

*Greenie Penzance*

THE GREENVILLE NEWS  
ARTS & TRAVEL

'LOCAL COLOR'  
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## Show pulls from museum's holdings of Upstate artists

By Staci Sturrock  
ARTS WRITER

**W**hen the Greenville County Museum of Art bought a dozen works by local artists two weeks ago, it was old hat for some of the area's more established artists.

But the museum's purchase of "Alter: Snake Handler," a ceramic sculpture that takes a gently humorous look at religious imagery, was the biggest sale of 29-year-old David J.P. Hooker's young career.

The clay artist said he hopes other museums will take notice.

"There's a certain level of recognition that you get from exhibiting in galleries, but to be in a permanent museum collection is another level," said Hooker, who lives in Spartanburg.

"Alter: Snake Handler" and works by almost 30 other painters, sculptors, printmakers and photographers will be exhibited in "Upstate-to-Date: Upstate Artists From the Permanent Collection" beginning this week at the museum.

The list of artists includes Upstate mainstays like Phil Garrett and Jeanet Dreskin, and younger artists such as Mark Mulfinger and Alexia Timberlake.

When adding works by older artists to its collection, the museum hopes to choose a signature piece, said director Tom Styron.

But what looks representative today may not be 10 years from now.

Take the example of John Acorn, a major figure on the Upstate scene for the past two decades.

The museum owned a dozen Acorn sculptures, but they were recently traded with the artist for a Douglas fir and cast aluminum piece that Styron felt better represented the former Clemson University art professor's style.

And down the road, another Acorn work may be added to



ALAN DEVORSEY / Staff

David J.P. Hooker began his career as a potter, but within the last two years he's changed course slightly. Of "Alter: Snake Handler," the Spartanburg sculptor said, "I started with a face jug and decided to see what the rest of the body looked like."

### PREVIEW

**WHAT:** "Upstate-to-Date: Upstate Artists From the Permanent Collection."

**WHEN:** Sept. 10 through Oct. 26. Hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesdays through Saturdays and 1 to 5 p.m. Sundays.

**WHERE:** Greenville County Museum of Art, 420 College St.

**ADMISSION:** Free. For more information, call 271-7570.

**DISCUSSION:** Four artists will participate in a panel discussion called "Making It Where You Live" at 6 p.m. Sept. 9 at the museum.



This pink-blossomed piece is part of the 1993 series "Chorus of Trees" by Yuri Tsuzuki of Greenville.

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