

How About an Art Book

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access that portrait photographers have long provided into the lives of their subjects. Each photographer prefaces his or her work with a brief description of the photographs and the experiences of working toward this collaborative project. In the afterword Paul E. Matheny III offers an assessment of how these portraits may be viewed by future generations and applauds the photographers for capturing "the soul of the state."

Participating photographers include: Jack Alterman, Jeff Amberg, Gayle Brooker, Vennie Deas-Moore, Brett Flashnick, Squire Fox, Andrew Haworth, Molly Hayes, Jon Holloway, Caroline Jenkins, Julia Lynn, Nancy Marshall, Phil Moody, Milton Morris, Stacy L. Pearsall, Blake Praytor, Ruth Rackley, Kathleen Robbins, Chris M. Rogers, Nancy Santos, Mark Sloan, Michelle Van Pary, Sam Wang, and Cecil Williams.

Mark Sloan is the director and senior curator of the Halsey Institute of Contemporary Art at the College of Charleston School of the Arts. Sloan is an accomplished photographer and the author or coauthor of eight books.

South Carolina novelist Josephine Humphreys is the author of *Dreams of Sleep* (winner of the 1985 Ernest Hemingway Award for First Fiction), *Rich in Love* (made into a major motion picture), *The Fireman's Fair*, and *Nowhere Else on Earth*.

Paul E. Matheny III is chief curator of art at the South Carolina State Museum.

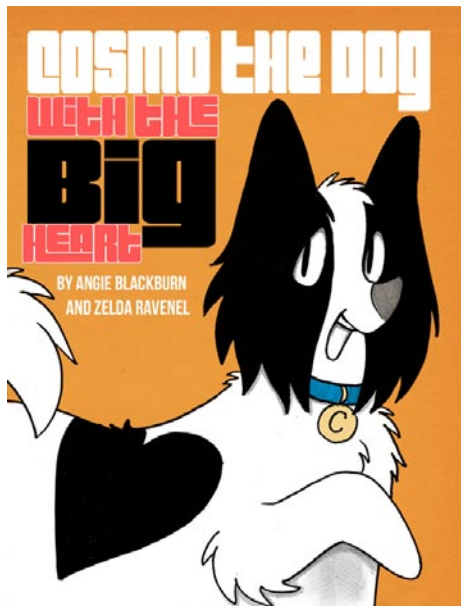
"The Palmetto Portraits Project reveals that we are both old and new. We are farmers, preachers, artists, tradesmen, taxidermists, roller-derby queens, factory workers, soldiers, scientists. We are eccentric and ordinary, salt-of-the-earth and miscreants, strugglers and dreamers. Our wild variety is our strength and our real wealth, as long as we recognize ourselves," says Josephine Humphreys.

The next book is not on the market yet - but will be soon. We're including it as the illustrator is our internet wiz - Zelda Ravenel.

Cosmo the Dog With the Big Heart

by Angie Blackburn

illustrations by Zelda Ravenel



published by LAFing Dog Publishing

Angie Blackburn works as an editor at *The Post and Courier* newspaper in Charleston, SC. She has been in love and involved with words all her life.

"Much to our surprise, Cosmo, a black-and-white Papillon, came into our lives in 2007," says Blackburn, adding, "He was a surprise and an inspiration. My husband, Smith, and I were surprised at how quickly we fell in love with him. And I was inspired to write a series of children's books loosely based on the fact he is a very LARGE Papillon. The first is *Cosmo the Dog With the Big Heart*."

I tried to imagine what that might mean for a dog family with several regular-size puppies and one very large puppy. The fact that our Cosmo has a heart-shaped marking on his side was a very intriguing idea as well. It sparked my imagination about what the heart could mean in terms of personal-

ity traits. And hopefully, we can engage children to discuss and think about what positive traits they possess, such as bravery, kindness, courage and love. In other words, what makes them unique and special.

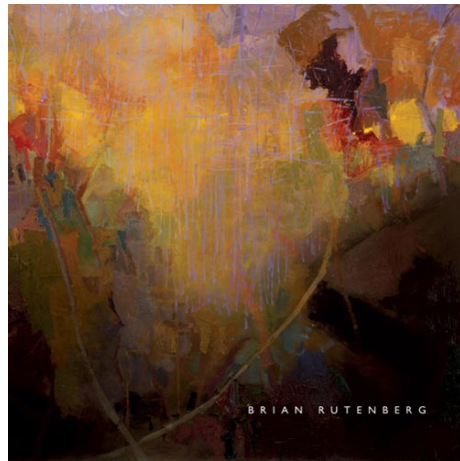
After writing three books, I was fortunate to meet Zelda Ravenel, a graduate from Savannah College of Art and Design who majored in comic art. It was a perfect match as she captured the spirit and likeness of Cosmo and his "family" in her drawings.

