

# A New Book by the Late Jim Harrison

Editor's Note: by Tom Starland

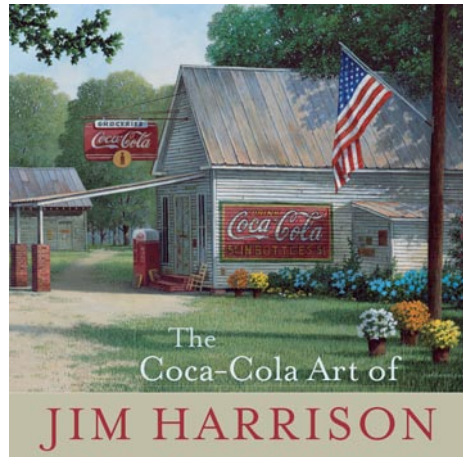
The first and only time I met Jim Harrison (January 12, 1936 – June 18, 2016) was in his gallery in Denmark, SC, which is still in operation today. We talked about a lot of things but the most interesting story he told me about was the day representatives of the Coca-Cola Company came into his gallery announcing that they were now in business together - like it or not, but that relationship had been very good for him - it opened his art up to a world-wide market. Not a bad deal.

Harrison at the time was probably one of the best known and most popular living artists in South Carolina. And not too long ago when the South Carolina Arts Commission did a survey, Harrison was voted the top artist in their survey - although his type of art was not their cup of tea. To them, his style would be too common, too popular with the average person - not cutting edge enough. No one would scratch their head looking at a work by Jim Harrison wondering what it was or what it meant.

Harrison has never been given the Elizabeth O'Neill Verner Governor's Awards for the Arts, the top art award in SC, which is a shame, as lesser people who you wouldn't recognize have. It's kind of like the award's namesake, Elizabeth O'Neill Verner - they wouldn't have liked her work either and she has never been given the award, but they don't mind using her name and popularity.

There are probably more works by Jim Harrison hanging in homes in South Carolina than any other artists from this state.

Now USC Press has published a book of his Coca-Cola paintings, written by Harrison.



*The Coca-Cola Art of Jim Harrison*  
by Jim Harrison

Published by USC Press, January 2017  
10 x 10  
136 pages  
72 color illustrations  
ISBN 978-1-61117-726-8  
hardcover, \$39.99t  
ISBN 978-1-61117-727-5  
ebook, \$24.99t

The book tells a story of how a summer job spawned a long and rewarding career as an artist.



"Coca-Cola Groceries" by Jim Harrison

Coca-Cola is a true American original and one of the world's most recognized and popular American products. In *The Coca-Cola Art of Jim Harrison*, the artist traces his lifelong love affair with the Coca-Cola trademark that began during his childhood in rural South Carolina.

## Woolworth Walk in Asheville, NC, Offers Work by Ed & Kate Coleman

Woolworth Walk in Asheville, NC, will present *Ed + Kate Coleman: Clay*, featuring collaborative ceramic works by Page 28 - Carolina Arts, May 2017



"Coca-Cola Bridge Over Creek" by Jim Harrison

Harrison enjoyed drinking the sweet and effervescent beverage, but he also was attracted to the Coca-Cola trademark that was blazoned on buildings and signs in his hometown. After years of marveling at the work of local sign painter J. J. Cornforth, Harrison approached the seventy-year-old for a summer job. During several summers Cornforth taught Harrison the craft. When the young artist climbed atop the scaffold in the summer of 1952 to paint his first Coca-Cola sign, little did he know that he was launching a career as one of America's foremost landscape artists.



"Country Store in Fall" by Jim Harrison

In 1975 Harrison created a painting of a country store that featured a fading Coca-Cola sign he and Cornforth had painted twenty years earlier. The painting, titled *Disappearing America*, was offered as one of the first limited-edition Coca-Cola collector prints for \$40 by Frame House Gallery. All 1,500 copies sold out quickly, propelling him into the national spotlight through the publisher's network of 600 dealers. Harrison soon became the undisputed leader in rural Americana art, with this and many of his other prints appreciating up to 3,000 percent of their original value.

Since entering into a licensee relationship with the Coca-Cola Company in 1995, Harrison continued developing limited-edition prints, including his popular annual Coca-Cola calendar. Not surprisingly Harrison became an avid collector of old Coca-Cola signs. His studio is lined with a vast array of these, which served as inspiration for works of art.

Harrison earned his living as an artist for more than fifty years, and his paintings are featured in museums and corporate art collections across the country including the State Museum of South Carolina, the Morris Museum of Art, the Maytag Corporation, Philip Morris Company, the Leo Burnett Company, and the Augusta National Golf Club. Harrison also had successful one-man shows at the Hammer Galleries in New York City and the Conacher Gallery in San Francisco.

Harrison has been honored with the South Carolina Order of the Palmetto, declared "one of the Palmetto State's Chief Art Treasures" in a resolution by the South Carolina House of Representatives, and bestowed with an honorary doctorate from the University of South Carolina. Harrison is the author or illustrator of several books including *Pathways to a Southern Coast* and *The Palmetto Tree and Its South Carolina Home*, both published by the University of South Carolina Press.

For further information about this book or other books contact the USC Press by calling 800/768-2500 or visit ([www.uscpress.com](http://www.uscpress.com)).

Ed and Kate Coleman, on view in the FW Gallery, from May 1 - 30, 2017. A reception continued above on next column to the right

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tion will be held on May 5, from 5-7pm.

Their work is a collaboration between two artists - separate people with ideas that merge. In sharing their lives together, working side by side, Ed and Kate share moments of inspiration, and many common themes appear in their work. They believe that life is more beautiful and more livable when surrounded by things made by hand. Their work is created for those who search for this quality in fine craft objects. They share this connection with those who own their work.

Ed and Kate Coleman met in 1991, started taking clay classes, and dreamed of becoming professional artists. They now work in their home studio in the mountains of North Carolina while raising their daughter. They hope their love for clay, handmade craft, and a fun, simple, everyday life is apparent in their work.

Ed and Kate Coleman received their fine art degrees from Ball State University



Works by Ed & Kate Coleman

in 1998. Their work has been shown in solo exhibitions and museum shows.

For further information check our NC Commercial Gallery listings, call the gallery at 828/254-9234 or visit ([www.woolworthwalk.com](http://www.woolworthwalk.com)).

## Hot Works, LLC Brings Asheville Fine Art Show to Asheville, NC - May 20-21, 2017

Hot Works, LLC brings the 1st annual Asheville Fine Art Show to downtown Asheville's US Cellular Center on Saturday and Sunday, May 20 and 21, 2017, from 10am-5pm daily. This is a high quality, juried fine art show, featuring up to 150 artists, where all work is original and personally handmade by the artist in the show. All disciplines are for sale and there is something for everyone, in all price ranges.

One of the artists exhibiting in the show is Dan Neil Barnes, a mixed media sculptor with a growing reputation for thoughtfully-designed and intricately-wrought works that combine vibrantly colored stained and fused glass with soldered bronze, copper, aluminum and other metallic accents.

For art fairs like the Asheville Fine Art Show, Barnes typically brings an array of



Dan Neil Barnes Booth

wall hangings and free-standing vessels that can serve as the focal point of any wall and infuse any foyer, room or other space with a warm and magical glow. As did Louis Comfort Tiffany some one hundred years ago, Barnes' work moves the millennial-old craft of stained glass into a new creative art form - one that pushes the

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