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SAVANNAH

Georgia *art* CITY FOCUS



By Kelly Carper

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The creative culture in Savannah, Georgia, is breathing new life into the Old South.

Founded in 1733, Savannah is the oldest city in Georgia and a designated National Historic Landmark for its unique layout around central city squares. These “green spaces,” shaded by towering oak trees and surrounded by 19th-century architecture, give Savannah a soothing aesthetic unlike anywhere else in the South—or even the country. Trolley cars and horse-drawn carriages wind through the city, which is also refreshingly walkable, as drivers educate visitors on Savannah’s significant history, pointing out sites such as the Owens-Thomas House & Slave Quarters, Telfair Academy or the iconic fountain at Forsyth Park.

But the “Hostess City” holds more than quaint cobblestone streets and hospitable folks. In Savannah, there is a new South to discover—one where cutting-edge art and modern innovation mingle with the

city’s antebellum architecture and classic charm. Behind Savannah’s quintessential Southern façade is a burgeoning contemporary art scene, discoverable through local artist studios, off-the-path galleries and the city’s newest museums.

Playing the largest role in this cultural renaissance is the **Savannah College of Art and Design (SCAD)**, which propels Savannah forward while remaining deeply connected to the city’s historic roots. More than an art school, SCAD is the “university for creative careers,” offering areas of study that range from immersive reality and motion media to fashion design, film, painting—and everything in between. But you don’t have to be a student to benefit from SCAD’s programming, which draws some of the nation’s top artists and arts professionals to the city for events, panels, workshops and presentations.

The university’s nontraditional campus is spread throughout Savannah, fully integrated with the

BEST TIMES TO VISIT:

Fall: for SCAD's October film festival, which draws over 40,000 attendees annually including impressive celebrity guests such as Liam Neeson, Hugh Jackman, Maggie Gyllenhaal and more.

Spring: for numerous art and music festivals including SCAD Sidewalk Arts Festival in late April.

Monthly: Second Saturday of every month for the Savannah Art Walk. Learn more at www.savannahartwalk.com.



