

INTERNAL
AFFAIRS
ART GALLERY & VENUE



N E U E
S O U T H

FEATURING OVER 20 LOCAL ARTISTS + SPECIAL ART AUCTION

Thursday, May 18 5-8pm

RIGHTS & EMPOWERMENT
ART SHOW
BENEFITING WREN
WOMEN'S RIGHTS AND EMPOWERMENT NETWORK

THE MONTGOMERY BUILDING
INTERNAL AFFAIRS ART GALLERY & VENUE
187 NORTH CHURCH STREET SPARTANBURG, SC, 29306

OPENING RECEPTION MAY 18 5-8PM

SHOW OPEN MAY 18 - MAY 20
GALLERY HOURS: FRIDAY 11-5PM, SATURDAY 11-5PM

WELCOME TO THE RIGHTS & EMPOWERMENT ART SHOW BENEFITING WREN

Hosted by Kathryn Harvey, Michele Cook & Alix Refshauge

Thank you for supporting local artists and the incredible work of the Women's Rights & Empowerment Network. We passionately believe that South Carolina would be a less equitable, inclusive and thriving place these days without the tireless work of the WREN Network. Whether they are advocating for our rights at the SC Statehouse, organizing throughout our communities, or keeping us informed around the fight for a better SC, their staff and extended community have made a significant impact on Spartanburg over the past few years.

Every artist participating in this show answered a call to support these efforts through their work, and we have the utmost gratitude. A percentage of the proceeds from every sale will benefit WREN, and 100% of the art auction will be donated.

WREN is one of the leading gender justice organizations in South Carolina, fighting for a South Carolina we all deserve. Your contributions make a difference in the fight for: Reproductive Freedom and bodily autonomy, expanding paid leave, equal pay and greater economic dignity. Scwren.org

THANK YOU TO OUR ARTISTS

Lucy Boland
Jenny Bonner
Carrie Caldwell
Nancy Corbin
Robyn Crawford
Christina Dixon
Red DuMonde

Carroll Foster
Annette Giaco
Josh Holt
Dorothy Josey
Catherine Judice
Caitling Kilpatrick
Maggie Macdonald
Lady Pluuto

Staci Purvis
Catherine Querin
Alix Refshauge
Jessica Scott-Felder
Betsy Sikma
Genevieve Strickland
Kay Stricklin
Aimee Wise

Special Art Auction:
Chellis Baird
Becca Barnet
Frankie Zombie

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TAKE ACTION

scwren.org/take-legislative-action



SIGN UP

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ART AUCTION

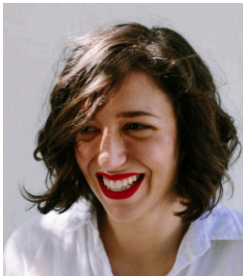


CHELLIS (STODDARD) BAIRD, "HOPE II"

COTTON FABRIC, ACRYLIC, 22KARAT MOON GOLD LEAF, PLASTER, ON PANEL 20 X 30 INCHES

Spartanburg Native and resident of NYC, Chellis Baird, blurs the intersection of painting, sculpture and textiles. Baird explores the elements of painting by reconstructing handwoven canvases from a unique perspective. Her bespoke process begins with woven structures as her base. Each canvas starts with neutral toned materials that are then painted, dyed and sculpted into dimensional brushstrokes. She creates tangled compositions through a series of twists, knots, and upcycled textiles. Baird's background in fashion allows her to dress the canvas with imagination. Not unlike a garment, she uses color to emphasize the authenticity and body of each piece.

Baird received her BFA in textiles from Rhode Island School of Design and studied studio art at the Art Students League in New York City. Baird's first solo museum exhibition, TETHERED, was held at the Myrtle Beach Art Museum in South Carolina from September 7 - December 19, 2021. Most recently, the artist was awarded a 2022 fellowship at the National Arts Club in New York City. Her work is in several prestigious private collections and has been included in The New York Times, Art Net, Elle Magazine, Forbes, Architectural Digest, Luxe Interiors Magazine, and Portray Magazine to name a few.



