

Editorial COMMENTARY

by Tom Starland, Editor and Publisher

Best Kept Secrets in the South Carolina Visual Art Community

Well, it appears that one of the best kept secrets in Spartanburg, SC, might be the existence of *Carolina Arts*. We heard from a lot of people who have had dealings with exhibit venues in Spartanburg - people from other parts of South Carolina, but hardly a peep from the folks mentioned in my last editorial. Those folks either don't know about our publication, don't read our publication or follow the policy of the SC Arts Commission in that if you don't recognize criticism - it doesn't exist.

Maybe over time we'll see some increase in hearing about what's on exhibit in the Spartanburg area, once time passes on to make it look like they are not responding to my commentary, but for now, that best kept secret continues.

I'll repeat my reason for offering that commentary stating that I hoped it would nudge people in charge of reporting what exhibit venues in Spartanburg are offering to communicate with us so we could inform our readers - not to embarrass those folks. They're offering good things there and we want more people to know about them.

What About the Others?

I'm not saying we won't feature other best kept secrets in the Carolinas - there are plenty of them to go around, but I had hoped last month's commentary would have got the point across to many others - not just Spartanburg, SC. It's not as if I need more work to do without an equal amount of support in the form of advertising, but I'm willing and always have been. We're not doing this in hopes that we'll get rich. It's a labor of love, with not many financial rewards, but I'm going to do it as long as it

makes sense to do so. At the age of almost 78, I'm not looking for new projects to do, but it doesn't mean that one might not come along. So, keep me busy working on processing exhibit info or my mind will wander.

More Exposure for Under-Exposed Art Communities

It's been pointed out to me over time that I seem to have a tendency to point out exhibits or works of art being produced by members of minority artists, which includes: fine art photographers, abstract artists, fine art printmakers, quilters, as well as African American, Mexican, Central American and South American artists living here in the Carolinas. I'll admit that I also feature ceramic artists and glass artists any time I can, more because I just love what they do and happen to collect those works. I collect all types of art, when I can and if you saw it in total, the word eclectic would soon come to mind. I myself would love to see it on display all in total.

Some of the problem stems from a lack of exhibits of these categories of work or artists being offered an exhibit and that artists in these groups have given up trying to "jump the falls" in getting their work seen by the general public.

Most of the time you might only see these works in once-a-year shows offered during Black History Month or other special months set aside to highlight the unseen during the rest of the year. And, in many cases it's the same artists being featured every year or in a short rotation.

In once instance, one of these once a year shows meant to feature works by African American artists has gotten so diluted that the organizers now allow works by non

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Charleston Artist Guild in Charleston

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encourage connections to nature."

McLenon is asking for participants to vote for the most calming, meditative image during the opening reception of her exhibit.

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings or call Steve Jacobs at 843/722-2454.

College of Charleston in Charleston Offers Work by Bette Mueller-Roemer

The College of Charleston Libraries Department of Special Collections is hosting a new free exhibit, *Remembered Voices: Women in Literature*, created by local artist Bette Mueller-Roemer, on view in the Marlene and Nathan Addlestone Library, through June 14, 2019.

The exhibit is composed of twelve porcelain sculptures, each representing a female literary character - from Sophocles' *Antigone* to Lewis Carroll's *Alice*. A small book accompanies each sculpture, identifying characters by name and featuring a quotation and source.

"Over the years I have spent many hours engrossed in books," Mueller-Roemer said. "Along the way, I've encountered fascinating female characters who live in my memory; some from my reading years ago, others from more recent readings. Each of them has both frailties and strengths. How their lives unfolded and how they faced adversity are threads that bind them together. These women were the inspiration for the art in this exhibit."

The Marlene and Nathan Addlestone Library Special Collections is located at 205 Calhoun Street in Charleston.

The Special Collections Department of the College of Charleston was founded to support the teaching and learning mission of the College of Charleston and to evalu-



Work by Bette Mueller-Roemer

ate, acquire, organize, preserve, and make available rare printed and archival materials on the South Carolina Lowcountry and the broader Atlantic World. Its holdings include over 600 manuscript collections related to the history and culture of the South Carolina Lowcountry, the archives of the College of Charleston, the Spoleto Festival Archives, and more than 40,000 rare books and pamphlets. Special Collections also offers online access to collection guides, a robust digital library, physical and online exhibits, and is committed to public programming and educational outreach.

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings, call Mike Robertson at 843/870-1277 or visit (<http://speccoll.cofc.edu/>).

Don't forget about our website:
www.carolinaarts.com



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info@carolinaarts.com

Whimsy Joy© by Roz

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"The Hearts cuddle and Hug and Smile. They promise to stay together awhile."



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The deadline each month to submit articles, photos and ads is the 24th of the month prior to the next issue. This will be Feb. 24th for the March 2019 issue and Mar. 24 for the April 2019 issue.