Although not published this year - this book is one of my all time favorites and might be yours too. The book is now in its second printing.

Brian Rutenberg

by Martica Sawin

preface by Gregory Amenoff with an introduction by Walter Darby Bannard

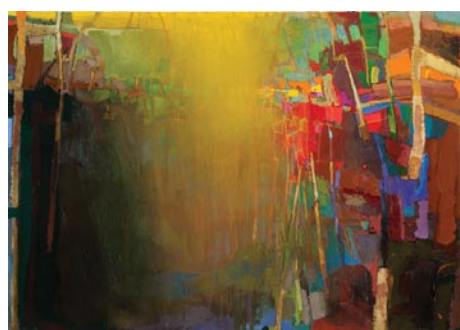


published by Radius Books

11" x 11", 164 pages, 85 color illustrations, ISBN: 978-1-93435-09-0

Brian Rutenberg's paintings reinvigorate and revitalize the medium. Raised in the South Carolina lowlands, Rutenberg has lived and worked in New York for the past 20 years. His work elicits a profoundly visceral experience as he reinvests abstraction with a sense of spirituality. Influenced by the music of Glenn Gould and Celtic culture, as well as the painters Joan Mitchell and Hans Hofmann, Rutenberg draws on the landscape that he remembers from childhood, growing up between Pawley's Island and Charleston, where the rivers and lakes join the ocean. The landscape, complex in its layers, has guided Rutenberg's approach to composition and color. This volume is the first comprehensive presentation of his work.

Brian Rutenberg was born and raised in Myrtle Beach, SC, and he received his BFA at the College of Charleston. He received an MFA in 1989 at the School of Visual Arts in New York City. He has shown his work at a variety of galleries and museums, including the Albright-Knox, the Boulder Museum of Contemporary Art, the American Academy of Arts & Letters Invitational, the Oakland Museum of Art, and Temple Bar Gallery in Dublin, Ireland. His work is held in the collections of the Yale Gallery of Art, The Butler Institute of American Art, Peabody Essex Museum and the Greenville County Museum of Art, among others. He is currently represented by Forum Gallery, in New York, NY, and Los Angeles, CA, as well as by Jerald Melberg Gallery in Charlotte, NC.



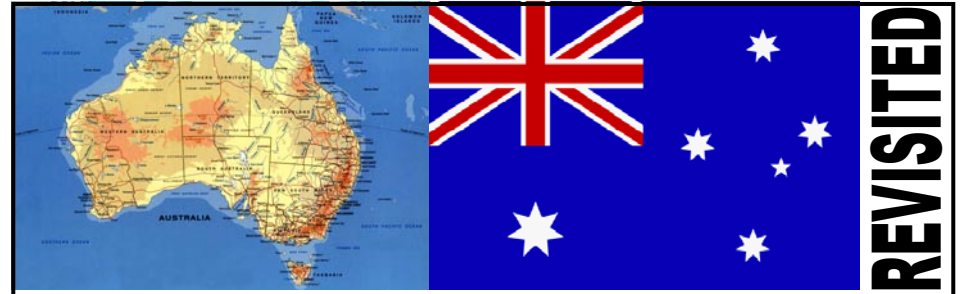
Fading # 3 by Brian Rutenberg

Martica Sawin has had a long career teaching art history and writing about contemporary art in New York. She is the author of the seminal book, *Surrealism in*
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Exile and the Beginning of the New York School. Gregory Amenoff is a painter who is the recipient of numerous awards. He is currently the chair of the Visual Arts Division at Columbia University. Walter Darby Bannard is an internationally recognized abstract painter and writer about art whose articles have been published in *Artforum* and *Art in America*, among others.

Editor's Note: These books can probably be found in many art museum shops or book stores in North or South Carolina or in some cases you can purchase them from the publisher or artists involved.

Any of these books would make a great gift to someone you know or yourself.



A Few Words From Down Under

Editor's Note: Judith McGrath contributed her writings about exhibits and events taking place in Western Australia to *Carolina Arts* for about a decade. Although she was writing about events taking place thousands and thousands of miles away, they seemed relevant to what was going on here in the Carolinas. Her contributions were very popular when we first ran them and continue to be popular on our website's archives. We've decide to revisit them from time to time.

