

Editorial COMMENTARY

by Tom Starland, Editor and Publisher

On Our Cover This Month

On our cover is a work by Mark Flowers, which is part of the exhibit, *Under Tones*, featuring over 20 works by Flowers, on view at Pink Dog Creative Gallery, in Asheville, NC's, River Arts District, through July 16, 2023. In his first one-person exhibition since before the pandemic, 68 year-old veteran artist, Mark Flowers continues to evolve in his style. In March of 2021, while visiting Baltimore, MD, Flowers rode a commuter train from downtown out to the suburbs and back. He held his cell phone to the window and recorded still images as the train moved. The series of forms in motion and spontaneous imagery are the foundation of this new work. You can find an article about the exhibit in our June 2023 issue on Page 23 at (<https://www.carolinaarts.com/623/623carolinaarts-pg23.pdf>).



AI work by Rosalia Torres-Weiner

AI Is Here To Stay - Are You?

AI (Artificial Intelligence) and Adobe Photoshop's new release, Generative Fill are both technologies that play a role in the creative process. They are a tool for the creative artist. Can you purchase these programs and say, "Make me a successful work of art, which will sell for big bucks!" - No!

There has to be a creative mind and hand behind AI. I've seen things that come out of the mind of some artists which no AI program could come up with. Of course there will be technicians and designers who will use AI to satisfy their clients needs (taking the artist out of the picture), but they will never replace artists. At least that's my opinion. What do you think?

Here are two examples from two of our Carolina artists using AI to create images: Rosalia Torres-Weiner of Charlotte, NC, and Owen Daniels of Winston-Salem, NC.



AI work by Owen Daniels

Could they have created these images on their own without the use of AI? Sure they could with time, but why not use the tools available? It's much faster once you learn the process.

AI is here to stay - are you?

International African American Museum in Charleston, SC, Presents Smithsonian Museum Traveling Exhibit

The International African American Museum (IAAM) in Charleston, SC, is hosting the *Men of Change: Power. Triumph. Truth.* as a special exhibition, on view through Aug. 6, 2023. The exhibition from the Smithsonian Museum presents the history of a nation through the lens of significant and iconic African American men in a historical and cultural landscape. The Ford Motor Company Fund and local sponsor, Bank of America, have made it possible to bring the exhibit to Charleston.

To coincide with the *Men of Change* exhibit, IAAM will host *The Path Forward*, a program series weaving together community impact and addressing the three pillars of power, triumph, and truth. The exhibition will offer new generations notable stories of significant African American men, known and unknown leaders, who have or will stand as national icons.

"We're excited to open IAAM's doors to not only showcase the incredible breadth of African American history, but to amplify critical pieces of artistic storytelling," noted Dr. Tonya Matthews, president and CEO of the International African American Museum. "This exhibit will undoubtedly provoke a sense of renewed curiosity and self-reflection. These 'men of change' were among those thoughtful enough to engage in authentic stories of history, politics, art, culture, and activism. That's exactly what these twenty-five contemporary artists have helped to create in this exhibit we're proud to host, all the more as we launch."

Created by the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service (SITES), *Men of Change* is made possible through the support of the Ford Motor Company Fund, the philanthropic arm of Ford. "Ford and the Smithsonian have a shared commitment to honoring people and achievements that reflect America's diverse culture," said Page 4 - Carolina Arts, July 2023



Work by Patrick Earl Hammie, "Romare Bearden" Romare Bearden, 2018. Courtesy of the artist

Mary Culler, president of the Ford Motor Company Fund. "Ford Fund is proud to bring *Men of Change* to Charleston to help showcase the legacies of African American men who have changed the world for the better."

SITES has been sharing the wealth of Smithsonian collections and research programs with millions of people outside Washington, DC, for more than 70 years. SITES connects Americans to their shared cultural heritage through a wide range of exhibitions about art, science, and history, which are shown wherever people live, work, and play. Bank of America is the local sponsor of the exhibition.

"We hope that by experiencing *Men of Change*, visitors will see a lesson for us all, regardless of gender, race, or nationality," said Myriam Springuel, director of SITES and Smithsonian Affiliations. "In these men we see an absolute ideal and a well of

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