

Editorial COMMENTARY

by Tom Starland, Editor and Publisher

Dancing With The "C" Word

Unfortunately for my wife Linda, my better half, I'm one of those typical American males, who goes by the attitude - "If it ain't broke, don't fix it".

So over the years if something came up with my body, some issue of concern, I would wait it out to see if it wouldn't fix itself or just go away. There also was the issue of money. Insurance is expensive, and if you use it for anything - they tag you with a pre-condition.

My last physical was given to me for free by Uncle Sam in 1972 when I was called to go to Detroit, MI, for my draft physical. Uncle Sam was looking for some new bodies to send to Vietnam.

I did not support the war in Vietnam. I resisted it and I protested it. And when we finally got our men and women out of Vietnam - I did not spit on those who were lucky enough to return. I thank any service man or woman who has ever served and will always do so respectfully. I just don't like the wars our politicians keep dragging us into.

So from my 1972 draft physical I knew I had high blood pressure. That's it. But I never did anything about it.

A few years back, I had a sinus infection that just wasn't letting go of me. I wasn't getting much sleep, so I agreed to go to one of our local Doc in a Boxes. Guess what? I still had high blood pressure and the DR. who treated me for the sinus infection wouldn't let me leave without some pills for high blood pressure.

That was the beginning of the end of my health ignorance. Before I knew it I was in our country's vast health system. My blood pressure is almost normal - helped by a stack of pills I have to take everyday - for the rest of my life. I'm also on Medicare now.

So one day the Dr. asked when was my last colonoscopy? I said never. I knew what it was and had helped Linda through a few. I wasn't a

big fan.

I agreed to take the "discharge in a box" route first - something you did at home. But, soon I got the call from the Dr. that indicated I needed to do the real deal. So I gave in. The first one was done in July of this year. And when they were finished with me that Dr. told me it looks good - they removed a few polyps.

I few weeks later that Dr. called me telling me he wanted to take a second look - he just might have missed something and in a few months we'll do it again. Oh boy - double the fun all in a few months' time. And when I got the call it was not what I wanted to hear. They found cancer - that damn "C" word no one wants to hear and he was putting me in touch with a surgeon.

After meeting with the surgeon I felt a lot better, as within six months I would be going from a person who has cancer to someone who is cancer free. He was just going to cut it out and toss it out of my life. No follow ups with chemo treatments or anything - except the recovery from the surgery.

The surgery went well and I spent about a week in the hospital and then came home to a deadline to finish the Jan. 2018 issue of *Carolina Arts*, and did I say it was Christmas too?

The grandboys were glad to see me home, and poor Linda had to replace a hospital staff of dozens of people taking care of my every need.

If you're reading this on Jan. 1, 2018 - we got the job done. There were some shortcuts taken like no images in the Gallery Listings, but this issue represents everything we received by deadline.

So, by the next issue I hope to be doing it in my sleep like before the "C" word came to me. I'm a pretty lucky guy that this was caught early and didn't take much to recover, but in no way do I want to take away from those who might not be so lucky.

Early detection is the key to good health. Don't be an old fart like me. Visit a doctor today.

Charleston Artist Guild in Charleston, SC, Features Works by Sonny Dugal

The Charleston Artist Guild in Charleston, SC, will present *Elsewhere*, a collection of new photography by Sonny Dugal, on view in the Guild Gallery, from Jan. 1 - 31, 2018. A reception will be held on Jan. 5, from 5-8pm.



Work by Sonny Dugal

Dugal is a fine art and travel photographer living in Mount Pleasant, SC. An active member of the Mount Pleasant and Charleston Artist Guilds, his work has won several awards over the last 30 years. Born and brought up in Burma and India, Dugal moved to the Charleston area in 1980. He has been involved in the decorative arts for more than three decades, and travels extensively. His passion for uncommon perspectives and abstract vision is revealed in his photography.