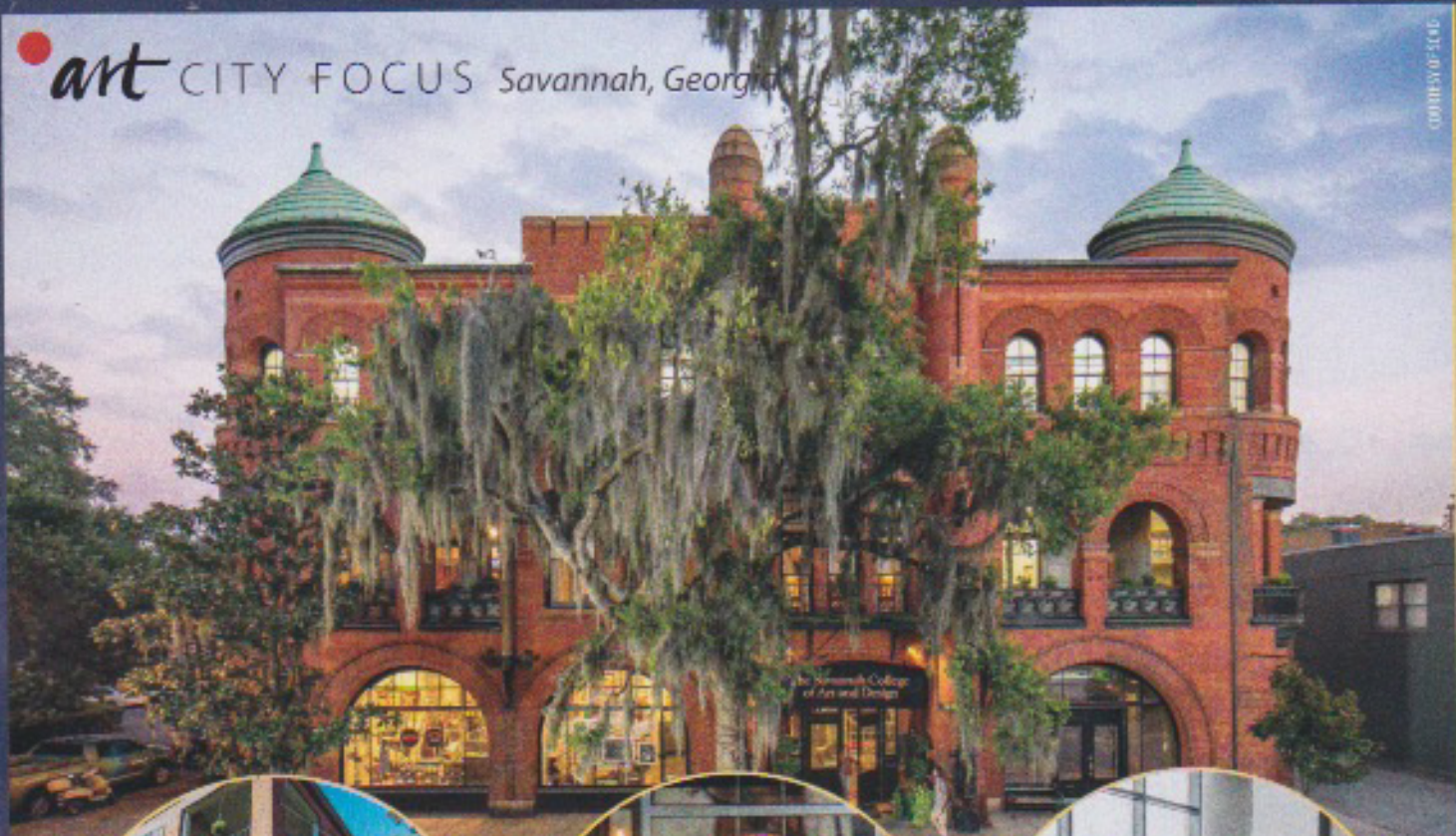
city's daily life as well as its architectural history. Restoration and adaptive reuse is high priority for founding president Paula Wallace, who has led SCAD in rehabilitating over 70 historic structures in the city, contributing heavily to Savannah's unique marrying of old charm and innovative design. These efforts, which extend to campuses in Atlanta, Hong Kong and Lacoste, France, have landed the university awards from the American Institute of Architects, National Trust for Historic

Preservation, UNESCO and more. "SCAD built Savannah's globally renowned arts community from the ground up," says Wallace.

The **SCAD Museum of Art** is the picture of Savannah's classic-contemporary blend. "Visitors come to Savannah from all over the world just to witness the design marvel that is the SCAD Museum of Art, located within one of the oldest extant railroad depots," says Wallace. The 1853 structure was in ruins when it was acquired by the univer-

sity in 2010. The "bones" of the building, including its original gray brick exterior and barrel-vaulted archways, were preserved and integrated with modern features including an 86-foot-tall glass atrium gracefully rising above Savannah's skyline.

Monica Cook's *Liquid Vessels*, on view at the museum through May 19 as part of its signature *deFINE ART* exhibition series, features the New York artist's complex sculptural assemblages. Cook's work is also available for purchase through **SCAD**



EAT



COLLINS QUARTER

Named for Melbourne's historic Collins Street, Collins Quarter is owned by Aussies who mix hometown flavors with Southern staples. Their casual yet stylish atmosphere stays busy for breakfast, lunch and dinner.



PUBLIC KITCHEN AND BAR

Hip and casual, this farm-fresh restaurant has a midcentury modern inspired dining room and pleasing rooftop patio.



SQUARE 22

Known for their craft cocktails and seasonally fresh menu, this trendy restaurant and bar enlivens classic Southern favorites with dishes like truffled shrimp and grits. Start with the "Sip & Savor," a succulent smoked scallop served with mini cocktail.

