and the south. His print work has been published in ELLE Magazine, ESPN The Magazine, New York Post, Sportswear International, Sports Illustrated, and Walter. Lytvinenko's solo exhibitions (2014-present) are experiences influenced by pop-up shows and storytelling, featuring multi-process works ranging from 2 feet to 14 feet. Lytvinenko is a native North Carolinian and a 2005 graduate of NCSU. He works out of Anchorlite Studios in Raleigh and is a Dance Dance Revolution expert.



**Andromeda, 2020**

Photo transfer on archival photo paper

60" x 44" \$6,000



## BEVERLY MCIVER

Beverly McIver is widely acknowledged as a significant presence in contemporary American art and has charted a new direction as an African American woman artist. She is committed to producing art that consistently examines racial, gender, social and occupational identity.

McIver was born in Greensboro, North Carolina in 1962. She is the youngest of three girls born to Ethel McIver. Her oldest sister Renee is mentally disabled, with the mindset of a second grader. Beverly is Renee's legal guardian. Renee is a frequent subject of the artist, as are other family members.

McIver's work is in the collection of the National Portrait Gallery at the Smithsonian, the North Carolina Museum of Art, the Weatherspoon Art Museum, the Baltimore Museum of Art, the NCCU Museum of Art, the Asheville Museum of Art, The Crocker Art Museum, the Nelson Fine Arts Center Art Museum at Arizona State University, the Nasher Museum of Art at Duke University, the Cameron Art Museum and the Mint Museum as well as significant corporate and private collections. McIver is currently the Ebenshade Professor of the Practice in Studio Arts At Duke University. She was the Suntrust Endowed Chair Professor of Art at North Carolina Central University, 2007-2014. Prior to this appointment, McIver taught at Arizona State University in Tempe, AZ for twelve years, Duke University, North Carolina State University and North Carolina Central University. She has also held residencies at many of the nation's leading artist communities, including YADDO, the Headland Center for the Arts, Djerassi, and Penland School of Arts and Crafts. She has served on the board at Penland, and currently serves on the board of directors at YADDO in Saratoga Springs, NY.



**Peonies on the Wall, 2020**

Oil on Canvas

36" x 48"

Price available upon request.



**Sunny Tulips, 2020**

Oil on Canvas

36" x 48"

Price available upon request.



Thomas Sayre (b. 1950) is an American sculptor and painter. He designs and builds public art projects and private commissions all over the world. His current work includes large paintings made with tar, smoke, gunshots, welding material, earth, and fire. Sayre is a founding principal of the multi-disciplinary design firm Clearscapes, alongside architect Steve Schuster. The team designs numerous civic, educational, and museum buildings.

Thomas sculpts, paints, and produces commissioned work. His art is housed in collections across the globe from Thailand to Tennessee. He has exhibited his work in a number of private galleries and public museums, including Cheryl Hazan Gallery in Manhattan and the Contemporary Art Museum and the North Carolina Museum of Art, both in Raleigh, North Carolina. In 1995, Sayre received a National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship. In 2014, he was awarded an honorary doctorate of fine arts from North Carolina State University.

Growing up in the shadow of Washington National Cathedral, Thomas' early art education—and his love and respect of natural materials—came from the stonecutters and the Cathedral. His education continued at St. Albans School, as a Morehead Scholar at the University of North Carolina, and at the University of Michigan and Cranbrook Academy of Art.



**Thicket 15, 2016**

Tar, Enamel, and Sealer on White Panel  
48" x 48" \$7,500



**Red Thicket, 2016**

Tar, Enamel, and Sealer on White Panel  
48" x 48" \$7,500



Randy Shull was born in Illinois in 1962. His early development was nurtured by his father, a master carpenter and furthered through rigid training as a furniture designer at Rochester Institute of Technology in Rochester NY, where Shull received a BFA in 1986.

**RANDY SHULL** Shull's work has evolved naturally over time from furniture to painting and to the creation of large projects on an architectural scale that embody the intersection of art, architecture and design. In 2010, he co-founded Pink Dog Creative, a redevelopment of a former warehouse into a mixed-use space with 20 artist studios, two restaurants and retail shops. In 2015 and 2016, he designed and fabricated the Black Mountain College Museum + Art Center in downtown Asheville, NC. He operates a warehouse-size studio in Asheville and part of the year works out of his mid-century home and studio in Merida, Mexico.

His work is in the permanent collection of The Brooklyn Museum; The High Museum, Atlanta, GA; The Renwick Museum of American Art, Washington, D.C.; The Mint Museum of Craft & Design, Charlotte, NC; Racine Museum of Art, Racine, WI; The Gregg Museum of Art & Design, Raleigh, NC; The Asheville Art Museum, The Black Mountain College Museum + Arts Center, Asheville, NC; The Mobile Museum of Art, Mobile, AL; and Museum of Art and Design in New York City, and The Umstead Hotel and Spa.

