



SOUTH
CAROLINA
CHAPTER

Quarterly Newsletter

Spring

May 2026



From NAWA SC Chapter President Meyriel Edge

In today's global uncertainty, I find comfort in scheduled tasks like the writing of a report for the newsletter. Being part of NAWA reminds me how fortunate I am. In that vein, I would like to share part of a hand-written note from Caroline Gwinn, Executive Director of Aiken Center for the Arts, in response to the donation our Chapter gave to the Center's Summer Youth Art Camp Scholarship Fund.

She writes, 'I would like to express our gratitude to your organization for recognizing our need for support and responding in such a tangible way. Our art camps are a wonderful way we are able to broaden access to the arts, and scholarships make these opportunities happen.'

I would like to thank our Exhibitions Team for their Scholarship suggestion and the Chapter Board Members for approving it. We know from experience, as Caroline writes, "the benefits of creating and sharing within a diverse class."

We are up to date with the Spirited Aiken timeline and I look forward to seeing as many of our members that are able to attend our annual meeting/lunch and exhibit reception.

I feel it's time for me to also thank all our volunteers, many of whom give many hours of their precious time to our Chapter. Of course, NAWA originated in such a way, but I suspect that, in the nineteenth century, most of our sisters were not squeezing in demanding careers, childcare, caring for sick and/or aging family members, battling with relentless traffic and intermittent technology, and so on. They had their own battles. I wish they could see how their vision evolved.

Today, five new members and three board members had lunch at Roxbury Mercantile on Edisto Island. It was such a pleasurable way to spend the day, and to meet our new sisters. Our thanks to Deidre for organizing it, and for her tireless efforts to bring in new members.

Welcome New NAWA SC Members this Quarter:



NAWA SC Chapter board members were delighted to welcome new members at a regional lunch, in April. Pictured (*from left to right*) are: Secretary Susan Irish (Edisto Island), President Meyriel Edge (Summerville), Membership Chair Deidre Hayes (Beech Island), and new members Christine Blyth (Charleston), Claudia Interrante (Mount Pleasant), Fran Davies (Mount Pleasant), Connie Rigdon (Charleston), and Rosemary (Beth) Dillon (Charleston).

Also attending, but missing from the photo is PR and Marketing Manager Rhian Swain (Augusta, GA).

We also welcome another new member, June “Sam” Compton, from Elgin, SC. We hope new and long-time members will share their interests and goals with board members to help our Chapter grow. If you have any questions about our Chapter, contact any board member at: art.nawasc@gmail.com. A list of our board members can be found on the last page of this newsletter.

Upcoming Exhibit - Spirited Aiken

Exhibit dates: June 18 - July 23, 2026

Annual Meeting and Lunch: June 18, 2026

Park Avenue Oyster Bar and Grill, 224 Park Avenue S.W., Aiken, SC *

**Reception: Aiken Center for the Arts: June 18, 2026; 5:30 - 7:30pm*
122 Laurens St. S.W., Aiken, SC**

*** Please note: New venue for lunch/meeting and new reception time.**

Congratulations to the members whose work was juried into the *Spirited Aiken* Exhibit: Earline Allen, Christine Blyth, Jean Capalbo, Lisa Ann Cullen, Fran Davies, Rosemary Giusti Dillon, Sandy Dimke, Marie Echols, Meyriel Edge, Joyce Erb, Fran Gardner, Karen Ghostlaw, Muffy Clark Gill, Susan Rector Hammond, Deidre Hayes, Laura McRae Hitchcock, Claudia Interrante, Susan Irish, Carson Kapp, June Klement, Frances Klopotic, Flavia Lovatelli, Linda McCune, Mary Cooper McDonough, Lillie Morris, Pamela Urban Moore, Maily Morhaus, Patricia Robbins, Sandra Renee Smith, Staci Swider, Bernice Tate, and Melinda Welker.

If you live in South Carolina and wish to be part of a member group to transport art to/from the gallery, please be sure to confirm with board member Susan Irish that you are willing for her to disseminate your contact info to other NAWASC Chapter members. Contact Susan at: art.nawasc@gmail.com and put "transport art" in the subject line. Also see driver contact info attached to your acceptance notification.

**All NAWA SC Members and Their Guests Are Invited to Attend -
Annual Meeting/Lunch/Reception on June 18, 2026**

A choice of three menu options, with costs, will be emailed to all members by May 15. Reservations are required. **ALL NAWA SC members and their guests are invited** to attend the luncheon/annual meeting/reception whether or not you have art on exhibit. If you wish to purchase a **NAWA SC name tag** to wear during these events, please email: sandydimke@gmail.com with your name and SC Chapter join date. Mail \$10 to NAWA SC Treasurer: Marie Echols, 5093 Danbury Rd., Tignall, GA 30668. Check is preferred, due to PayPal's transaction fee.

