About the artist:
Brandon Cordrey is a mixed media collage artist living in Raleigh, North Carolina. His works’ content frequently focuses on information transfer, thinking of humans as data processing units. He earned his BFA in painting and drawing from East Carolina University. He is represented by Emerge Gallery in Greenville, NC and Penland Gallery on the Penland School of Crafts campus. He is currently the director of exhibitions at Visual Art Exchange and the program director for Arts Access in Raleigh.

About the artwork:
“While the majority of my artwork is mixed media collage built out of secondhand print materials, I often work through these ideas digitally first. As a result of this practice, I’ve become increasingly interested in digital collage. The layers in my work remind me a lot of our city. Raleigh’s history is preserved in architecture. This mixture of old and new gives the city its variety. Pillars of Community takes nostalgic images of historical buildings and presents them with a contemporary aesthetic. The complete image shows the history of the South Blount Street district. I chose these specific sites because they create a full picture of this small but distinct area of Raleigh. Components like the university, residential neighborhoods, community spaces and small businesses give the area the variety that I hope this project helps to preserve.”
About the artist:
Dare Coulter was born in 1993 and raised in Lorton, Virginia, where she claims her entire life’s perspective was shaped. She is the second of three girls and started drawing because of the first. She is currently pursuing an Art + Design degree at NC State University. She is an artist, muralist and sculptor.

About the artwork:
“The 746 East Raleigh South Park District was a place that provided black people with a strong community and incredible opportunities that they were largely being denied elsewhere. I wanted to highlight some of those wonderful things in my piece, Fun Times at the Top of the World.

Through this project, I have gained a new respect and understanding for parts of the city that I had only happened to drive through, and their strong significance for the African American community. I represented this by attempting to join the idea of the present with foundations of the past. The image features a little girl sitting atop a foundation of sorts. It is made up of the pieces of the foundation that existed in East Raleigh. The buildings included are Tupper Memorial Church, the Leonard building at Shaw University, and the Governor Morehead School.”
About the artist:
Aaron Cracium is a veteran multimedia designer with high level experience in 3D animation, interactive game design, advertising design, web development and video production. He is currently the webmaster at the School of Communication Arts, where he received his certificate in digital animation.

About the artwork:
“The work I am presenting represents what I have read about the historic portion of Raleigh. The African American roots of the freedmen who started on Blount Street and other areas of downtown, because it was one of the few places they could start, gave me the inspiration to take a historic area and give it a modern twist with the bright smiling face of today’s modern African American person.

Image today is of a very sensitive nature, along with race and creed, which is part of the reason I chose to make the image. The challenge of creating something that wasn’t stereotypical, but was a mix of a building signifying the past in the present with a very young, fresh, smiling face accompanied by the splash of graphics, helps bring it into the present and future.”
About the artist:
Debbie Crawford discovered a love of creating at an early age, when she was either making art from discarded items, making clothes by hand or rearranging the family's living room on a weekly basis. As a mixed media artist, Debbie uses acrylics, recycled paper, original illustrations, fabric and found objects to create. She began creating a line of original notecards and gifts using her original verses, favorite quotes, word collages and more. Currently, she is also creating a mixed media series focusing on the Black Migration, entitled Comin & Goin.

About the artwork:
“As a young girl growing up in Apex and Raleigh, the Shaw area was a place of prestige within my community, from the university to Dr. Debman’s office, who delivered me and my siblings. My approach to honoring the historic Leonard Hall is to showcase an image of the graduating class of 1889. My design concept is to build a story by collaging the graduates with an image of the school. The graduate image shows the pride, dignity and prestige that the Shaw community evoked in that time period. My hope is to inspire viewers and to entice questions. Who were they?

I will combine my original painting in the foreground along with a screened image of writing paper. The blueprint represents changes to come to the area. The quote summarizes the historical mission and contribution of Shaw University’s Leonard Hall: “Education=Freedom.”
About the artist:
Linda Dallas received a master’s degree in product design from NC State University and a BS in mathematics from Howard University. She has been an instructor at various institutions and organizations since 2006. In 1997, she coordinated the Exploris project team that traveled to Senegal, West Africa to collect artifacts, video footage and photographs for Exploris’s WOW Senegal exhibit.

About the artwork:
“Preserve celebrates food traditions and aims to help viewers recollect the vibrant past of the East Raleigh-South Park Historical District. My banner design is an ode to the African American home demonstrators. From 1919 to 1965, these dedicated women taught North Carolina’s African American homemakers about nutrition, sanitation and home economy. The woman in the design represents the hard-working African American home demonstrators and homemakers who canned and preserved foods to extend the bounty of their summer gardens and farms.

I designed my submission to bridge the past and the future of Blount Street. I am a supporter of the Raleigh Food Corridor—a community-sourced project along two miles of Blount and Person streets that links communities through local foods. I believe that the home demonstrators’ ethos of making the very best of limited resources is well worth reclaiming and preserving.”

http://appetite4art.com
About the artist:
Patrick FitzGerald is an artist/designer who teaches at NC State College of Design. He is interested in combining analogue processes (drawing and collage) with digital processes (computer software).

