

Editorial Commentary

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Up until last most the only close contender was a cover of a colorful scarf by Edwina Bringle which got 5.904 views, with 121 shares. It didn't look like anyone would dethrone our Queen. And what's really amazing about our July cover is that July is usually an off month, with the launch of the publication taking place on the July 4th weekend and beginning of Summer vacations for many people. And the July cover only got 67 shares.

Of course some credit goes to President Trump and how popular he is or how many people like to hate him. If he ever hears about this he'll probably make himself covers and post them around the White House, his properties, or even his jail cell - showing he was the most viewed cover of "Carolina Arts" - ever. We'll see about that. Only time will tell.

No crown is won without controversy. Some people cried fowl over our cover.

One viewer definitely didn't care for our cover. Their first comment was, "Interesting, Trump on the throne? And Obama kneeling?" (Comments by others will be in Italics).

I guess this person had a hard time remembering what former President Obama looked like, but the person in the image was Cornell West.

After another person tried to explain the image the next response was, "But is that supposed to be President Trump, His name is there. So Is it supposed to mean that he only cares about Money and that is supposed to be the "Beauty of him"? Funny, I see The President as caring about The United States of America and its people... He could have easily just enjoyed his money and not put up with everything he has just to try to help the country... Nice floral borders tho."

Yes, that's the image I've gotten from President Trump - how much he cares about people and has no concern for money - at least that's what I see when he's visiting any of his personal properties with the Secret Service. I'm sure he's picking up the tab every time just so those SS folks can get a first class vacation. He's a caring kind of guy.

Another person contributed, "the quote is taken out of context. During the campaign, Trump said (the quoted text) in reference to funding for his campaign. The point of the statement was to illustrate that he was not bought by donations from special interest groups and was using his own money to fund his campaign - "The beauty of me (a self-funded candidate) is that I am rich (and don't rely on quid pro quo from special interest groups).

"I am sad that this piece was chosen for the cover. So many other beautiful works of art in our area to choose from. It seems that everyone is using Trump and politics for attention or some other gain."

"IMO, this piece is full of irony. It speaks more about those who use Trump for ratings, advertising dollars and/or publicity than the man portrayed in the piece."

I'm thinking that President Trump is thinking - The beauty of me is I get all these other jokers to give me money and all I have to do is appoint them to my cabinet.

Our original commentor added, "So very well said I'm so over Trump bashing art, media, news ... and any other thing that is used to get ratings or attention ... cheap shots in my opinion . Remember "Jumping the Shark" This is it. Pathetic. Jump the shark -----"

"The beginning of the end. Something is said to have "jumped the shark" when it has reached its peak and begun a downhill slide to mediocrity or oblivion. It's said to have been coined by Jon Hein, who has a web site, Jump the Shark , and now a book detailing examples, especially as applied to TV shows. It supposedly refers to an episode of the TV show "Happy Days" in which Fonzie jumps over a shark on water skis, which Hein believes was the point at which the series had lost its touch and was beginning to grasp at straws."

This image did eventually become our most viewed cover on Facebook, but I knew from the minute I saw the image and thought of putting it on our cover that it wouldn't be that great for ratings (yeah Page 30 - Carolina Arts, August 2017



June 2014 cover by Wan Marsh

- Nielson checks us out every month) or improving our readership, if anything it would be another burning bridge episode where I might lose an advertiser or two. There were about a dozen people who asked to be removed from our e-mail list. I look at that as weeding the garden. Every month we have people who ask us to take them off our list and every month we have an equal amount of folks who ask to be added to that list.

Early on I had decided to stay out of these comments and just let the viewers talk but I eventually had to add my 2 cents. After all, this publication has cost me a lot more than 2 cents to keep it going for 30 years - and I hate to tell our upset viewer that we haven't yet gotten to our "Jump the Shark" days. So I chimed in with, "Art that stirs people to make comments - is that not what art is supposed to do?"

The response to that from our upset viewer was, "Good Art yes..... But art that is just jumping on the bandwagon of the buzzwords of the day... Cheap art. with no thoughtfulness behind it at all... give me a break , If I want to see Trump bashing, I can turn on any news channel or read the cover of any paper or news magazine... Just another "Jump the Shark" piece of "art"? guess she thought maybe Time Magazine or some other piece of crap might pick it up for their cover..."