Featured Member Artist
Selene Paschoal - Simpsonville, SC

Born in the Northeast of Brazil, Selene spent most of her time enjoying the tropical outdoors. Today, she is a textile artist who lives in Simpsonville, SC.

Her journey with fabric art started in 2018 when she was searching for a more creative outlet that would give her enjoyment and a sense of accomplishment. She looked at the paintings in her house for inspiration but not having the skills to paint with oil or acrylic, she decided to go back to her old friend: fabric!

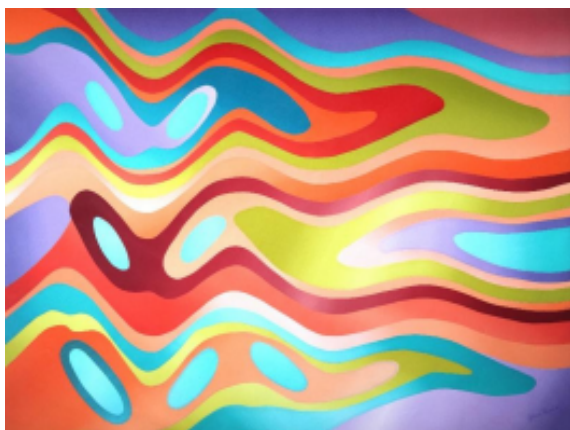
Fabric is something Selene has been working with for most of her life. Her love of fabric started in her teenage years when her mother taught her how to sew. The link between fabric and art came to her several years ago when she was at an “Open Studio” event with friends. She saw this incredibly interesting painting and wondered how hard it would be to create something similar with fabric? She told herself she would do that one day when she had the time. That day had finally arrived.

Selene’s first attempts did not produce the results she was looking for. She then went to a local quilt store where she met Becky Erdman, who shared with her the world of fabric collage. She also invited Selene to attend her Fabrication Imagination class. Her class was the turning point for Selene’s art development. She learned how to

look at fabric in a completely different way. Now she can see what fabric can be; what parts she can use for the piece she is working on; how she can make it into what she needs; and how she can create what she does not have.



Selene with her fabric art, titled *Behind the Chokwe Mask*, 24” x 36”



(left) *Veil of the Quiet Calmness*, by Selene Paschoal, fabric, 48” x 36”

Selene was not sold on the stitching part of the fabric collage process. In Selene's point of view, the stitches sometimes become the focal point, stealing the show from the whole picture. She decided to incorporate some of her own ideas into the fabric collage process. Rather than using several small pieces of fabric to create the picture, she uses as much of the same fabric as needed for each part of the image.

Selene's artistic approach is mostly intuitive with a constant awareness of color combination and contrast. According to Selene, inspiration for her pieces comes mostly from nature and from her Brazilian heritage and culture. The colors she chooses are usually bold and rich capturing the natural beauty of the country as well as the enthusiasm for life Brazilians are known for.



The Quiet Lilt of Tidal Threads, by Selene Paschoal, fabric, 40" x 30"

Her artistic vision is rooted in the belief that art can exist purely for the sake of art itself, serving to make spaces more beautiful and enrich the environments in which we live. She aims for her work to evoke a sense of enjoyment, intrigue, happiness, and curiosity in those who experience it.

Editor's note:

Selene has been a NAWA SC Chapter member since 2025 and will become our NAWA SC newsletter editor this Fall, when Melinda Welker steps away after serving in this volunteer position for two years. Thank you, Selene, for donating your time and skills to give back to the NAWA SC Chapter!

NAWASC Satellite Gallery: SC Department Commerce



Linda Williams McCune

The artwork of Linda McCune will be represented at the Department of Commerce Gallery in Columbia, SC this quarter. McCune's home place and continuing family ties to rural Tennessee greatly influence her multiple media sculptures and drawings constructed in the Greer Community of South Carolina. She has been featured in numerous exhibitions across the U.S. and internationally and is in many private and public collections including the South Carolina State Art Collection, the Hunter Museum of American Art, the Columbia Museum of Art, the Asheville Museum of Art, and the American University in Paris among others.