Art Sales, an art consultancy and valuable collector resource for navigating the worldwide network of SCAD alumni, faculty and exceptional student artists. "SCAD Art Sales provides collection curation for commercial clients, and even supplies art for scenic and production designs for Georgia's film industry—the most prolific in the country," says Wallace. "The thousands of artists represented by SCAD Art Sales live around the world and represent every medium and style of studio art."

With showrooms at the **Gutstein Gallery** and **Alexander Hall** and a network

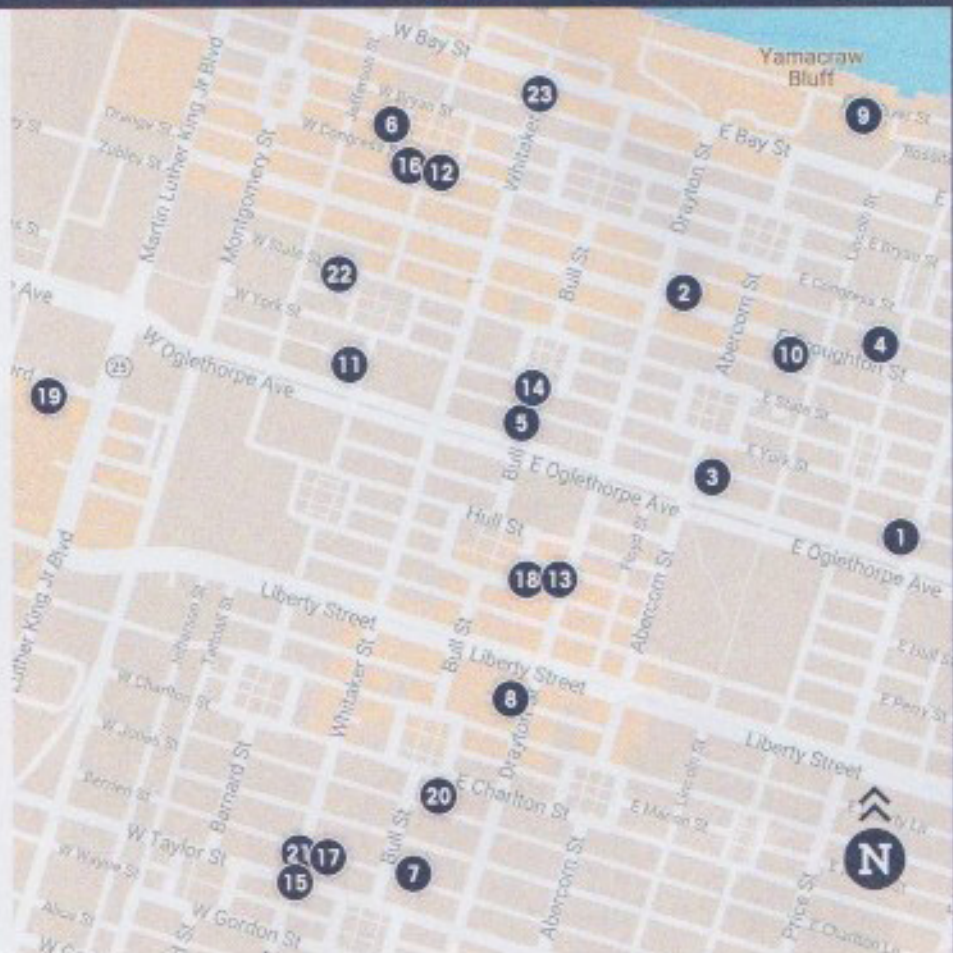
of over 45,000 artists and designers, SCAD Art Sales is a must-visit for the discerning art collector.