About the artwork:
“The Washington School is one of the most historically significant buildings for Raleigh’s African American educational community. Although not on Blount Street, I thought it would be important to honor a building and tradition that has had such a positive effect on so many citizens of Raleigh over the decades. The image of the school is a marriage of its physical structure and the recognition that the building is also made of all the knowledge transfer that takes place between its enormous walls. The sky itself is a colorful depiction of the alphabet, representing the mental structures that are being established in the minds of the students attending this locally famous elementary school. The school’s history starts with its completion in 1924 as the first public high school for African American children.”
About the artist:
Rachel Herrick is a multimedia artist best known for her detailed traveling (MOCS) installations. This work has been the subject of activist and academic writing in the US, Canada, England and Australia. Herrick grew up on a subsistence farm in the hills of central Maine and relocated to North Carolina in 2004. She earned an MFA from the Maine College of Art in 2011 and a BA in creative writing from Methodist University in 2002. She has been the recipient of several grants including a United Arts Regional Project Grant and a Puffin Foundation Grant.

About the artwork:
“One Way Home” is a way of talking about and understanding people without depicting people. I am interested in what historic buildings can tell us about old ways of life melding with or giving way to present-day needs. In the case of these buildings, their original functions as factories and neighborhood stores have been altered or obscured by a century of other incarnations, each of which has left a trace of the people who have used them. The techniques used in my work echo the sedimentation and erosion seen in the buildings I paint. Most pieces are painted on vintage grain, seed and tobacco fertilizer sacks from North Carolina-based companies. The corner of Blount & Bragg is set to become the western edge of SPERNA’s Heritage Walk route, celebrating the community and encouraging the public to take notice of buildings like these as markers of a long and interesting history.”
About the artist:
Born and raised in Oxford, North Carolina, Joyce Watkins King made Raleigh her home in 1975 when she accepted a full scholarship to the College of Design at NC State University. She has devoted most of her professional life to work in marketing, graphic design, the arts, and development for nonprofit organizations. Since 1993 her designs have been recognized with 12 regional and 36 national design awards. She holds degrees in environmental design, visual design/product design, a minor in textiles, an MS in management, and CFRE licensing. Joyce is a fellow of the Vermont Studio Center, the Hambidge Center in Georgia and the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts. She has also taken courses at Penland School in metalsmithing, photojournalism, printmaking, mixed media painting, encaustic, and public art.

About the artwork:
“Coming from a small town myself—Oxford, North Carolina, where there were few cultural events, museums, etc.—the public library was the place that fed my soul. A good library is an extremely important resource for any community and the Harrison Library was no exception. Mollie Huston Lee was the first African American librarian in Wake County, the library’s founder, and a UNESCO library delegate who helped build the library’s large collection of fiction, serials and files, and a special collection chronicling the African American experience both locally and nationally. The library was named for Richard Berry Harrison, the son of fugitive slaves who was born in Ontario, Canada in 1864. I created the banner using historical photographs of these two important people and stitched them together with images of colorful borders of books on a shelf.”
About the artist:
Cindy Morefield grew up amidst the Blue Ridge Mountains of southwest Virginia, and from there has visited all 50 states as well as Israel, Palestine, Canada and Italy. Along the way she earned a BA in studio art from the University of Mary Washington followed by an MFA in painting from Northern Illinois University. She moved to the Raleigh area in 2004 and currently lives and works in Fuquay Varina.

About the artwork:
“Windows on Blount Street is based on a rubbing of one of my carved acrylic paintings from the Reservoir series, in which I chose techniques and motifs from my personal art-making history and used those elements to create 24 abstract modular paintings. In this image, the Reservoir-based image is overlaid with window shapes from some of the East Raleigh-South Park Historic District’s distinctive historic landmarks: Tupper Memorial Baptist Church, Raleigh Masonic Temple and Shaw University’s Estey Hall. These window shapes connect the geometric elements of the Reservoir series with the architectural context in which the banners will be displayed. The color scheme was chosen to fit with the red brick buildings and to be visually intelligible and engaging from a distance.”
About the artist:
Robert Quinn received an MS in mathematics from the United States Coast Guard Academy, an MS in electrical engineering from the Georgia Institute of Technology, and an MS in mathematics from NC State University. In 2008 he received the First Premium for Web and Graphic Design and the Second Premium for Sculpture at the NC State Fair. Robert lives and works in Raleigh.

About the artwork:
“To start this project, I made two scouting trips to Blount Street where I walked the blocks mentioned in the project and searched for a subject. I decided to create a composition using Prince Hall as the subject. I was inspired by the building’s architectural details and the shadow patterns they created just after noon in early December. I included the Mason signage to help define the subject and honor their long history at that site. Also, from my vantage point sitting across the street from Prince Hall, I noticed the Cabarrus street sign and decided to include it in the composition as a nod to the street intersection and to help create an interesting space in the drawing.”