A Few Words from Down Under Who Says Who's the Artist?

by Judith McGrath, first run in our July 2003 issue

More often these days, when introduced to someone, we are expected to define what it is we do in order to explain who we are. We need a label, something to write in the box marked OCCUPATION on forms. Of all the labels available, Artist is the one most debated. We've all argued the difference between painters and artists, wood or metal workers and sculptors at one time or other. When it comes to Artists, what qualities distinguish the hobbyist or the amateur from the professional artist? And who makes that distinction, the individual or the rest of the world? The following art practitioners are real, I know them, their names have been changed to protect the innocent (me). Of the four, only one writes "Professional Artist" in the OCCUPATION box on forms. I invite you to read their accounts and guess which one it is.

Ladies first. After the kids were grown, Cassie attended art college part-time, to ascertain the talent she already owned was legitimate. She has been making art all her life; her first memory is of drawing a picture. Although her family has priority over painting, when she's on a creative roll or trying to resolve a problem with a composition, nothing comes between Cassie and her canvas. She creates bold colourful abstract paintings that always include a figure, enjoys experimenting with her medium and challenging her limits. Cassie has never approached a gallery nor held a solo exhibition, she doesn't need to. Her large works sell well through Interior Design showrooms where they practically walk off the wall at premium prices, a fact that continues to surprise her.

Then there's Charles who died early this year at the age of 95. He taught art for awhile after graduating from a prestigious art school but soon discovered he wasn't suited to the job. With a wife to support him, Charles retreated to his studio where he spent every day for almost fifty years pursuing his art. At the age of 86, Charles held his first solo exhibition in 1994, which I was able to give a good review. When I first met Charles at his second exhibition in 1996, he thanked me for my generous words and revealed I was the only one who ever wrote about him as an artist. His third and last exhibition in 2002

You could also think about purchasing one or several and donate them to your local arts group or organization for their reference library.

For further information about USC Press visit (<http://www.sc.edu/uscpress/>). For further info about Schiffer titles visit (www.schifferbooks.com). For further info about the *Cosmo* book and when it will be available, visit (<http://www.indiegogo.com/cosmothedog>) and on Facebook at (<https://www.facebook.com/CosmoTheDogBook>). For further info about Brian Rutenberg's book visit (<http://brianrutenbergart.com/>).

was a sell out. Charles' legacy is a six-room studio filled with an amazing collection of drawings, prints and paintings.

Soon after Dale graduated from art college he was offered a job as a part-time lecturer in the same school. He was a talented sculptor who won some big ticket public art commissions, held two successful solo shows in commercial galleries and received a government grant to put on a third, which received good reviews. Ten years ago, after securing a full-time teaching post, the one man shows ceased, however he has participated in a few mixed shows put on by a small collective of sculptors to which he belongs. Dale's job is very demanding; in addition to teaching he is expected to coordinate community art projects secured by the college, and mentor students who participate. Little energy is left over for his own work, which has not progressed since his first show.

Gerald earned a Masters of Fine Art from a reputable university art school more than twenty years ago. When he was the new young lion on the scene, he won prizes, exhibited work at good galleries in major cities around the country, participated in shows overseas and is represented in some prestigious collections. Gerald continued to develop and define his Minimalist style even as new cubs emerged, each taking their turn as leader of the pack. These days Gerald holds a solo exhibition every second or third year in a top gallery and participates in a few prize exhibitions. His high priced works continue to sell, if not like hotcakes. Gerald will sketch and paint every day when he finishes working at his full time job as a landscape gardener.

As stated above, only one of the four fills in the OCCUPATION box on forms with Professional Artist. Can you guess who it is? It's not Cassie; she'd never call herself an Artist, the tag is too ostentatious for her to wear. She would pen "Housewife" in the box with a certain flourish. Cassie will never stop making art, it's always been a part of her; she is an Artist. However, since she doesn't exhibit in galleries and hasn't had a write up in an art journal, the art world considers her just a clever painter with a paying hobby. That's fine by Cassie.

Gerald wouldn't write Artist either; he'd pen in "Landscape Gardener" on forms because that's what pays the bills. The money earned in landscaping allows him to keep painting. And he does keep painting because he has to; he is an Artist. Meanwhile, because he exhibits in a gallery, gets decent reviews, has been written about in art journals and won prizes, gallery managers and collectors call Gerald a Professional Artist. Well they would, they have a vested interest.

The late Charles would have left the box blank or written "Unemployed". But Charles spent a lifetime exploring different techniques and perfecting his skill in a variety of artforms within the param-

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