

# Editorial COMMENTARY

by Tom Starland, Editor and Publisher

## On The Cover

Each month when laying out *Carolina Arts* I'm presented with little spaces that need to be filled with - something. Most of the time I place little boxes which ask people to send in their info about exhibits if they don't see them in the current issue. We can't present that info to our readers unless someone sends it to us first. It's that simple. The boxes also tell people when and where they need to send that info.

For the last two months I used a few of those boxes to call for submissions of art for our March 2014 cover. Out of those we received I selected Allison Chambers of Charlotte, NC.

It pays to read even the small spaces in *Carolina Arts*.

## Congrats Are In Order

While we are talking about Charlotte, the Jerald Melberg Gallery in Charlotte is celebrating its 30th anniversary - quite a milestone for a commercial gallery.

The Jerald Melberg Gallery was our first advertiser from North Carolina, which helped us decide to jump the border in 1997 to become *Carolina Arts* - covering the visual arts in both North and South Carolina.

We're just three years from our own 30th anniversary and we know what that means.

## The Word On Facebook

I posted this statement on my Facebook page recently: "I probably should post this once a day or at least once a week so that it might sink into some folk's brains. I hate Facebook for so many reasons, but the main one is that it has made people lazy about doing publicity for their exhibits. I do not like to share posts about exhibits that people did

not send to us to be included in the paper. I do it at times, mostly for supporters of the paper, for whom we make many exceptions, and it would be a shame if our readers missed those exhibits because they didn't get a timely notice for them. If you have been thinking that instead of sending me a press release you can just post info about an exhibit on Facebook - you are mistaken. I would think that fact would be clear to a few folks by now, but I always seem to be wrong about what people can figure out on their own. Press releases need to be sent to (info@carolinaarts.com) before deadline - that's the 24th of the month before your exhibit begins. Inviting me to come see exhibits won't work either. I'm not in the business of coming to exhibits, I'm in the business of letting the public know what they can go see."

Now that being said, I would say Facebook is good for some things, but not a great medium for details. Since I don't always have time to look at the hundreds of posts that show up on my feed - sometimes on an hourly basis - it's not fair to use it as a way of gathering info. At least that's the case for me and the production of *Carolina Arts*.

Facebook works great for the people operating it, but not so good for those who use it. It is not a user-friendly device. Plus, they don't let me see all the posts of my "friends" and they don't let all my "friends" see the posts I make - without paying a pretty price.

## Something New

This month we're adding something new for those out there interested in pottery and the people who make it.

The *Tales of a Red Clay Rambler* podcast features interviews with artists and culture makers from around the world. We'll highlight those featuring artists of the Carolinas.

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Hosted by ceramic artist Ben Carter, the show explores how the ideas and aesthetics of the interviewed artists reflect the greater cultures that surround them.

Carter was the educational director of the Pottery Workshop Shanghai from 2010 - 2012 and has been an artist-in-residence at Anderson Ranch Arts Center in Snowmass, CO, The Archie Bray Foundation in Helena, MT, and the Guldagergaard International Ceramic Research Center in Skaelskor, Denmark. He has exhibited internationally and taught workshops at art institutions in the United States, China, Australia, and New Zealand. He was also a resident at the Odyssey Center in Asheville, NC, for a few years - thus his connection to the Carolinas.

For a complete biography and resume please visit the "About" page at (www.carterpottery.com).

Carter will be in NC again this month in Asheboro, NC, presenting at the 27th Annual North Carolina Potters Conference, Mar. 7-9, 2014. He will also be making more podcasts there.

## The Latest on the Missing Bust of Gian Carlo Menotti

As a recap - the City of Charleston, SC, has lost or misplaced a bust of Gian Carlo Menotti, founder of the Spoleto Festivals in Italy and the US, given to them in 1987. We have now learned that the current value of the work created by Charles Parks of Delaware is estimated to be about \$30,000.

I'm sure if someone working at the City had misplaced \$30,000 or embezzled that amount of money - heads would be rolling.

I'm no stranger to how the City of Charleston misplaces money involving the arts. Back in 1989, after Hurricane Hugo hit Charleston, the National Endowment for the Arts gave the City of Charleston a good deal of money to help the art community in the Charleston area recover. A few years after the recovery had taken place I learned from a source that the City was still holding on to \$100,000 of the money.

After contacting the NEA I learned that that was illegal and the City needed to match that money and disperse it or give it

back.

After that the City and their friends at the Post and Courier tried to "kill" the messenger. Mayor Joe Riley decided to blame me for spoiling the plans they had for that money and returned it to the NEA, denying the art community of further funding. I don't know if he was too angry or what, but Mayor Joe Riley, who is supposed to be a big supporter of the arts, didn't make any effort to get the needed matching funds. So his decision cost the art community \$200,000 of funding. I wonder if his friends at the Charleston Symphony ever knew about that?

Arts funding by the City of Charleston is a bit of a mystery. Not many in the art community, except those who receive funding, know much about the process - the who, what, where and why of it.

I just hope the City recovers that \$30,000 work of art soon. I'd hate to still be talking about this by the time the Spoleto Festival USA rolls into town in May - or through 2015. But I will until they find it or come up with a logical explanation as to what happened to it.

## I Hate February

First of all it's the spelling. Who's idea was it to throw in that "r"?

Second, it always seems to snow or ice up during that month, but the third reason is the worst - it only has 29 days every fourth year. And that's not enough days to produce a newspaper for all that comes in March.

March is the month when the visual art community in the Carolinas come alive. And, it has 31 days - like all months should.

Actually I wish April and September had about 35 days to give us time to produce the May and October issues.

So last month, we here at *Carolina Arts* suffered from all three - the funky spelling, an ice storm which knocked out power for 24 hours and Internet service for almost 36 hours - with only 28 days to work with.

That's just not fair.

So here's my deal - I'll give the powers that be shorter months in July, August, December, and January - for longer months in February, April and September. Deal?

# Joan Potter



Copper and Lilies

Oil

25 x 24 inches



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