

Editorial COMMENTARY

by Tom Starland, Editor and Publisher

On Our Cover

On our cover this month is a work by Tanya Church Craig of North Charleston, SC. It is part of the exhibit *It's HOT in Town*, on view at Charleston Crafts Cooperative Gallery, in historic downtown Charleston, SC, from Sept. 1 - 30, 2023. She is what I would call a fused glass, abstract artist and a master colorist. Read about the exhibit on Page 7.

A New Visual Art Event

The first Uproar Festival of Public Art is in the books and \$29,000 in prizes have been awarded. The festival included 60 (101 applied) works by artists from North Carolina, South Carolina, Arkansas, and Georgia. Artists living in Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, or West Virginia were invited to enter and maybe next year they will. The first time of anything is hard to pull off.

But they learned from other events like this and made some critical improvements. Uproar provided a \$500 honorarium for each selected applicant (artist or team). Artists living further than 60 miles from Chapel Hill could receive four nights' complimentary lodging at a partner hotel, as well as a mileage stipend for up to 200 miles based on location. That's \$30,000 upfront for the 60 participating artists, so the money involved was almost \$60,000, and perhaps more. It's almost a free vacation for artists coming from other states. It won't be long before that idea catches on with artists from outside the Carolinas.

The art was displayed throughout the downtown areas of Chapel Hill, Carrboro, and Hillsborough, very close to NC's

Triangle area with a population of around 2,106,463, as of the 2020 census - not exactly the middle of nowhere.

Who came to this event? Uproar's Google Map of art locations garnered more than 30,000 views online during the festival, but more than 6,000 votes were submitted to determine the People's Choice winner which is a closer known attendance figure, but it's hard to tell as maybe all 30,000 who looked for a map came to look around, but didn't vote for their favorite. Who knows?

It seems to be a pretty good experience for the artists - \$500, gas money, and maybe free lodging. What's not to like? The real question is - will the presentors feel like they got the bang they wanted for their money and will they then want to do it again and even expand it?

From my point of view, they need more exposure to promote the festival and because it's a visual art event, they need to get more visuals - showing the art and showing people viewing and enjoying the art - not just during the event, but before the event goes live. It takes time to lure people to come visit from outside the area and it takes a good story to convince them it's the thing to do. Read about this event on Page 34.

It's Not Enough Info To Be Included

I get sent lots of e-mails and see posts on Facebook about exhibits taking place which will not make the cut to get into *Carolina Arts*. Sending or posting the reception date and time for an exhibit is not enough info for us or our readers. Not everyone can go to a reception, so they need to know how long an exhibit will be on view - beginning and ending dates, hours of the venue, and contact info for questions to be answered. But if all you want to do is get them to come and drink and eat - don't bother with us.

Charleston Artist Guild

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banks and select hotels in the United States, France, Puerto Rico, Canada, and Australia.

Schick studied art in college and after graduating, became a commercial photographer. Then she moved to Paris, France, and studied painting, photography and art history while living abroad for several years.

Using both film and digital photography, Schick consciously removes any color distraction from her subjects. This allows the viewer to focus on shapes, patterns, compositions, and emotions. Her work fits virtually any interior design style. From a rustic farmhouse kitchen to a chic, urban bedroom, black & white photography beautifies its space. Each photograph is perfect by itself or hung in a grouping of several photographs.

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



Work by Cyndi Schick

The City of North Charleston, SC, Features Works by Kevin Morrissey and Cody Mathews

The City of North Charleston's Cultural Arts Department is pleased to announce that concurrent solo exhibitions of paintings by Kevin Morrissey (Summerville, SC) and photographs by Cody Mathews (Charleston, SC) will be on display at Park Circle Gallery from Sept. 6 - 30, 2023. A reception hosted by the artists will be held at the gallery on Sept. 8, from 5-7pm.

In the exhibit *Sanctuary*, Kevin Morrissey presents a series of acrylic and mixed media paintings that depict animals juxtaposed over large flat silhouettes of architectural structures set within atmospheric color fields and environments. Creating both



Work by Cody Mathews

tension and harmony, the imagery explores how environment and experiences influence

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Halsey - McCallum Studio William Halsey & Corrie McCallum



Painting by Corrie McCallum

Paintings
Graphics
& Sculpture for
the discerning
collector

Both artists are recipients of the Elizabeth O'Neill Verner Award



Duo by William Halsey, oil on paper, 11 x 15 inches

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