The artist states, "*Elsewhere* is a current



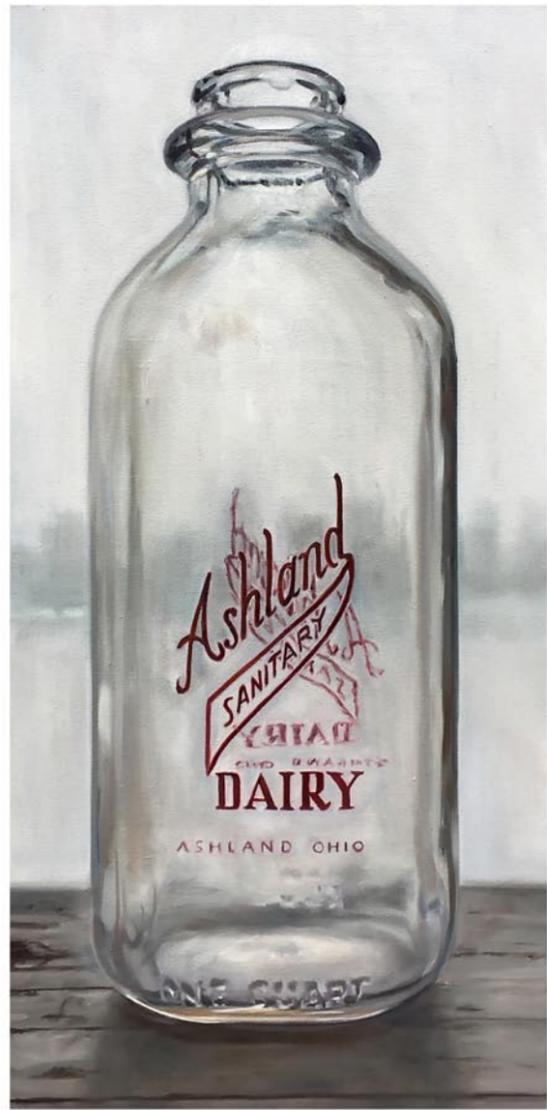
Work by Sonny Dugal

compilation of images evoking place and time. All my life I have felt that we are all part of a larger continuum, and I need to share this with you. Windows and reflections help me to connect, contours and shadows stretch my outlook, I seek a thousand words in the photos I create to communicate with you."

Sales made at the gallery support the nonprofit Guild's community outreach work.

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings or call the gallery at 843/722-2425.

WELLS GALLERY



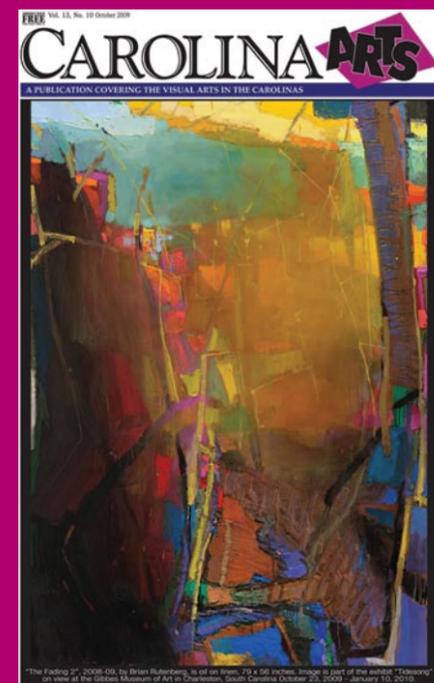
SALLY THARP, A LONG WAY FROM HOME, 36x18, OIL ON CANVAS

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The deadline each month to submit articles, photos and ads is the 24th of the month prior to the next issue. This will be Jan. 24th for the February 2018 issue and Feb. 24 for the March issue. After that, it's too late unless your exhibit runs into the next month. But don't wait for the last minute - send your info now.
And where do you send that info?
E-mail to (info@carolinaarts.com).