BECCA BARNET, "TATTOOED LADIES TRIPTYCH"

GOUACHE PRINTED ON ARCHIVAL PAPER

Becca's work is driven by a fascination with natural history and preservation. A graduate of the Rhode Island School of Design with a BFA in Illustration, she also attended the Missouri Taxidermy Institute where she fine-tuned her special knack and patience for taxidermy repair from cleaning to complete mount renovations. She's put her precision and passion for replicating textures and preserving animals for ten years into her company of artists for hire, Sisal Creative. www.sisalcreative.com

WREN is making big moves to find ways of providing women the chance to have autonomy. I created these images as visual examples of how I find strength to claim ownership of my own body. To challenge the warped, yet, ever-changing cultural beauty standards of today, these female torsos are inspired by Greek sculptures. Even the anonymous, limbless, faceless, women provide a sense of power and somehow are able to relieve me of that built-in societal pressure to edit my own shape. Personally, I find that choosing your own version of any type of body modification or beautification to outwardly express bodily autonomy can be a powerful tool as well; so these ladies are adorned with tattoos from neck to hip.

ART AUCTION



FRANKIE ZOMBIE, "A WOMAN IN MOTION"

20X30 MIXED MEDIA PRINT \$3100

This Piece Represents a glimpse of Angela Davis in her Glory and Rightful place as a women, leader, and activist for prison reform, women's rights, equality, and so much more. A woman's seat at the table is highly important as they have shifted the world since the beginning of time.

From colorful car transformations to bold body paint, Forbes, featured artist, Frankie Zombie, has created what you could call a renaissance art realm. With a focus on contemporary abstract art forms, Frankie has tapped into the heart of interior design, thought-provoking, murals, automotive design, fashionable apparel, philanthropy, and much more. His innovative style has led him to be able to create for some of the world's, most beloved moguls, such as Pharrell Williams, Miley Cyrus, Celine, Dion, as well as national brands, like NASCAR, Adidas, HBO, NFL and many more.

IN THE WORDS OF THE ARTISTS



LUCY BOLAND "LAYERS OF GROWTH"

30X40

ACRYLIC AND INK ON UNPRIMED CANVAS, \$1866.00

"Layers of Growth" attempts to relate personal growth and reflection to that of a flower, blooming one vulnerable petal at a time. In an attempt to discreetly highlight a broader and more wide-ranging issue, the flower vase is formed by a gun barrel, which is my artistic response to gun violence.

I see it as a call to my country to reflect and grow on the issue. The work I'm submitting comes from a place of honest feeling as a woman, mother and South Carolina native. Much of my work attempts to reflect the power and beauty of feminine energy through the humbling medium of paint. Some of my most recent works explore generational healing through textiles.



JENNY BONNER

"THE FLUIDITY OF DAYS (WE JUST KEEP ACCUMULATING)"

27" X 49", \$2400

This self-portrait was created during the 2020 shutdown, while I was teaching my painting class at USC Upstate from Home. I spend much of my free time long-distance trail running

and hiking with friends in the ultrarunning community, and that togetherness was largely limited during that time, as were my trips to the mountains. This portrait documents a moment in my life where I was tethered to "home" and daydreaming of adventurous pursuits beyond the neighborhood and with friends. I think it's a testament to the fact that we all dream big. Women dream big.

WREN's ongoing campaign to improve the living and working conditions for women and gender-expansive people brings me so much hope and gratitude. Especially in the south, where domestic tradition seems to reign supreme, I am so grateful for the influence of an organization concerned with the rights of women and their families.



CARRIE CALDWELL, "ASCENDING"

PHOTOGRAPH, \$175

As the mother of two kids, a trans son and a teenaged daughter, I am often thinking of their futures and the way that our government will affect their lives- whether for the positive or negative. I appreciate the advocacy work that WREN does to make the lives of my children and their friends better.

This piece symbolizes the freedom to dream of any future that one chooses; while using the knowledge and love received from the past. The second piece represents the idea of rising up from a somewhat empty, desolate landscape to a brighter future.



NANCY CORBIN, "MOTHER LOVE"

20 X 26 FRAMED, ACRYLIC ON PANEL, \$1250

The power of mother love makes the use of healthcare bans by those grasping for power all the more abhorrent. The research, concise information, and strategic action suggestions that WREN shares with supporters of gender equality issues are a highly valued part of my personal approach to being a good citizen

of South Carolina. Moving forward on rights and empowerment requires collaboration and resilience. The qualities of collaborative spirit and resiliency have long been an interest of my approach to figurative imagery. When strong figures are connected to issues of social justice, visual ideas can inspire positive change.