McCune's work has been reviewed by Atlanta Art Papers, the Artists and Critics Forum, Emory University's Southern Experiment, the Southeastern College Art Association, the American Cultural Society, ETV's VERVE, Positively South Carolina, South Writ Large and as Millennium Magazine's featured educator. McCune was nominated for the National AVA Awards, has won SC State Artist Fellowship, the Carl R. Blair Award for Commitment to arts education, Elon College's Excellence in the Arts and Humanities grant and Metropolitan Arts Council's Project grant. She was honored by the SC Arts Commission 100 years 100 Artists' Views from the Edge of the Century Project, and Greenville County



Covid Series 3, by Linda McCune, charcoal, ink, and watercolor, 36" x 36"

Museum's Jerry Segal: At this Moment Portraits of South Carolina Artists. McCune was a founding board member of the Mountain Makin's Festival, a four-time Southeastern Tourism Society Top 20 Designation and a "New York Times" Tennessee top festival. McCune holds a BFA, MFA and has held Academic Program Director and Lead Professorships in art history, fine arts, and art education in the Department of Visual Arts of Greenville Technical College, winning Professor of the Year and the National NISOD Award for college teaching excellence. McCune maintains great enthusiasm for her student's successes, and focuses exclusively now on her exhibitions, and studio practice.

Stress Series 9, by Linda McCune,
charcoal, ink, wax, graphite, and
watercolor
48" x 34"



Member Highlights this Quarter



Patrice Boyes' *Springs Renewal* was juried into the *Flushing Bank in Full Bloom* Exhibit.

Acrylic (24"x 12")

Couple on the Rocks, by Sheila Grabarsky, was juried into the *Healing Power of Art and Artists* annual online exhibition, an initiative of Manhattan Arts International.

Acrylic on canvas, 24 x 30"



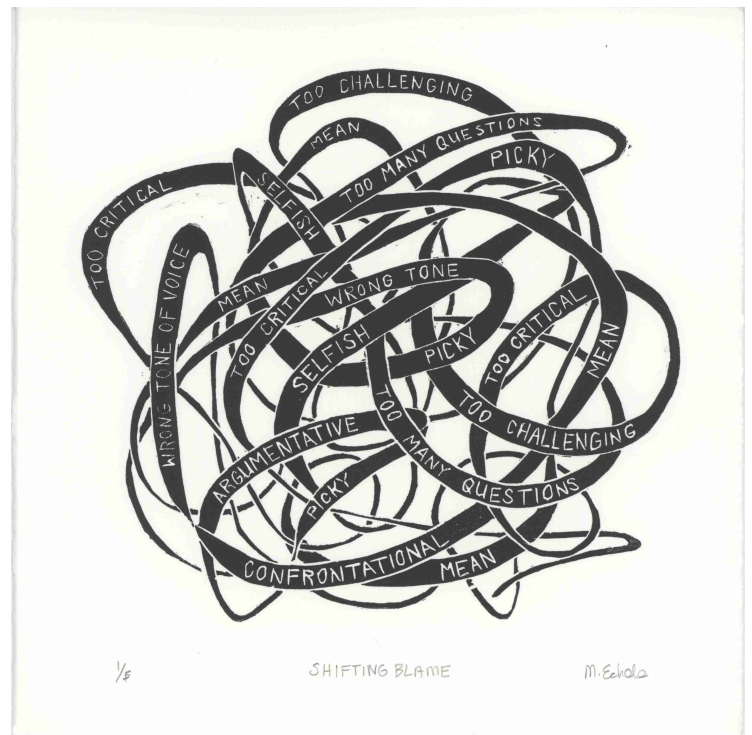


Julia Ann, by Marie Echols, was awarded First Place in NAWA's *She the People* Exhibit.

Watercolor with watercolor collage, 24 x 18"

Shifting Blame, by Marie Echols, was awarded Third Place in NAWA's *IM-PRESS-IVE Women* Exhibit.

Relief printmaking, linocut, 7" x 7"



Emergence, by Leslie Hamrick, was juried into the *She Makes 2026 Exhibit* at Liggett Studios in Tulsa, OK. Her art received the Best Collage award.

Mixed media collage, 24" x 29"



Bluebird on Ice, by Melinda Welker, was chosen as the cover photo for the SC Bluebird Society's online Winter Magazine. The SC Bluebird Society is an affiliate of the North American Bluebird Society.

Photography, 8 x 8"



Exhibiting at the prestigious **2026 Artfields Exhibit**, in Lake City, SC, is Linda McCune's sculpture, *One Woman's Work: A Framed Portrait*. It is hanging at Crossroads Exchange in Lake City, SC. This art won the HMC DAR sponsored award in the NAWA SC online *Threads of Labor - Women's Work* exhibit held last fall.

Sculpture: wood, metal, fibers, paper, paint; 54"H x 78"W x 8"D.