In 1993, Shull received a North Carolina Arts Council Fellowship grant. In 1994, he was awarded a NEA grant through the Southern Arts Federation. He has been honored with residency positions at Altos de Chavon, Dominican Republic, University of the Arts, Philadelphia, PA, Oregon College of Arts and Crafts, Portland, OR and Penland School of Craft, North Carolina.



**Untitled**

Terra Cotta set

Yellow/Gold set (not pictured)

Acrylic on Wood Panel

Painting 60" x 48" Bench 16" x 18" x 48" \$10,000



**SHELLEY SMITH**

Born in 1979 in Raleigh NC, Shelley Smith is an artist, curator, and arts administrator. She graduated with a Master of Art and Design with a concentration of Fibers and Surface Design from North Carolina State University in 2016. Her curatorial projects include The Pink Building Project and Anchorlight Creative Space where she is the co-founder and Creative Director. Anchorlight provides a combination of artist studios, residency opportunities, and exhibition space in downtown Raleigh, NC.

Smith's artistic practice serves as the foundation for all her other creative endeavours. Primarily working with the combination of cloth and digital techniques, her practice reflects the inborn ties between our individual selves and nature.



**Untitled, 2018**

Digital print, hand embroidery on satin;  
quilted and mounted on board  
15" x 11" \$1,500



**Untitled, 2018**

Digital print, hand embroidery on satin;  
quilted and mounted on board  
15" x 11" \$1,500



**Untitled, 2018**

Digital print, hand embroidery on satin;  
quilted and mounted on board  
15" x 11" \$1,500



**Untitled, 2018**

Digital print, hand embroidery on satin;  
quilted and mounted on board  
15" x 11" \$1,500



## LEAH SOBSEY

Leah Sobsey is an artist and educator. She received her M.F.A. from the San Francisco Art Institute in 2001 and completed the Resident Certificate Program at the Maine Photographic Workshops in 1997. Her work has been exhibited widely and is in private collections across the country. She is the recipient of numerous awards and grants. She has taught at the San Francisco Art Institute, Duke University, The Maine Photographic Workshops and the Center for Documentary Studies at Duke

University. She utilizes photography as a preservation tool, a way to understand, interpret and create memory.



**Traces 1, 2020**

Original antholumen on silver gelatin fiber paper printed on velvet fine art paper

10" x 8" \$300



**Traces 2, 2020**

Original antholumen on silver gelatin fiber paper printed on velvet fine art paper

10" x 8" \$300



**Traces 3, 2020**

Original antholumen on silver gelatin fiber paper printed on velvet fine art paper

10" x 8" \$300



**Traces 4, 2020**

Original antholumen on silver gelatin fiber paper printed on velvet fine art paper

10" x 8" \$300



**Traces 5, 2020**

Original antholumen on silver gelatin fiber paper printed on velvet fine art paper

10" x 8" \$300



**Traces 6, 2020**

Original antholumen on silver gelatin fiber paper printed on velvet fine art paper

10" x 8" \$300



## DAMIAN STAMER

Damian Stamer (b. 1982, American) received his Master of Fine Arts from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill as a Jacob K. Javits fellow in 2013 and his Bachelor of Fine Arts from the Herberger Institute of Art and Design and Barrett, The Honors College at Arizona State University as a National Merit scholar in 2007. He also studied at the Hungarian University of Fine Arts as a Fulbright grantee, and the State Academy of Art and Design in Stuttgart, Germany as a Rotary Ambassadorial scholar. Damian's contemporary paintings explore themes of memory and loss through formal and conceptual approaches. Detailed architectural forms reminiscent of his childhood memories of the South are combined with gestural brushstrokes that push and pull the images into existence. The artist lives and works in Durham, North Carolina. Damian Stamer is represented by Koki Arts in Tokyo, Japan.



**New Sharon Church Road 53, 2018**

*Oil on Panel*

24" x 36" \$8,500

The Umstead Gallery is delighted to present our first NC artist group show, thanks to the collaboration and thoughtful suggestions of Marjorie Hodges with Artsuite. Marjorie personally contacted contemporary artists from across the state to curate their interpretations of nature. The result is a fantastic range of styles, mediums, and sensibilities that all speak to the talent found within our borders.

Artsuite, based in North Carolina, creates inclusive, accessible experiences with visual art by connecting artists, galleries, collectors, and communities through its online platform and art marketplace. [www.artsuite.com](http://www.artsuite.com)

The Gallery artwork is available for purchase through the Umstead Gift Shop.

Hours: Sunday – Wednesday 9am – 6pm

Thursday – Saturday 9am – 8pm

919-447-4065

[retail@theumstead.com](mailto:retail@theumstead.com)

Guided tours of the gallery art can be scheduled in advance

[marjorie@artsuite.com](mailto:marjorie@artsuite.com)

*Please visit the Gift Shop for more information.*