

Editorial COMMENTARY

by Tom Starland, Editor and Publisher

Mother of All Pottery Shows Turns Into Top of the Mountain Winners

Not too long ago we had a battle between Queens. Our long time Queen of the *Carolina Arts* Facebook page, Wan Marsh of Charlotte, NC, was knocked off her throne by our new Queen, Kristi Ryba of Charleston, SC. The battle pitted artists from the banking capital of the South against one from the tourist mecca of the South, but last month we had a group of potters from one of the smallest towns in North Carolina set an all time record for views of our cover image posted on the *Carolina Arts* Facebook page.

Ryba had taken the crown with a total of 7,500 + a few hundred more than Marsh had gotten to become our first Queen with a total of more than 2,000 over any contender. Our King or Queen titles are decided by totals between individual artists. Our November 2017 cover showcased works by a group of Seagrove, NC, potters. Their total of view went beyond 9,000 views. And, considering that we only have 3,900 + likes to our page - some folks were spreading that image around on their pages and people were liking what they saw.

Just a few months ago I thought it would take a while for anyone to surpass Kristi Ryba's total, but I didn't think about a group of artists, as we have never had a group cover score so high in the past. But it just goes to show you never know what the public is going to react to.

The good thing for all of us is - that cover brought a lot of new viewers to *Carolina Arts*.

Buy Art for the Holidays

It's my annual plea to call for readers to buy art for the holidays. Many of you have heard it before - many times, but I'm giving it again to remind readers that one of the

best ways to help our economy - especially our local economies - is to buy art from local artists, from local galleries, from local art museum gift shops, and other non-profit art organizations. But, make sure the works are made by local artists.

There are many ways you can accomplish this act of giving art. The most direct is buying art at one of the many Holiday art sales taking place at arts councils, art groups, and art organizations taking place this month. Many of these facilities don't show exhibits during the month of December to give local artists an opportunity to have a sales venue. Also, many outdoor art fairs or sales will be taking place.

Buying art in a gallery provides a double hit to the economy, as it helps an artist and helps maintain the main outlet for seeing and buying art in the Carolinas and around the world. Not every community has an art museum.

You can give someone an art class, an art book, or some art supplies.

You can also make a donation to an arts organization in someone's name.

There are so many ways to give art for the Holidays - just use your imagination. Why, you could even buy an ad in a regional arts newspaper for an artist or art group.

And of course we want you to buy from our supporters - the people who make this publication possible. And, when and if you do, make sure they know you are doing it because of their great support for *Carolina Arts*, Carolina artists, and the overall Carolina visual art community.

After all, it takes a village to pull off a publication like ours: people sending in the information we present, artists to make the work shown in exhibits, those who present those exhibits, the people who support us, and the people who go see those exhibits.

Thanks ya'll - see you in the new year.

Don't forget about our website:
www.carolinaarts.com



You can find [past issues](#) all the way back to August 2004!

You can find [past articles](#) all the way back to June 1999

Also don't forget about our two blogs:

[Carolina Arts Unleashed](#)

[Carolina Arts News](#)

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