



# Love, Actually

As Valentine's Day approaches, *Allison Hersh* seeks out some locally rendered works of heart.

## 1 "Ad Astra Per Aspera"

By Juliana Peloso and Kelley Hagemes  
18" x 24", oil on wood

Juliana Peloso's mother warned her that nothing in life is ever easy—hence, the Latin title of this piece. This longtime Gallery Espresso curator joined forces with fellow artist Kelley Hagemes to celebrate the challenges and rewards of overcoming adversity. "This is a collaborative piece inspired by the love and patience it takes to help lift someone up in times of need," Peloso explains. [lostandfoundfineart.com](http://lostandfoundfineart.com)

## 2 "Meandering No. 8"

By Jan Clayton Pagratis  
8" x 8", encaustic pigment transfer on birch panel

True love inspired Jan Clayton Pagratis' latest mixed-media experiments. Despite her intense fear of flying, this gifted artist hopped in the passenger seat last year with her husband, a certified flight instructor, and saw Savannah from a whole new perspective. "It took me five years to go up in the plane with him," she laughs. "This body of work developed from the photographs I took." [janclayton.com](http://janclayton.com)

## 3 "The Free Spirit"

By Jonathan G. Keller  
18" x 24", acrylic on canvas

With vivid hues and abstracted forms, this self-taught artist celebrates life's rich pageant. From his City Market studio, he creates kinetic paintings devoted to the love of self and others. "When we get rid of unhealthy thinking and unrealistic expectations, we become free and are able to be happy," he advises. "We are filled with love and can enjoy everything life has to offer in abundance." [jonathangregorykeller.com](http://jonathangregorykeller.com)

## 4 "Love Vibe Tree"

By Joanne Morton  
16" x 19.5", acrylic on canvas

This self-described "positive energy artist/activist" believes art has the power to inspire change from within. Her "Love Vibe Tree" painting illustrates a heartfelt belief that positive energy can offer courage and provide focus in a chaotic world. "I am a spiritual being living in a human body and doing my best to create more peace and positive energy on this planet," she asserts. [magicpassionlove.com](http://magicpassionlove.com)

### LOCAL CURRENT



#### AMY BROCK

Social Media Maven  
Visit Savannah and select clients

#### SURFING

This social butterfly finds creative ways to share Savannah with people.

#### Vocativ.com

From real news to weird news, this site is a good place to land when you need a break from explaining to people (in 140 characters or less) that you're not certain what day the azaleas will bloom.

#### Instagram

The locals I love to follow include @rethinkdesignstudio, @cluttersavannah, @libbiesummers and @challphoto. For gorgeous travel and architecture photos: @kirstenalana and @hhuang. And of course, @visitsavannah.

#### 3stofthemonth.com

This blog belongs to a brilliant VIP "club" in Nashville that meets on the 3rd of each month to socialize and sample craft cocktails. (How fun would it be to bring this to Savannah?)

#### Facebook

I keep up with the Stone Stairs of Death page. It's clever, hilarious and usually spot-on.

#### Twitter

I adore [Watch What Happens: Live host] Andy Cohen (@Andy), and he always Tweets me back!