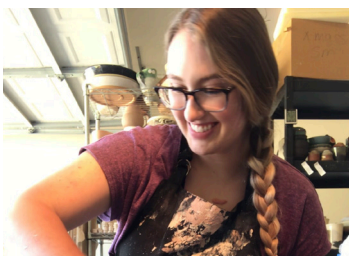


ROBYN CRAWFORD, "THE NORNS"

24 INCHES ROUND, MIXED MEDIA (WOOD, ACRYLICS, RESIN, METALLIC FOIL, PETRIFIED WOOD, QUARTZ, LABRADORITE, GLASS, JASPER, POLYMER CLAY), \$825

The Norns are powerful female mythical beings in Norse mythology who controlled fate and destiny, even that of the gods. Their names suggest their

ability to construct the content of time: one is Urd "The Past, the second Verdandi "What Is Presently Coming into Being") and the third Skuld "What Shall Be". They live in a hall by a beneath Yggdrasill, the mighty tree of life at the center of the Norse otherworld, which holds the nine worlds in its branches and roots. Overall, the worship of goddesses throughout history and across cultures serves as a reminder of the importance of honoring the feminine divine in all its manifestations, and encourages us to embrace the qualities of nurturing, creativity, and wisdom that are inherent within us all. This body of work was created in crystals and color with the hope that it will help connect you to your inner goddess. When you create programs that help ensure that women and girls have access to the same education, healthcare, and other basic needs you contribute to making a more just society. That benefits and uplifts society as a whole.



CHRISTINA DIXON

"LAVENDER CRYSTAL VESSEL, LAVENDER CRYSTAL BOTTLE, SHINO BOTTLE"

WOOD-FIRED STONEWARE 18"H AND 11"W-\$1200, 17"H AND 13"W-\$900, 24"H AND 10"W-\$900

My work is stoneware clay, thrown on the potter's wheel and wood-fired for 36 hours in a traditional Japanese-style anagama kiln. I am primarily interested in the juxtaposition of a quiet, classic form and the richly varied surfaces of this volatile firing atmosphere. My work's relevance to women's empowerment lies in its scale. People assume that you need brute strength to shape large amounts of clay, thus people assume that a large wheel-thrown pot must be made by a man. I hope that by choosing to work at a larger scale, I can encourage other women to play with scale in their own work, and push the boundaries of what they think they may be capable of. This should be the norm of our society,



RED DUMONDE

"DUCKS IN THE HELLEBORES"

8X10" ARTWORK, WATERCOLOR ON ARCHES, \$250

Did you know that Ducks are transsexual? Many animals are trans-sexual. This is different from transgender, where sex is the physical, and gender is the expression. Folks may say,

"That's nature, it happens only to further the species, not because the animal decided it wanted to be xyz." But this implies that gender and sex only exist to further a species, so do humans only have sex to further the species? Not to mention there are many animals that have sex for pleasure as well. Perhaps we should learn from nature. As a queer woman who has felt a bit gender fluid throughout their life, this movement is very near and dear to my heart. I am so glad that this organization exists in a state where basic healthcare can be a great hurdle. Thank you for putting on this benefit show.



CARROLL FOSTER, "ASHLEY MCRAE"

20X30 INKJET TRANSFER PHOTOGRAPHY, 35MM FILM CAMERA, \$500

The image was printed using a technique called a Giclee Transfer or Inkjet transfer, on a transparent material then transferred onto a watercolor or art paper. This latest work combines photography and my love interest in alternative printing techniques. This is an empowering woman who works hard toward her

goals in life. With these photos I wanted to create not only a beautiful image to look at but to always inspire a creative story in the viewer mind.

In the state of South Carolina it is important to have organizations like WREN. One only has to study the history of America and see that women and girls have not had equal treatment as their male counterparts. It is important to advocate for rights such as equal pay in the work place, the rights of woman's health and access to college level education. South Carolina ranks pretty low as a state in the this country in many of if not all of these categories.



ANNETTE GIACO, "SACRED"

24"X12"X2", ACRYLIC ON CANVAS, \$450

The piece I have submitted is called "Sacred"; depicting a young woman of color seemingly submerged and distorted by water. I chose that title for two reasons. Water is our most sacred element on earth. It not only gives life and cleanses but according to Native American beliefs it is the vehicle that transports souls to the next world and is considered sacred in a spiritual sense.