Other Savannah museums of note are **Telfair Academy**, the first public art museum in the South, and **Jepson Center for the Arts**, which opened in 2006 as the Telfair's cutting-edge counterpart devoted to contemporary art and traveling exhibitions. Explore the work of modern masters alongside that of Savannah's rising stars, including Katherine Sandoz's sculptural mobile in the atrium and her fluid floral mural on the second level.

More of Sandoz's work can be found across town at **Laney Contemporary Fine Art**, Savannah's premier destination for contemporary art by leading artists of the area such as Betsy Cain, Will Penny, Marcus Kenney and Pamela Wiley. The gallery's unique location has an outdoor lawn for hosting receptions and a wall-to-ceiling mirror room, currently featuring a cyclorama of Sandoz's beautifully washed botanicals.

Gallery director Susan Laney has over 20 years of experience as a dealer and independent curator. She has organized exhibitions at the SCAD Museum of Art

- 1 13 SECRETS JEWELRY GALLERY**
426 E. Oglethorpe Avenue, Savannah, GA 31401,
(912) 484-0985, www.13secret.com
- 2 ARTSYS'S GALLERY AND FRAME SHOP**
106 E. Broughton Street, Savannah, GA 31401,
(912) 349-3789, www.artsysgallery.com
- 3 ATELIER GALERIE**
150 Abercorn Street, Savannah, GA 31401,
(912) 233-3140, www.agsavannah.com
- 4 BLICK ART MATERIALS**
318 E. Broughton Street, Savannah, GA 31401,
(912) 234-0456, www.dickblick.com
- 5 CATE LYON STUDIO**
4 W. Oglethorpe Avenue, Savannah, GA 31401,
(912) 238-9410, www.catelyon.com
- 6 CITY MARKET ART CENTER**
219 W. Bryan Street, Savannah, GA 31401,
(912) 232-4903, www.savannahcitymarket.com
- ALBERT SEIDL**
309 W. St. Julian Street, Studio 2,
Savannah, GA 31401, (912) 665-1485
- ALIX BAPTISTE ART GALLERY**
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(912) 441-0845, www.alixbaptiste.com
- A.T. HUN ART GALLERY**
302 W. St. Julian Street, Savannah, GA 31401,
(912) 233-2060, www.athun.com
- BRIAN MACGREGOR GALLERY**
308 W. St. Julian Street, Savannah, GA 31401
(912) 596-2201, www.brian-macgregor.com
- GALLERY 11**
309 W. St. Julian Street, Upper Level, Studio FSU-11,
Savannah, GA 31401, (912) 247-0389
- GESTALT IMAGERY**
309 W. St. Julian Street, Studio 2, Savannah, GA
31401, (912) 842-9336, www.gestaltimagery.com
- OKSANA FINE ART GALLERY & STUDIO**
309 W. St. Julian Street, 10 Upstairs, Savannah, GA
31401, (912) 713-2718, www.oksanaart.com
- OSIBISA FINE ARTS**
309 W. Saint Julian Street, Upper Level,
Studio FSU-B Savannah, GA 31401, (912) 201-9009
- PORTRAITS BY TISHA**
309 W. Saint Julian Street, Studio 102, Savannah, GA
31401, (912) 484-1496, www.portraitsbytisha.com
- ROEDER KINKEL STUDIO**
204 W. St. Julian Street, Studio FSU-109,
Savannah, GA 31401, (912) 574-0887
- S. NICHOLS ART**
309 W. St. Julian Street, Upper Level, FSU-5,
Savannah, GA 31401, (850) 419-6787
- SABREE'S GALLERY**
309 W. St. Julian Street, Upper Level, Studio 4,
Savannah, GA 31401, (800) 548-6414,
www.sabreesgallery.com
- SIGNATURE GALLERY**
303 W. St. Julian Street, Savannah, GA 31401,
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www.signaturegalleriesavannah.com
- STEPHEN KASUN GALLERY**
305 W. St. Julian Street, Savannah, GA 31401,
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- SUE GOUSE INSPIRATIONS**
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www.suegouseinspirations.com
- SUSIE CHISHOLM SCULPTURE STUDIO**
308 W. Congress Street, Savannah, GA 31401,
www.susiechisholm.com



