

# Editorial COMMENTARY

by Tom Starland, Editor and Publisher

## Why Are We Celebrating This?

The SC Arts Commission is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year with a series of exhibits to be presented around SC at various venues, starting with *SC Fellows Part I & II*, curated by Eleanor Heartney, presented at Columbia, SC, venues. What a surprise that they selected Columbia as the location to have their kick-off receptions.

The exhibitions could also have been titled, *SC's College & University Review* or a *Survey of Artists Who Took the Money and Ran Out of SC*. We've seen a lot of these works in Arts Commission organized shows before.

The main flaw of the Fellowship program is that artists are selected solely on the basis of artistic merit (at the time they applied) and not based on contributions to the SC art community. Why are we rewarding artists who are drifting through SC at the time of their application for this award? Also, some artists have received this award two and three times. That shouldn't happen either.

Of course the major cop-out answer from the Arts Commission is - we can't stop artists from applying for this award. And, if other artists don't apply - what can we do?

I'm not going to go into a major rant about the SC Arts Commission and the Fellowship program, but I will ask you to do one thing. Look at the list of artists selected for these exhibitions and ask yourself when you've seen their names associated with an exhibit in SC that is not being presented by the SC Arts Commission. There are some, but not many. What we have here is art welfare.

Here's an idea - how about the SC Arts Commission host a major exhibit by artists who have been working in SC for 30 - 40 years and they have never had anything to do with them in the past. Boy

that would be strange - for them.

## On Our Cover Last Month

Sometime during the night of July 20th, 2017, the crown passed from our first Queen of the "Carolina Arts" Facebook page, Wan Marsh of Charlotte, NC, to our new Queen of the "Carolina Arts" Facebook page, Kristi Ryba of Charleston, SC, who as of the morning of July 21, had 7,442 views of the July cover, making that cover the most popular cover since we started posting them on Facebook.

Since June 2014, Marsh was the un-



July 2017 cover by Kristi Ryba

disputed all-time most viewed cover with 7,440 views - made possible by 129 shares.

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## Karen Burnette Garner

Artist

**P9**  
P E R S P E C T I V E  
gallery

1055 Johnnie Dodds Blvd., Suite 50  
Mount Pleasant, SC 29464

For the latest artworks and news,  
join us at [www.karenburnettegarner.com](http://www.karenburnettegarner.com)

**Personal Mentoring Workshop  
with Individual Conferences**

**BY LINDA DALY BAKER**

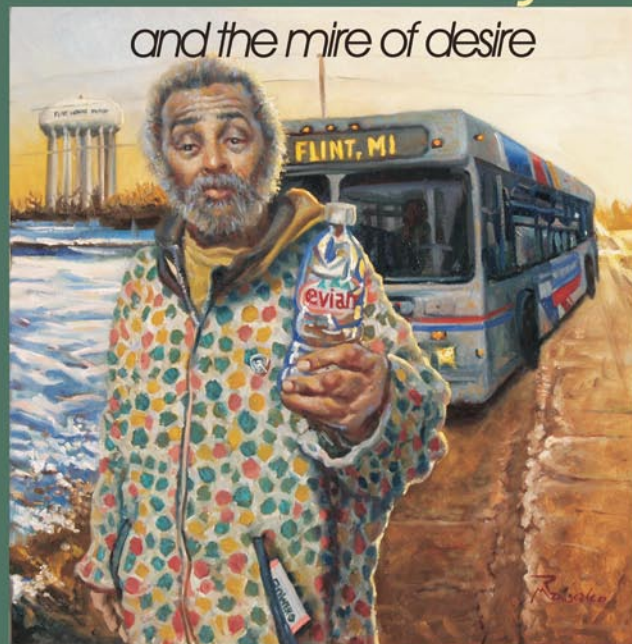
**October 8-10  
Charleston SC  
\$350.00**

**Register at [scwatermedia.com](http://scwatermedia.com)**  
Email questions to [scwatermediasociety@gmail.com](mailto:scwatermediasociety@gmail.com).

**scws**  
SOUTH CAROLINA WATERMEDIA SOCIETY

## The Quench Project

and the mire of desire



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Art Exhibition featuring the work of

**Robert Maniscalco**

July 11 through August 10, 2017

Preview: July 11, 6-8pm

Opening Reception: July 15, 5-8 pm

Breakout Session: August 8, 5-8 pm

Robert Maniscalco will present new paintings from TQP, recent sketches from the trial for the Emanuel 9, along with other subjects relating to desire. Robert explores the myriad of human longings, expressing the tenacity of the human spirit to overcome great adversity, often at great cost and sacrifice, in order to quench our desires. [Robert@ManiscalcoGallery.com](mailto:Robert@ManiscalcoGallery.com)