The second reason is the fact that all life and all individuals are sacred and each of us deserves a place on this earth that both nourishes and embraces. I chose "Sacred" because the water distorts the truth of what lies beneath; vile inequality. I'm very concerned about the current focus on reducing the rights of all women or those who identify as women. Certain state and federal politicians spend more time focusing on women's reproductive rights than on the major issues involving the economy and environmental problems impacting our country and the entire world. Despite all the advances made in struggling for equality, women still face discrimination, violence and other institutional barriers. Why is there an overwhelming and illogical fear of empowered women? Why can't we move forward and focus on what really matters?



JOSH HOLT, "MARANATHA #1"

32"X70"

PAINT/CANVAS/GOLD LEAF/CHARCOAL/PEN, \$1,000

This image is of an Afghan girl whose expression reflects her being informed the Taliban had just sacked her home. The charcoal face reflects the pain in her expression and the obscure designs on her hands and arms reflect burn marks and bandages. Her nails are blood red showing the burnt nail polish and singed fingernails.

The piece introduces the nuanced notions of hope and tragedy. Tragedy in her expression and situation, juxtaposing this maranatha cry of things being made right. The colors are important, this one being blue which represents faith in Jesus. In addition to this you see a gold halo which is symbolic of saints in orthodox christian art. These pieces are the first of a series of Maranatha themed projects I began back in the fall of 2021. They came out of a brief collaboration with a renown photojournalist, Paula Bronstein and her sobering images of war torn Afghanistan during the war. This set was a part of a show back in 2021 that helped raise awareness and monetary funding for a women led movement in Afghanistan. This movement is known as the fastest growing underground church in the middle east. This majority women led movement faces severe persecution and death (due to not only their faith, but their sex) yet even so these women move on with a hope and a "maranatha" cry that longs for a day where things are set right not only for their region but for humanity. Each piece defines a particular aspect of the gospel by its specific color. I think I value the fact that there is a platform set up to support and value women using art. Maranatha - "Lord Come" - Greek

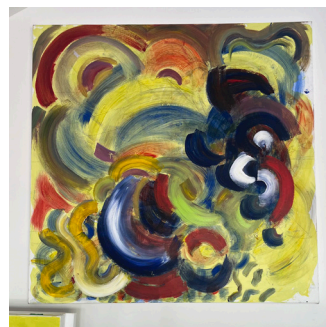


DOROTHY JOSEY, "ROSES STILL LIFE"

14X11,OIL ON BOARD \$1,200

All roses symbolize love. Just as a drug addict or an alcoholic has to "hit bottom," we as a society are "bottoming out." We don't care about the least of these. I long for the day when LOVE is our mission statement. WREN is in the trenches doing the work. And for that I not only support them monetarily,

but I also did a love painting in their honor. WREN is fierce, determined, and getting results. In a seemingly uphill battle, they are gaining empowerment and basic rights for the people of SC.

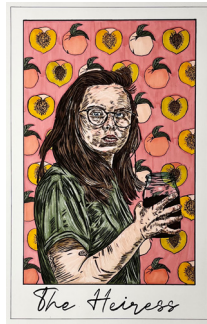


CATHERINE JUDICE, "CATHARSIS"

48"X48", \$5200

This piece began as a still life. I carefully sketched out the lines, but with a toddler in tow, I couldn't find time to flush those lines with color. Motherhood has challenged me continuously, but finding time for my art has been a challenge. Lack of childcare, lack of support, postpartum depression...Motherhood is all consuming, chaotic, exhausting, beautiful.

I abandoned the still life and painted with speed, with lots of movement, in a way that felt like a catharsis to my struggle with the demands of a young kid. I abandoned the plan and let this painting be born from physical impulse. My toddler's water soluble paint is mixed in with acrylic, almost obscuring the carefully penciled map. This piece feels like an embodiment of the reality of motherhood vs the idyllic notion. It feels like the chaos of caring for a tiny human. But this struggle, this entire life shift, was my choice. It was my choice, and it has still been the hardest thing I've ever done. I can't fathom that some women are being denied the ability to choose this for themselves. Every woman should have the right to choose if they want to take this path. Everything. WREN's efforts give me hope that many more people in SC will be given the opportunity to make their own choices for their health and future.