- 7 DAEDALUS GALLERY**
408 B Bull Street, Savannah, GA 31401
(912) 233-2005, www.daedalusgallery.com
- 8 THE DESOTO SAVANNAH**
15 E. Liberty, Savannah, GA 31401,
(912) 232-9000, www.thedesotosavannah.com
- 9 GALLERY 209**
209 E. River Street, Savannah, GA 31401,
(912) 236-4583, www.gallery209savannah.com
- 10 GUTSTEIN GALLERY & SCAD ART SALES**
201 E. Broughton Street, Savannah, GA 31401,
(912) 525-4735, www.scad.edu
- 11 JEPSON CENTER FOR THE ARTS**
207 W. York Street, Savannah, GA 31401,
(912) 790-8800, www.telfair.org
- 12 KOB0 GALLERY**
33 Barnard Street, Savannah, GA 31401,
(912) 201-0304, www.kobogallery.com
- 13 KS FINE ART GALLERY**
230 Bull Street, Savannah, GA 31401,
(407) 620-2863
- 14 LIQUID SANDS GLASS GALLERY**
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(912) 232-3600, www.liquidsandsgallery.com
- 15 LOCATION GALLERY**
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(912) 354-2100, www.locationgallery.net
- 16 RAY ELLIS GALLERY**
205 W. Congress Street, Savannah, GA 31401,
(912) 234-3537, www.rayellis.com
- 17 ROOTS UP GALLERY**
412 Whitaker Street C, Savannah, GA 31401,
(912) 677-2845, www.rootsupgallery.com

- 18 SAVANNAH ART ASSOCIATION GALLERY**
232 Bull Street, Savannah, GA 31401,
(912) 232-7731, www.galleryonchippewa.com
- 19 SCAD MUSEUM OF ART**
601 Turner Boulevard, Savannah, GA 31401,
(912) 525-7191, www.scadmoa.org
- 20 SHOP SCAD SAVANNAH**
340 Bull Street, Savannah, GA 31402,
(912) 525-5180, www.shopscad.com
- 21 TANDEM CO.**
415 Whitaker Street, Savannah, GA 31401,
(912) 549-0337, www.tandemco.com
- 22 TELFAIR ACADEMY**
121 Barnard Street, Savannah, GA 31401,
(912) 790-8800, www.telfair.org
- 23 TIFFANI TAYLOR GALLERY**
11 Whitaker Street, Savannah, GA 31401,
(912) 507-7860, www.tiffaniart.com

ADDITIONAL GALLERIES & ART SPACES

- LANEY CONTEMPORARY FINE ART**
1810 Mills B Lane Boulevard, 2nd Floor,
Savannah, GA 31405, (912) 438-4442,
www.laneycontemporary.com
- STARLANDIA ART SUPPLY**
2438 Bull Street, Savannah, GA 31401,
(912) 417-4561, www.starlandiasupply.com
- SULFUR STUDIOS**
2301 Bull Street, Savannah, GA 31401,
(912) 231-7105, www.sulfurstudios.org

SIP



ROCKS ON THE ROOF

Enjoy handcrafted cocktails and a tapas-style menu in this rooftop lounge at the Bohemian Hotel, which overlooks the Savannah River and Talmadge Bridge.



THE PARIS MARKET

Whether you choose bubbly champagne or café de latte, The Paris Market and Brocante is a lovely place to spend an hour—or an afternoon. Its elegant atmosphere is accurately compared to a “well-curated Parisian flea market” with unique treasures to discover.



