

**What**: “52 Weeks | 52 Trees” - Small Studies by Dale L. McEntire

**When**: February 27 – March 15, 2020; Opening Reception 5 - 7 p.m., Feb. 27; Artist Talk 3pm, March 14

**Where**: The Gallery at Flat Rock, 2702-A Greenville Highway, Flat Rock

**How** **much**: Free and open to the public

***52 Weeks | 52 Trees***

***Saluda painter Dale McEntire Honors Trees by Rendering One Tree Per Week***

The Gallery at Flat Rock is excited to present an exhibition of paintings by artist Dale McEntire that are inspired by a love of the trees that surround us. What started as an homage to the beauty of trees gradually turned into a series of artworks, with each painting rendered in a particular style. This exhibition— titled ***52 Weeks | 52 Trees***— is the culmination of McEntire’s idea to create one tree painting per week over 52 weeks starting in 2018. Ten percent of proceeds from sales of paintings from ***52 Weeks | 52 Trees*** will be donated to the local environmental advocacy nonprofit Mountain True.

“I had the idea of making a series of individual trees as I have spent a lot of time outside in the woods throughout my life,” says McEntire. “The outline and form of a tree against the backdrop of the landscape and sky are very unique and interesting.” Recognizing the vital role trees play in our ecosystem, given the current climate crisis, he wanted to express their significance while also challenging himself to paint a tree every week in a spirit of experimentation through painting in a variety of styles and techniques.

“My immediate surroundings were filled with unique trees: maple, poplar, oak, cherry, pine, willow, locust and cedar- so I chose to paint trees found on our property” says McEntire. After selecting a tree to paint, he would work on location to complete the

**The Gallery at Flat Rock Presents “52 Trees”: Paintings by Dale McEntire**

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painting, admitting that it took discipline to balance this practice with life responsibilities and his studio time and travels. “Painting the trees became a practice of paying attention: to the different kinds of trees, the unique personality of each tree, to the seasons and how the landscape affects each tree. It also challenged me to interpret each tree in a different way, and to stretch myself to paint in multiple styles.”

A native of Western North Carolina, McEntire trained in fine art at Mercer University, at Penland School of Craft and through private studies in the U.S. and Europe.  McEntire works in oils and pastel, as well as in stone, steel, glass and bronze to create paintings and sculpture out of his studio in Saluda, North Carolina. An interest in the spiritual essence of nature is evident in his use of color and form in his contemporary landscape paintings.

McEntire has been influenced by many artists over the years, from Camille Pissarro and Vincent Van Gogh to Charles Burchfield and Arthur Dove, among others. “Though I imagine those influences surface at times in some of the paintings,” he says, “I wanted to be unattached to outcome and simply have some fun experimenting, while bringing a little something different to each canvas.”

 The Gallery at Flat Rock represents finely curated art and craft, and is located in Flat Rock Square at 2702-A Greenville Highway in Flat Rock, North Carolina. Gallery hours are Tuesday through Saturday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sundays 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.; or by appointment. To learn more, please visit the gallery website at [galleryflatrock.com](http://www.galleryflatrock.com) or call the gallery at 828-698-7000.

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