

# Editorial COMMENTARY

by Tom Starland, Editor and Publisher

## Artist for Feed the Need Auction Results

The organizers of the Artist for Feed the Need had set a goal of raising \$20,000 from their art auction to help the local food industry, help feed people in need. Almost 100 artists from the Lowcountry of SC, donated their work to this auction and the final results were - they raised \$67,029.00. Way to go artists, now here's a way to help yourselves out during this pandemic.

## Artists From Around the World Help Other Artists by Taking the Artist Support Pledge

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, many artists have found themselves without work, teaching, technical support and gallery work. Exhibitions and sales have disappeared. In an attempt to help alleviate some of this stress artists around the world are taking the ARTIST SUPPORT PLEDGE #artistsupportpledge

The concept is a simple one started by British artist, Matthew Burrows. Artists post images of their work, on Instagram or Facebook which they are willing to sell for no more than \$200 each (not including shipping). Anyone can buy the work. Every time an artist reaches \$1,000 of sales, they pledge to spend \$200 on another artist's work.

Some frequently asked questions include: I WANT TO SELL MY ART. CAN I TAKE PART?

Yes. Anyone can take part from anywhere in the world. This is a global movement and works best when we stay united.

I WANT TO BUY ART. CAN ANYONE?

Yes. Anyone can take part. This is open to everyone, everywhere around the world.

HOW DO I TAKE PART?

Artists post images of their work on Instagram with the #artistsupportpledge, with details and price. If people are interested in buying, they message (DM) the artist.

Matthew Burrows started the Artist Support Pledge initiative to alleviate some of the stress the pandemic has caused, as many artists have now found themselves without work. Exhibitions and sales have been shut down, and teaching and technical support has become difficult to access. The project, which he launched on his Instagram page, "was really a response to the current situation, a creative solution to how I might help myself but also friends and colleagues through this period, by utilizing the generosity of the arts community — which is abundant," says Burrows.



Work by Erin Keane

This is most likely an outdated statement but, Since the launch of Burrows' UK campaign on March 20th, 2020, the Artist Support Pledge has inspired over 100,000 posts and generated over £20 million globally. Within this global campaign, many smaller networks have developed through efforts of artists such as Mark Bettis who brought the campaign to the River Arts District of Asheville, NC, using the #artistsupportpledgeRAD. Current RAD artist and former Brevard Middle School Art Teacher Erin Keane joined the pledge after seeing the efforts of Bettis. As Keane explains in her personal experience, "The Artist Support Pledge has helped us pay the bills, keep up morale, and have the means to adapt our businesses to this new world" and "thanks to the tremendous generosity of my



Work by Susan Irish

friends, family, students, and collectors, I've been able to pay-it-forward six (working on 7) times. That has put \$1,200 back into the artist community," says Keane.

Most of the activity surrounding the Artist Support Pledge is taking place on Instagram, but since a lot of folks don't use Instagram, but are on Facebook, we have tried to include info about how you can participate as an artist or art buyer on Facebook.

A new Facebook group page is being set up for artists who live in the Carolinas and are participating in the Artist Support Pledge. The page was set up by Charleston, SC, artist, Susan Irish, with technical help from Jen Ashley, who works on a digital newsletter in Charleston called CHStoday. You can find the group at "Artist Support Pledge - Carolinas" or at this link ([https://www.facebook.com/groups/artistsupportpledgecarolinas/?notif\\_id=1589766151363535&notif\\_t=group\\_r2j\\_approved](https://www.facebook.com/groups/artistsupportpledgecarolinas/?notif_id=1589766151363535&notif_t=group_r2j_approved)). It's just starting so it will take time before artwork starts to show up.

If you would like to participate visit this link ([https://www.instagram.com/p/B\\_KH-HyyFLIE/](https://www.instagram.com/p/B_KH-HyyFLIE/)).

Here's some links to some artists participating in the Carolinas (these are people who responded to a call I made):

Tina Albarni

[https://www.colordesigstudio.com/albarni-artist-support-pledge.html?fbclid=IwAR2OQc6I00KE4PIekFXt7IfCdPUNaejJ4Ik\\_w0Bkcj0GS\\_KwL9W2SyztQ](https://www.colordesigstudio.com/albarni-artist-support-pledge.html?fbclid=IwAR2OQc6I00KE4PIekFXt7IfCdPUNaejJ4Ik_w0Bkcj0GS_KwL9W2SyztQ)



Work by Mark Bettis

Mark Bettis  
Instagram @mbettisgallery  
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Jaime Byrd

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<https://www.facebook.com/jaimebyrd>  
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Bridget Benton Carwyn

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Deanna Chilian

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Lucy Clark Pottery

Instagram @lucyclarkpottery  
Facebook as Lucy Clark Pottery

Patricia Cotterill

[www.Instagram.com/PatriciaCotterill](http://www.Instagram.com/PatriciaCotterill)

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