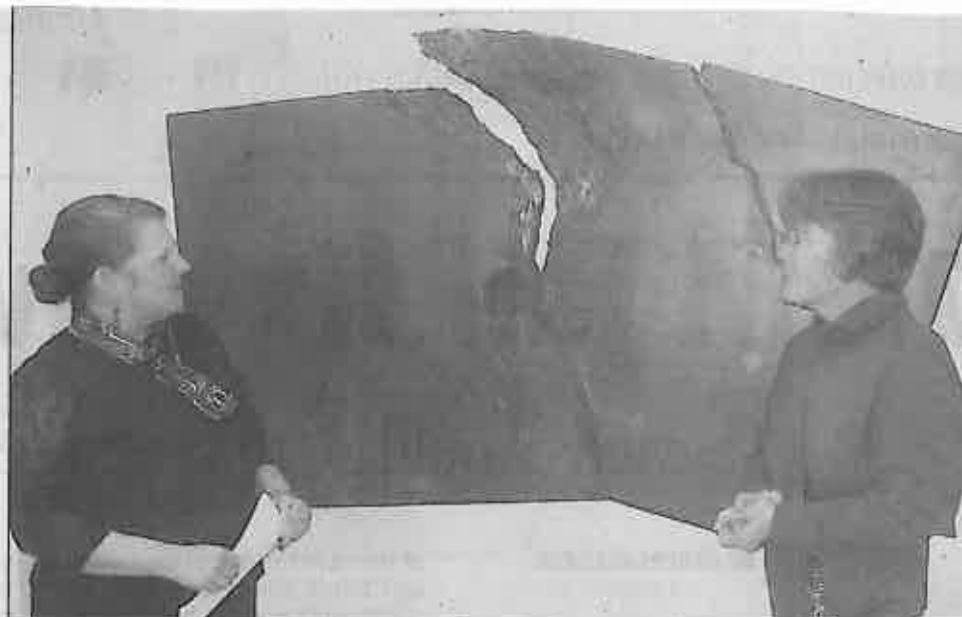


Inaugural Artists Guild exhibition featured at The Arts Center



GREG OLIVER | THE JOURNAL

Deana Baker, left, and Chris Troy view sculptor Matt Kargol's piece called "Fracture." Troy and Kargol are among 42 of The Artists Guild's members whose works are on display at The Arts Center through March 8.

BY GREG OLIVER
THE JOURNAL

CLEMSON — The Inaugural Members Exhibit of The Artists Guild, consisting of approximately 75 works of art by 42 of the Artists Guild members, is now on display at The Arts Center on Butler Street through March 8.

The exhibit will be formally launched during Clemson After Hours, co-hosted by the Clemson Area Chamber of Commerce, at 5:30 p.m. Thursday.

Deana Baker, Artists Guild director, said the show exhibits two and three-dimensional works that include ceramics, sculpture, fiber arts, drawings, paintings, photography, jewelry, furniture and mixed media. The guild has 88 members overall, representing visual, performing and literary arts in the Upstate.

"This is just the validation that our community is so culturally rich with every discipline and every type of artist you can think of," Baker said. "We are rich with our educational systems we have available, but it's also our community supporting us."

Baker said the growth of the Artists Guild since its inception a year ago has been truly amazing. She said the guild not only has grown from its original four members, but that it encompasses 14 disciplines.

"The level of talent in this area is enormous," she said. "Visitors to our gallery will be impressed with what they will see."

Chris Troy, a local artist whose ceramic work is in the exhibit, said she enjoys what the guild has to offer.

"All the artists are asked to do is to do art and to share it; it's not a committee or a fundraiser," said Troy, who has been a ceramic artist for 20 years. "I'm allowed to do what I love to do and it helps the whole theme."

During Thursday's After Hours event, The Arts Center will begin its year of ART in business and hold a "Best in Show" with first, second and third prizes, as well as honorable mention, awarded.

"It gives people an opportunity to see our work who normally wouldn't," Troy said.

A collaborative event featuring the fourth

annual "Celebration of Story" will be presented by the Clemson Area StoryTellers Guild at 6:30 p.m. March 6. The event will take place at The Arts Center auditorium in addition to the gallery and offer an evening "through spoken word, music and visual arts." Music by The Hoodoo Hounds, a Clemson blues band, will be featured.

Those attending are asked to bring canned food to benefit the Clemson Community Care food pantry.

Baker said she is excited about the Artists Guild exhibit as well as the upcoming Passport for the Arts in March; BluesFest, a two-day festival in May; and Summer Camp and Immersion into Arts for school-aged children.

"There's some magic going on on this hill," Baker said.

To find out more about The Arts Center and the Guild, both located in the Calhoun Bridge Community Center at 212 Butler St. in Clemson, visit www.explorearts.org or call Tommye Hurst, executive director, at (864) 633-5051.