Tom has been retired since 2006. He began his career at Clemson first as the Director of Lee Gallery and then as Professor of Painting. He grew up in Massachusetts and received a BFA from the Massachusetts College of Art and an MFA from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. He taught for a year at Winthrop College and then moved to New York City to work as Art Director for the National Lampoon Magazine. In 1970, he returned to South Carolina and taught in the Greenville County School district for two years and in 1973 began his career at Clemson University.

He has exhibited his work extensively in the southeast and nationally and has many awards to his credit. This past year he has had exhibits Lander University, USC Aiken, the Governor’s School for the Arts in Greenville, SC. and the Upstairs Artspace in Tryon, NC.

He is represented in both public and private collections including Equitable Life Insurance in New York City, Federal Reserve Bank in Charlotte, NC, Health Resources in Birmingham, Alabama, Asheville Art Museum, Greenville County Museum of Art, Furman University, Greenville Technical College, the Fine Arts Center of Greenville County and the South Carolina State Art Collection.

His newer pieces are from a series that he began about three years ago exploring various techniques and materials that he has been layering together and combining with a mixture of mediums. How this happens varies somewhat but he will tell you that he combines free flowing gestural marks with watercolor, acrylic monoprints on Japanese papers, inkjet transfers of drawings, found objects, comic pages, watercolor washes, various acrylic mediums such as gloss medium, crackle paste, block out medium and gum arabic.

Not unlike the layering of advertisements and bulletins on billboards and urban walls, these works are meant to conceal and reveal images in a chance arrangement of color and shapes. The works themselves are metaphors for the process of memory and experience. As images are revealed and recognized, memories are triggered. The memories can vary from nostalgia to personal experiences.