

**ARTSPACE'S BIENNIAL JURIED EXHIBITION CELEBRATING ARTISTS FROM RURAL NORTH CAROLINA**



**41 ARTISTS**

**27 COUNTIES**

**19 ARTISTS FROM COUNTIES AFFECTED BY HURRICANE HELENE**



Clockwise from top left: Sandra Davidson, *Country Til the Day I Die*; Olive Spence, *The Great Coordinator at Rest*; Matt Gutschmit, *Hyacinthine Orchid Pot*

**JURORS: MAVIS GRAGG + LAURA RITCHIE**

Mavis Gragg is an art enthusiast based in Durham, NC. A seasoned attorney and conservation professional, Mavis' work focuses on innovative, sustainable protection and growth of family generational wealth. In her home state of North Carolina, Mavis mediates conversations between art and art consumers. An avid collector, Mavis hosts Meet the Artist, a talk series with Provident1898 aimed at connecting aspiring and established collectors with artists. She is also co-founder of Pop Box Art Gallery, a zero-commission pop-up art gallery in the Triangle. She also serves on the North Carolina Museum of Art Foundation board of directors and the Nasher Friends' board.

Laura Ritchie is a curator, arts advocate, and cultural organizer in Durham, NC. She co-founded The Carrack, a community art space that hosted hundreds of zero-commission exhibitions and art events from 2011-2019. She currently creates exhibitions independently and with Pop Box Gallery, which she co-founded in 2022 with Mavis Gragg, and is renovating a 100-year-old former boardinghouse with her wife, Shirlette Ammons, to be a new multidisciplinary art space in Durham. Laura is a member of the collective, Art Ain't Innocent, a City Council appointee of Durham's Cultural Advisory Board, and serves on the Board of Directors for the Pauli Murray Center for History and Social Justice.

**EXHIBITION SPONSOR**  **NC RURAL CENTER**

**artspace** 201 E Davie St. Raleigh, NC • [artspacenc.org](http://artspacenc.org)

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# CAROLINA ROOTS

10.03.25 - 11.30.25

**artspace**

## JURORS' STATEMENT

"It has been our honor to serve as jurors for Carolina Roots at Artspace. As we reviewed submissions from across North Carolina, we were struck by the breadth of artistic voices emerging from the state's rural communities. From the mountains to the coast, the 42 artists represented here remind us that creativity thrives wherever people seek to make meaning, record memory, and reimagine possibility.

We also bring our own roots to this process: Laura from Salisbury and Mavis from Black Mountain—two rural places, each shaped by change yet still grounded in the enduring rhythms of Carolina life. Landscapes shift, but artists enable us to remember and appreciate our roots while also reflecting their ongoing growth and transformation.

Our selections represent 27 counties, sharing stories grounded in lived experience—of land, labor, history, and identity. These works highlight both continuity and change: traditions passed down alongside bold experiments with new materials, forms, and ideas. Together, they demonstrate the ingenuity that flourishes outside city centers, often in places where resources are limited but imagination is abundant.

In curating this exhibition, we aimed to showcase diversity in medium, perspective, culture, and voice. What unites these artists is a deep connection to place. **Their works reveal the many ways 'roots' take hold: through kinship, through soil and water, through memory and inheritance, and through community.**

Carolina Roots invites viewers to experience North Carolina with fresh eyes, recognizing the richness and complexity of its rural geographies and the people who shape them. This exhibition is a celebration of belonging, resilience, and artistry throughout our state."

**MAVIS GRAGG + LAURA RITCHIE**

## CONGRATULATIONS TO EXHIBITING ARTISTS

**Timothy Anderson**, Franklin Co.

**Alexandra Bloch**, Buncombe Co

**Surrayyah Chestnut**, Columbus Co.

**Cathy Cooper**, Catawba Co.

**David Davenport**, Martin Co.

**Sandra Davidson**, Harnett Co.

**Juan Carlos Duron Martinez**, Wilson Co.

**Doug Graupe**, Madison Co.

**Matt Gutschmit**, Moore Co.

**Will Harvey**, Burke Co.

**Lora House**, Moore Co.

**Jo Husk**, Watauga Co.

**Susan Jedrzejewski**, Moore Co.

**Cent Jones**, Wayne Co.

**Tyler Jones**, Chatham Co.

**Constantine Kerasilis**, Robeson Co.

**Madelyn King**, Moore Co.

**Jeana Klein**, Watauga Co.

**Ash Lorusso**, Chatham Co.

**Paige MacQuin**, Nash Co.

**Jeanne May**, Carteret Co.

**Lauren Medford**, Hawyood Co.

**David Molesky**, Wilson Co.

**Cecil Norris**, Cleveland Co.

**Janet Orselli**, Polk Co.

**Volha Panco**, Watauga Co.



Images, l-r:  
Elizabeth (EJ) Trefney, *Any Minute Now*;  
Cecil Norris, *Draped in Delusion*;  
Alexandra Bloch, *Blue Cotton*

**Karol Perez**, Nash Co.

**George Pfeffer**, Yancey Co.

**Matt Ramey**, Lee Co.

**Marty Rogers**, Moore Co.

**Shelby Scattergood**, Henderson Co.

**Gretchen Schermerhorn**, Tyrrell Co.

**Karmyn Sessoms**, Duplin Co.

**dian Sourelis**, Warren Co.

**Olive Spence**, Buncombe Co.

**Allison Tierney**, Chatham Co.

**Elizabeth (EJ) Trefney**, Chatham Co.

**Taylor Williams**, Dare Co.

**Jason Woodard**, Haywood Co.

**Kathryn Yegorov-Crate**, Chatham Co.

**Joseph York**, Wilkes Co.