CAITLIN KILPATRICK, "THE HEIRESS"

19" X 24", SUMI INK AND ALCOHOL MARKERS, \$350

My illustration, The Heiress, is about a woman's place in inheriting an "empire of dirt" from male family members. As one of the last of my family to know our traditions and history, it is my job to keep my family's history alive. Traditionally, women were not farmers nor moonshiners in Dark Corner, but as the last of the line, I am exploring a woman's empowerment in telling such an intense family history. With my illustration The Heiress, I hope that

other women who are having a hard time living up to the predisposition expectations that set us up for failure. Through this piece, I have solidified my belief that as women, we have a right to make our mark within the aspects of history that are traditionally defined by men, and I wish to relay this to other women within South Carolina. Growing up, my mom taught me that women have just as much of a place in society as men do. The fact that many women and our government do not see it that way has always been a big issue for me. Women deserve the same pay as men, better treatment within the healthcare system, and the right to choose what they do with their lives and bodies. WREN's mission to help promote these ideals within South Carolina gives me hope for our future as women in South Carolina.



MAGGIE MACDONALD

"ALWAYS FLOWERS"

22 X 30 MIXED MEDIA ON PAPER, \$577

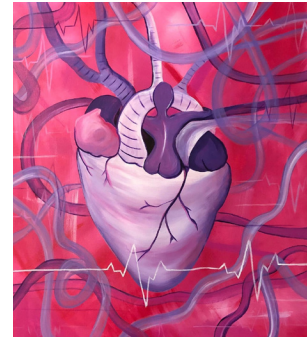
As a female painter I feel that my work is a righteous celebration in female creativity. Female empowerment and supporting women in the arts.



LADY PLUUTO, "BOUNTIFUL"

16X20, FRAMED DIGITAL PAINTING, \$222

The piece I am submitting represents the magic of the womb. Our connection to the cycles of the moon, the magic behind our menstrual cycle and the abundance we provide by creating and nurturing life. My work is influenced by the empowerment of women and the magic within our bodies. I am inspired by the desire to celebrate the woman's body instead of censoring it.



STACI PURVIS, "REVIVE"

24X24 ACRYLIC ON CANVAS. \$150

Sometimes we need to revive our hearts to feel all that is intended for us. Revive your heart to fight for what is right and empower the next generation of women. I have a daughter that I want to give the world to but I can't do that without economic well being and rights. These are fundamental rights that everyone should be given and I applaud the work of WREN.



CATHERINE QUERIN, "VIOLA"

20"X20", \$400

This piece reflects the dissonance between containment and empowerment. The freedom of expression and embodiment of creativity is intended to inspire all those that engage with it to feel empowered. A reminder to listen to one's intuition and to live an authentic life. What's happening with women's rights (including gender expansive people) is a social injustice.



ALIX REFSHAUGE

"ANGRY BIRD POOL PARTY"

18"X24", OIL ON CANVAS, \$1,400

My work is always colorful, energetic, and seemingly upbeat. Angry Bird Pool Party is an illusion. It looks colorful and upbeat, like a lot of women one might interact with at a

neighborhood pool, but underneath it's not always obvious how angry someone feels in the current landscape. I think many of our lawmakers are afraid of equality and I'm grateful for WREN and the work they do to get out in front of policy that is fear-based and damaging.



JESSICA SCOTT-FELDER

"MY SENTIMENT, EXACTLY"

14"X20" FRAMED DIGITAL PRINT \$250

Jessica Scott-Felder is a visual and performance artist from Atlanta, Georgia. She is an Associate Professor of Studio Art and teaches studio-based practices in the Department of Art and Art History at Wofford College located in Spartanburg, South Carolina. She completed

her undergraduate studies in Studio Art from Spelman College, an MFA in Drawing, Painting and Printmaking from Georgia State University and studied experimental printmaking at the Santa Reparata School of Art in Florence, Italy.

Jessica's performance art piece, Adornment was featured in the group exhibition "Africa Forecast," at the Spelman College Museum of Fine Art in Atlanta. She was the 2017 featured visiting artist at Ithaca College in New York where she presented her artistic research on "BlackMatter", an installation based on Black Hole physics, American folklore, Afrofuturism and imagination. Her drawings have been featured in nationally and internationally recognized spaces such as the A.I.R Gallery in New York and the Telfair Museum in Savannah, Georgia. Her work is featured in private and corporate collections in Spartanburg, Cambridge, the Four Seasons Hotel in Atlanta and New York. As the 2021 Martin Family Fellow for the r AIR SFI residency located in Chattahoochee Hills, GA. Jessica's installation, "African is Lit, Y'all" will be featured in the 2021 701 CCA South Carolina Biennial in Columbia, South Carolina.