Artist Statement: The wall hung sculpture *One Woman's Work: A Framed Portrait*, by Linda McCune, is a somber image of a relative dressed in mourning muslin framed by a colonial house fragment, her work place. She secretly appears separated by screens representing time and a scant history. Her window guard conveys her lack of freedom, need to protect her family, and use of weapons. Hanging over this window is the colonial symbol for unity, the Betsy Ross Flag shown frayed by use in multiple battles and underlaid by a mourning veil memorializing deaths in the Revolutionary War. During our 250th Anniversary, her portrait is readable and contains threads that strengthened my imagination about the other 64 women in my family who were living in the Revolutionary War and Colonial Period.

Congratulations to the following NAWA SC members who were juried into and/or won awards in NAWA exhibits this quarter.

Please go to thenawa.org to view art.

NAWA 136th Annual Exhibition

The NAWA 136th Annual Exhibition Catalog was published this quarter and it was inspiring to see NAWA SC members whose art won awards. Congratulations to:

Fran Gardner: Flatscreen Award for Fiber Arts, *Internal Logic*; Hand and machine stitchery, paint paper, and canvas; 84" x 44"

June Klement: Caroline M. Lupori Fund Memorial Award for Painting; *A Stroll Through Giverny*; oil; 14" x 11"

Linda Williams McCune: Elizabeth Morse Genius Foundation; 2nd Place Award for Works on Paper; *Study for Stress Series 19*; Charcoal, watercolor, ink, graphite on paper; 18" x 18"

Jean Capalbo: Globus Family Award in Memory of Ric Globus; *The Corner Store*; acrylic, markers, pencils, and pastels; 16" x 16"

NAWA's IM-PRESS-IVE Women Exhibit Center for Contemporary Printmaking, Norwalk, CT

Maidy Morhaus: *Forgotten* (12x12") and *Monoprint #202521* (12"x 12")

Marie Echols: 3rd Place; *Shifting Blame* (8" x 8") and *Diversity*; (7x7")

Jacqueline Lorieo; *Avian* (26" x 22")

Jill Cliffer Baratta: *Ensemble* (8" x 30") and *Waterbird* (14" x 11")

NAWA's She the People Exhibit

Rhian Swain; *Eye See You, Why Can't You See Me?* acrylic, 39.75" x 29.75

Jill Cliffer Baratta; *Familiar Rose*; intaglio, 8" x 5.5" and *Crosswalk 3*,
printmaking, 8" x 10"

Diane Salamon, *Posterity*, acrylic, 40" x 30"

Marie Echols; *Julia Ann*, watercolor with collaged watercolor, 24" x 18"

Jackie Lorieo; *Mary Fields*, sculpture, 25" x 14" x 13" and *Harp of Sparrows*,
sculpture, 25" x 16" x 9"

Linda Williams McCune; *In Memoriam*; charcoal, ink, watercolor on paper,
25" x 25"

Francie Kloptic, *Alice Paul: The Right to Be Counted*, oil, 18" x 14"

Susan Irish; *Petticoats and Pickett Signs*; encaustic, 12" x 9"

Deidre Hayes; *Alice Andrews Higbee Mathis*; collage, acrylic, 13" x 10"

Patrice Boyce, *Full Recognition No. 3*, acrylic, 12" x 12"

Karen Ghostlaw, *I Am A Woman*, Photography, 36" x 24"

Members - please share your good news! We want to promote your art achievements in our newsletters and social media. Please send your newsletter information to art.nawasc@gmail.com and put newsletter in the subject line. Send social media input to francieredwolf@gmail.com and put social media in the subject line.

How to Contact a NAWA SC Board Member:

If you are interested to serve on the NAWA SC board, or have any questions for the board, please contact a member of the NAWA SC Chapter board by e-mail at: art.nawasc@gmail.com. Please put the name of the department you wish to contact in the subject line of your email, such as Membership, Exhibitions, President, Social Media, Newsletter, Volunteerism, etc.

NAWA SC Board Members

President: Meyriel Edge (Summerville, SC)

Vice President: Vacant as of January 2026

Secretary: Susan Irish (Edisto Island, SC)

Treasurer: Marie Echols (Tignall, GA)

Membership: Deidre Hayes (Beech Island, SC)

Exhibit Chair: Flavia Lovatelli (Columbia, SC)

PR and Marketing Manager: Rhian Swain (Augusta, GA)

Website Manager: Emi Sisk (Mount Airy, NC)

Social Media Manager: Franci Klopotic (Augusta, GA)

Questions?

NAWA SC is proud to be a part of the National Association of Women Artists and further the national mission in our state of South Carolina - to promote awareness of, and interest in, visual art created by women in the U.S. Contact art.nawasc@gmail.com if you have comments or news to share. Please put “newsletter” in the subject line. To join the NAWASC Chapter become part of our active membership, visit <https://nawasc.org>.