HENNY PENNY ART SPACE & CAFE

Sister to the Foxy Loxy Print Gallery & Cafe, Henny Penny is a family-friendly coffee stop with crafts for kids and a wall of eclectic artwork. Located in the up-and-coming Starland District.

and manages the estate of Jack Leigh, celebrated photographer of the American South. Laney’s gallery is dedicated to contemporary voices of the South, particularly Savannah’s. “Savannah has been a historic destination for decades,” says Laney, “but it’s also really important to know how many artists are making Savannah home. There’s a wealth of talent here, which is why I opened the gallery.”

Back in the Historic District, another influential Savannah gallery owner is Tiffani Taylor of **Tiffani Taylor Gallery**. SCAD alumna, contemporary painter, ceramicist and **Savannah Art Walk (SAW)**

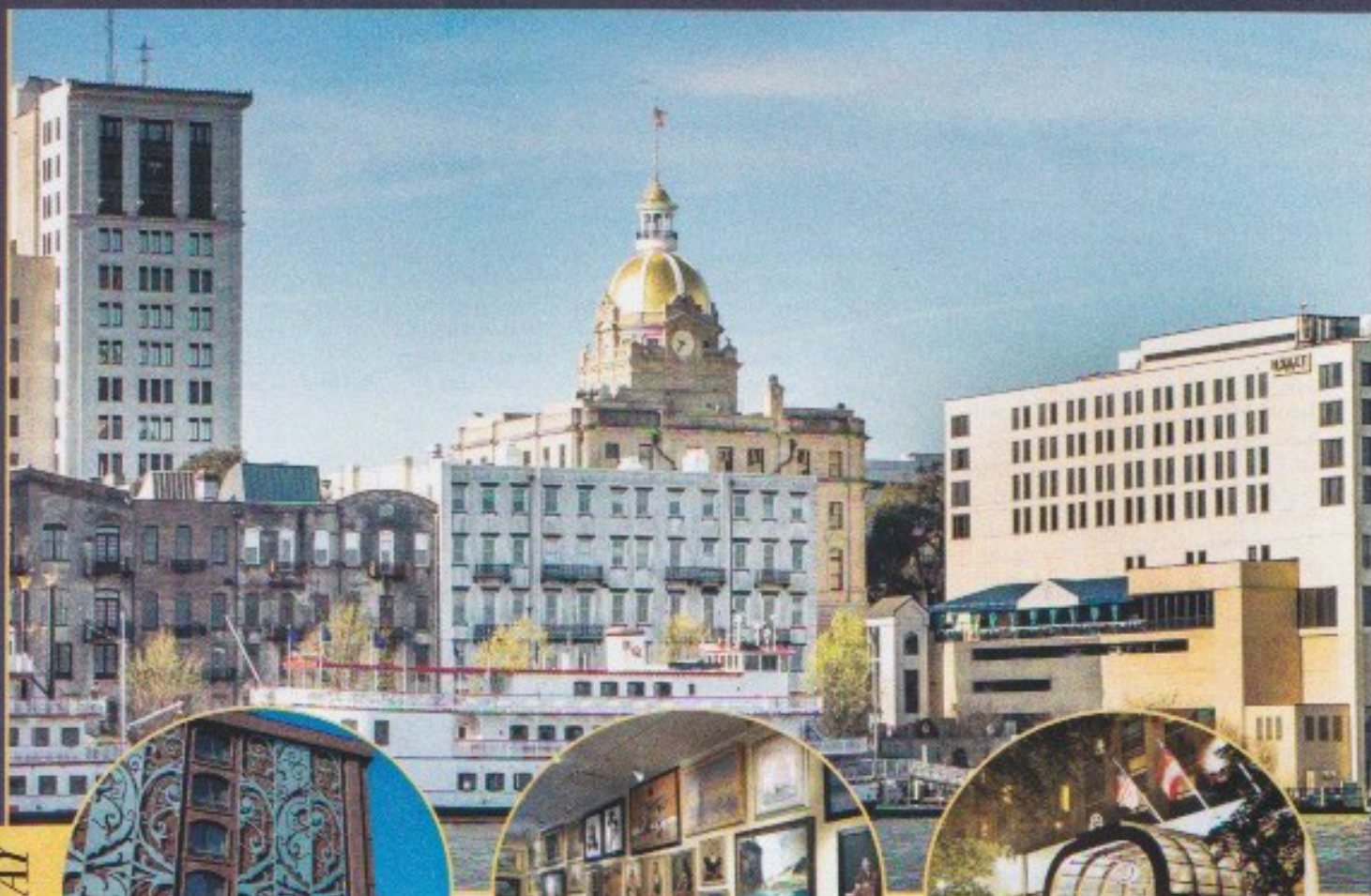
founder are just a few roles Taylor plays in the local art community. The entrepreneurial artist splits her time between Savannah and France, where she mentors SCAD’s Lacoste student artists. Taylor’s radiant paintings, which reveal nature’s divinity through rich texture and free-flowing expression, have been collected by the likes of Oprah Winfrey and former *Vogue* editor André Leon Talley.