BETSY SIKMA, "MIDNIGHT RIDE TO THE NEXT STATE OVER"

24"X36", MIXED MEDIA ON FRAMED CANVAS, \$450

In praise of all who have offered a kind seat in a friendly car in the midst of a very difficult moment, "Midnight Ride to the Next State Over." On the heels of last year's Supreme Court decision and all the work our legislators are doing to dismantle reproductive rights, this piece symbolizes the journey so many have taken over the decades to receive the healthcare they need. It's been my pleasure to serve on the WREN board for about 4 years...currently servicing as Vice Chair. Gender justice is justice. Period. I'm proud to be part of the movement.



GENEVIEVE STRICKLAND

"NO CEILINGS NO WALLS"

24X24 INCHES, ACRYLIC ON GALLERY WRAPPED CANVAS \$850

My background in counseling has allowed me to work alongside amazing colleagues and with a primarily female population of clients; as well as

afforded me the opportunity to become extremely well versed in the challenges women face outside of my own experiences. This piece "No Ceilings, No Walls" speaks to what I hope to be truly in the near future for women in our society. In my private practice, I've found a huge positive benefit in having artwork in a mental health setting.

Graduating from an all women's university really pushed home how incredibly important and precarious what feel like basic rights can be for women in the state of South Carolina. I'm so thankful for WREN for leading the charge.



KAY STRICKLIN, "INTERWOVEN #1"

12"X36" ACRYLIC AND PASTELS ON PAPER, \$200

We all interconnected and interdependent. We cannot proceed as if we can live on our own. Everyone's rights and well being are essential. No one can be comfortable and safe and satisfied while others suffer and are deprived and denigrated. My drawings depict the images of intertwined connected paths of existence.

When we are interconnected we form a stronger fabric than when we act as individual strands.

As a woman of 71 years old I fought for women's rights in the 60's, 70's and 80's. I thought much of the work had been done. I am demoralized and terrified to find myself back where we started. But we must get back up and go again.



AIMEE WISE, "MOTHER"

3.5 X 5 X 1 FEET, PAPER MOUNTED ON WOOD, \$2500

The work is mounted on a piece of wood that is 2x2 feet. I usually hang the work flat against the wall (just like a painting) using d-rings /mirror hangers on regular picture hanging hooks. The depth is about 1 foot from the wall

My work is often rooted in natural history and or conservation - areas that are very close to me personally. My paper sculptures are able to represent strength (in size and structure) as well as a delicate nature (in material) that I think resonates with a balance we all strive to achieve as humans. The layers of green represent areas of growth - physical, mental, spiritual. The uncovered portions represent a sort of "bare bones" that we start with, allowing growth to find its way throughout the body and mind; the work is overall symbolical of the conservation and management of our bodies and minds - a flowing structure with no end and no beginning.

Although women's rights have advanced significantly in recent years, I also often feel as though we are taking 2 steps forward, 1 step back every time these changes occur. I deeply support WREN's mission and trust in their well-organized efforts to provide for women and gender-expansive people (grateful for their inclusion). One voice isn't nothing, but many voices as one can make a huge difference, and I think of WREN as the banner we should all be proud to stand behind.

FOR THE BIRDS!

A DONATION YOGA PRACTICE TO BENEFIT WREN
SUNDAY MAY 21, 4-5:15PM

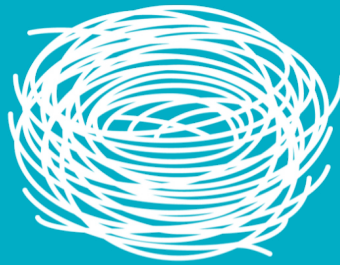
INTERNAL AFFAIRS ART GALLERY & VENUE
187 N CHURCH ST, SPARTANBURG, SC 29306



INTERNAL
AFFAIRS
ART GALLERY & VENUE

Please join Alix Refshauge (she/her) RYT 500 for an all-levels donation based yoga practice to benefit the Women's Rights Empowerment Network. Some experience with yoga is preferred. Bring your own mat (and additional props if you like them).

REGISTER TODAY AT ALIXR1@GMAIL.COM OR [HTTPS://BIT.LY/FORTHEBIRDS_WREN](https://bit.ly/forthebirds_wren)



WREN

Women's Rights &
Empowerment Network

SCWREN.ORG

Our sincerest thanks to Maggie McDonald and the Internal Affairs Gallery Team for their support and special thanks to our jurors: Ce Scott-Fitts, SC Arts Commission and Elizabeth Goddard, Spartanburg Art Museum, for volunteering their time and energy to support this exhibition.