

Editorial COMMENTARY

by Tom Starland, Editor and Publisher

Tired of the Wizard

For almost a decade I've had my eye on the visual art community of the Pee Dee area of South Carolina. It's an area with the potential to be a vital part of the Carolina visual art scene - once it finds the right leadership. I spent the last four years thinking that Lake City, SC, a small farm community with a sugar Momma and big ambitions, was going to add the needed spark, but again flawed leadership took its toll. It's amazing how a small core group of individuals can hold a region back, but it's happening there. "Pay no attention to the loud noise coming from behind their curtain."

So when I turned my view away from the Pee Dee, another community I wondered about came a calling. I'm not totally turning my back on the entire Pee Dee area, just some of the silly folks there.

Over the years I've puzzled about why it is so hard to get info from the folks presenting the visual arts on the Southwest border of SC - Anderson, Greenwood, Aiken and several smaller towns in between. They all have colleges or universities, art centers, and arts councils. There may not be many commercial galleries there, but good art is being made and shown there. They just don't seem to want to brag about it.

Well, my job is to tell our readers what's going on - as far as the visual arts go - throughout the Carolinas, but people have to meet me half way - nobody wants me to make stuff up. They want the works to actually be there that they've read about in *Carolina Arts* - if they decide to get up off their rears and go see something. And, so do I. But, first you have to feed me that info in a timely manner.

And the first thing a presenter of exhibitions needs to learn is that deadlines

mean something at Carolina Arts, Once 5pm goes by on the 24th of the month - I travel like the morning sun skipping around the horizon, and there's no looking back. So waiting to send your info in at the last minute can get you burned sometimes. You know who you are, but then again you don't because you don't read these commentaries.

The Real Emerald City

So leaving that old foolish wizard behind, *Carolina Arts* is working with the folks in Greenwood, SC, to promote their visual art community and a funny thing happened along the way - folks in Anderson, SC, decided to jump on board.

In 2004, the Greenwood, South Carolina City Center Master Plan came up with The Emerald Triangle, a nine-acre triangular shaped area in the heart of Greenwood's downtown business district. Though the origin of the nickname is unclear, Greenwood is commonly referred to as the "Emerald City."

It's funny how things turn out - from a fake wizard to the Emerald City. Now things don't change overnight, but in this issue we have more info and advertising about this area that was previously so hard to get any info about. And, hopefully more presenters there will wake up and start sending us info about exhibits taking place in this area of SC.

Enough Politics

There are folks out there crying that they have had enough politics and begging folks to stop, but that's not going to happen. The arts and humanities are soon going to be under attack to make up money - however so small to give big tax cuts to corporations and the rich. So get used to it.

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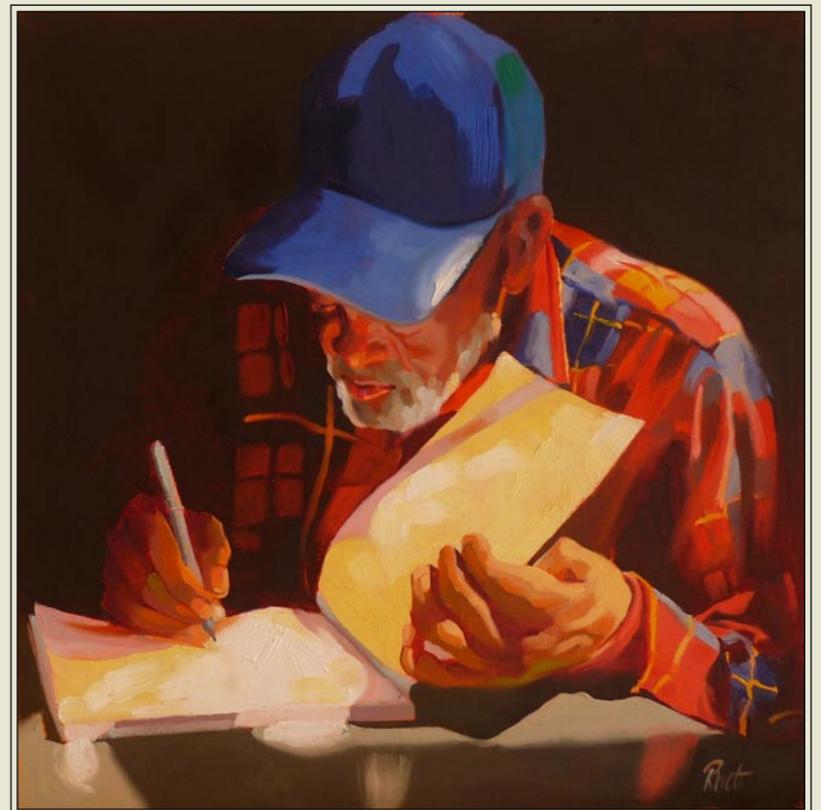
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info@carolinaarts.com



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Rhett Thurman



Book Signing, Oyster Man Oil on Linen ? x ? inches

Sylvan Gallery will be closing
March 31, 2017
Thanks for all of your support over the years!

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