

Editorial Commentary - continued

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Forestry Commission (55 Broad River Rd., Columbia)

House of Representatives (Solomon Blatt Building, 1105 Pendleton St., Columbia)

Human Affairs Commission (1026 Sumter St., Columbia)

U of SC Institute for Mind & Brain (U of SC, 1800 Gervais St., Columbia)

Medical University of South Carolina (3 Radcliff Place, Charleston)

Revenue & Fiscal Accountability (Robert Dennis Building, 1000 Assembly St., Columbia)

SCETV (1041 George Rogers Blvd., Columbia)

Technical College of the Lowcountry (New River Campus, 100 Community College Dr., Bluffton)

I've been to the SC Arts Commission a few times (not lately), but I've never had occasion to be in any of those other buildings. I've been to the SC State Museum to see art much more and so have more SC citizens. Of course the State Museum probably doesn't have the money to do that, but then again, the Arts Commission and their buddies at the SC Arts Foundation should fund the display of that art, for all to see. They started it - they are responsible for displaying it where the people of SC can see it - if they really want to.

And what if you live in Florence, Rock Hill or Sumter? No government buildings are there? How about SC DMV buildings? I'd like to see some art in the rooms people spend hours waiting in to be served - #243!

The Arts Commission says on its website that exhibits are available to tour around the state to other facilities, at least those equipped to handle these works of art - just for the asking, but is anyone asking? How much interest does the general public have in these works? I haven't noticed any of our major art museums around the state signing up to show works from the State Collection.

If you'd like to scroll through the list of works in the collection on the Arts Commission's website, let me save you some time in finding it. The link is (<https://www.southcarolinaarts.com/direct-programs/state-art-collection/sac-artists-works/>) and it only covers works purchased by 2006.

Funny thing is, the problem is the same reason the SC Arts Commission stopped hosting juried exhibitions - they're not curated, they're not focused, they're a hodgepodge of works that don't say much about SC's visual art community. And, that's the problem with our State Art Collection. It's a mess, it's irrelevant, has no focus, and nobody is knocking down the Commission's doors to show it. And maybe that's why the Commission isn't "actively" collecting. Well, I'm sure it has more to do with a lack of funding.

Many art museums deaccession works from their collections when they no longer fit the scope of the museum's focus - it's a nice word for selling off what they don't want anymore. Sometimes they trade works to other museums who might want the works that fit their collections, but I don't know if the Arts Commission could find any buyers or takers for some of the works in the Collection, but if they could it might generate funds to buy more relevant works to be included in our State Collection. I'm just saying - other collections are run that way. Why have some works just collecting dust in some storage room?

Who decided to buy the works in the State Collection? That's another can of worms, and I'm just too tired and frustrated to go into that at this time, but it's not a pretty process or wasn't - info about that process has been removed from the Commission's website, but I've got copies of older info, but it could be embarrassing to some of SC's artists today. Some things are better off snoozing in history, like some of the works in "our" SC State Art Collection.

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