Taylor’s organized Art Walk occurs the second Saturday of every month as a must-do for visitors interested in personally connecting with Savannah artists. Beginning with complimentary cocktails

and artist presentations at the Hyatt Hotel, the tour includes 25 galleries within a 1-mile radius before culminating for wine pouring, a patronage raffle and an emerging artist exhibit.

“My goal with SAW is to make Savannah the premier arts destination in the United States,” Taylor boldly states. “It’s exciting to be an artist and gallery owner here because of the magic and beauty of Savannah; it attracts an incredible amount of visitors.”

Notable stops on the Savannah Art Walk include **City Market Art Center**, featuring two levels of artist studios and



HOTEL INDIGO

A boutique hotel experience that places you in the heart of Savannah's historic district, steps from River Street and City Market. In true Savannah style, contemporary interior design complements the building's impressive 19th-century architecture.



MANSION ON FORSYTH PARK

Go for luxury in this Victorian-Romānesque mansion at picturesque Forsyth Park. Modern art fills the elegantly restored building in bathrooms, guest rooms and even in its own hotel gallery.



DESOTO HOTEL

The final stop on the Savannah Art Walk, the DeSoto is curated by SCAD Art Sales for a gallery-hotel experience all in one. Enjoy installations of prolific and emerging artists plus delectable drinks and dining at Edgar's Proof & Provision.

galleries, and **Kobo Gallery**, a quality co-op with work by local and regional artists. In the Downtown Design District you'll find **Roots Up Gallery**, a stand out in Savannah's art scene in its focus on Southern folk and outsider art. Owned by Leslie Lovell, Roots Up celebrates its fifth anniversary on May 1 with the exhibition *In the Moment*, featuring the nationally exhibited, untamed animal portraits of Helen Durant. Lovell's gallery offers a true, flavorful taste of the South from its most honest artistic voices; its roster includes legacy folk artists of the region plus contemporary artists working in

similarly soulful styles. Locals of note include Lisa D. Watson for her industrial reclaimed wall sculptures, and Savannah's ubiquitous Panhandle Slim for his quotable pop-culture murals.

The Savannah arts experience is not complete without a visit to the up-and-coming Starland District, where you'll find yet-to-be-discovered artists working at **Sulfur Studios**, hanging out in curated coffee shops or shopping at **Starlandia Art Supply**. This emerging area is constantly evolving but consistently arts-oriented, partially due to the inertia of its *First Friday Art March*, originally organized by

Starlandia owner Clinton Edminster. An active arts community member, Edminster predicts Savannah's creative heart will gravitate south as the Starland District continues to develop. His vision of the national arts conversation is similar, with artists in the South having an increasingly prevalent voice.

"A lot of the issues our country is grappling with right now have to do with Southern history," says Edminster. "But the South is this burgeoning, growing, changing place. There is a new South here—and art is the carrier that will help everybody understand that." ●