

# Editorial COMMENTARY

by Tom Starland, Editor and Publisher

## On Our Cover

On our cover this month is a work by Kirkland Smith, an artist from Columbia, SC, who is showing works at the Morris Center for Lowcountry Heritage in Ridgeland, SC, just off I-95 South. The exhibit, *The (In)disposable Art of Kirkland Smith*, will be on view there from Jan. 14 through July 15, 2023. The art installation is a playful collection of assemblages. Smith creates 3-dimensional works that speak to environmental responsibility in a fresh, evocative way. For example, to portray the problem of overconsumption and its effects on society, she uses everyday disposable objects as her paint medium. You can read all about it on Page 7 of this issue.

## Another Year, Another Notch In Our Belt

We are entering our 36th year of publishing an arts publication, now online for our 11th year. Oh, am I tired you ask? Not really, it's amazing how it gets easier to do with each year that passes by. That was really the case this last month as people seemed to be too busy to send us info about what they'll be offering on view this month. Don't worry, there is plenty of art to see, we just didn't get informed about a lot of it, so don't count on us to have all the info about all that is happening. I'm not even sure the folks who are presenting some of these exhibits know what they are showing until an artist arrives at the door with a car or van full of art. It was the holidays and take your pick from any of them which were taking place from the end of November to the beginning of January - there's something for everyone, even Festivus - For the Rest of Us.

Luckily it was slow this last month. I caught a cold in the middle of the month - first one in about four years. Yet, I was also on

guard duty trying to keep the grandboys out of our room where they thought the stash of Christmas presents were being hidden. They were all turning into little Sherlock Holmes. And when they found wrapped packages, they started the age-old guessing process of trying to figure out what's inside the wrapping by shaking, fondling, and sizing up the box. The guesses ranged from the absurd to the impossible, but...their Grandpa and Grandma were old hands at disguising packages to lead noisy children off the right trail.

Putting a heavy book in with a box of T-shirts or a small bag of Legos in with a pair of pants was something we learned a long time ago. Also putting small things in a big box drives the boys crazy - as for them, size matters.

There's nothing like watching a child shake a box, the kind that clothes usually come in, and it sounds like there are a million Legos inside - enough to make a *Star Wars* Millennium Falcon. Not the small one, but the big one. The look on that kiddie's face when they opened it on Christmas was priceless - out came the cry, "underwear and a bag of my old Legos!"

## Another Year, A New Hope

And speaking of *Star Wars* and that first movie, *A New Hope*, which launched a million spin off movies and TV shows, we have hopes that this year people will send their exhibit info in early (as plain text in the body of an e-mail) and send a few high res images with it (at least 3" wide by 300dpi as attachments). It never hurts to hope, well sometimes it hurts when things seem hopeless, but we can always hope.

Of course next month will be different, no big holidays to get in the way and the long Winter nights and days will give everyone lots of time to send us their info. Right!

## Charleston Artist Guild

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creative director, working on television and print campaigns in the USA and abroad. In 2018, Davies and her husband moved to Mount Pleasant, excited to begin a new chapter as part of this vibrant art community and the beauty of the Lowcountry.

Davies is always learning and experimenting with different techniques, and likes to choose whichever medium feels right, based on the impression she wants a piece to convey. She says "The joy in art for me is in playful spontaneity, in discovering a new technique, or making a happy mistake, or trying a totally different approach."

The gallery is located on East Bay Street in Charleston.

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings or call the Guild at 843/722-2425.



Work by Fran Davies

## City of North Charleston, SC, Offers Works by Laurie Candelaria & Stacey Green

City of North Charleston, SC, will present two new concurrent exhibitions including: *Life*, featuring watercolor paintings by Laurie Candelaria and *Fired and Iced*, featuring fused glass works by Stacey Green, both on view at the Park Circle Gallery, from Jan. 4 - 28, 2023. A reception will be held on Jan. 6, from 5-7pm.

In her exhibit, *Life*, Laurie Candelaria of Johns Island, SC, presents a collection of watercolor paintings that highlight all different aspects of "life" in the Lowcountry. Each piece captures the energy and essence of beach life, wildlife, plant life, marsh life, and more. Candelaria received a Fine Arts Degree from the University of New Mexico. She began her artistic career in metalsmithing, moved on to stained glass/mosaic glass, and now loves to paint with watercolor.



Work by Laurie Candelaria

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