Yes, I know how much our President hates "Time" magazine. So much so that he makes fake covers and posts them in his resort properties.

My response to that was, "I'm sure you've seen much more art in your life than me - being the art critic that you are, but you are welcome to have your opinion. Over 7,000 people have expressed a different opinion than yours this month. Maybe its fake art - like fake news, fake laws, fake morals, and fake patriotism expressed by you and your President."

The response to my comment was, "Nice personal attack there. Guess opinions other than yours deserve insults. Never pretended to be an art critic... voicing my opinions only but you on the other hand find the need to accuse me of having fake patriotism? All because I'm sick of everything and everybody using Trump for ratings? But then again you are also one of those publications. Oh , also when you are hurling insults to a person, it's better if you do it as a person not a troll hiding behind your publications name. Not good business...."

My final response on Facebook was, "good to know I'm not dealing with a regular follower of our publication, but you could have just checked the 'About' section of this page to see where I was hiding." I have my own Facebook page and I don't control how Facebook handles the page layout.

And, if I was concerned with having a "good business" - I would have started a publication about NASCAR in the Carolinas - not the visual arts. And as far as hiding behind my publication's name - my name is on every commentary ever made in this

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publication unlike other daily papers where people hide behind an editorial board so you never know who is offering the commentary.

At this point I have to admit that part of the 7,524 (as of this writing) who viewed this cover were probably people sent by others who didn't care for our cover to check out our outrageous cover. There was a tone in many of the responses we received about the cover of how dare we mix politics with art. And a few were down right obscene.

If there is anything I've learned in doing an arts publication for 30 years (did you catch that - I've mentioned twice that I've been doing this for 30 years) is that everything has to do with politics - especially the arts. There are so many artists, people who want to be artists, and people who just want to make art, but not be an artist - but there is just so much money to support them, just so many resources and facilities - so decisions

have to be made and that's when politics steps in. Many decisions are not made on merit alone, some have nothing to do with merit. A lot of times it comes down to who you know, who you're connected to, or even how you look. That's right - some artists are just not attractive enough to be featured in a glossy magazine profile or to get a major grant.

So don't give me any of that crap about mixing politics with art, because it's all politics.

But, you know what, I expect that something will come along and replace this cover as our most viewed on Facebook. But for now - we have a new Queen. And, we'll never forget our first Queen. We may even have a King one day. Anything is possible in America. We know that now.

SC Institutional Galleries

Allendale

Salkehatchie Arts Center, 939 N. Main St., Allendale. **Ongoing** - Featuring a retail store offering works by artists from the Salkehatchie region including Allendale, Bamberg, Barnwell, Colleton, and Hampton Counties. Hours: Tue.-Sat., 10am-5pm. Contact: 803/584-6084.

Anderson

Anderson Arts Center, located in the Arts Warehouse, 110 Federal Street, downtown Anderson. **Through Sept. 1** - "Annual Anderson Artists Guild's Members Show". Hours: Tue.-Fri., 9:30am-5:30pm. Contact: 864/222-2787 or at (www.andersonartscenter.org).

Bay3 Artisan Gallery, located in the Arts Warehouse, 110 Federal St., Anderson. **Ongoing** - Featuring works by Marion Carroll, Carol Cook, Joshua Davis, Lynn Felts, Jane Friedman, Cheryl Gibsch, Ann Heard, Ruth Hopkins, Diann Simms and Lori Solymosi. The work presented in the gallery features oils, acrylics, watercolors, photography, pastels, collage, assemblages, sculpture, mosaics, and stained glass and jewelry. There is a piece of original art for every home or office in a variety of price ranges. Co-sponsored by the Anderson Arts Center. Hours: Tue.-Fri., 10am-4pm, & Sat., 10am-1pm. Contact: 864/716-3838 or at (www.andersonartscenter.org).

Beaufort Area

Gallery @ ARTworks, home of the Arts Council of Beaufort, Port Royal, & Sea Islands, 2127 Boundary St., near K-Mart, in Beaufort Town Center, Beaufort. **Ongoing** - Featuring the work and creative processes of new and emerging artists. Hours: Mon.-Fri., 10am-5pm. Contact: 843-379-2787 or at (www.beaufortcountyarts.com).

Beaufort Art Association Gallery, 913 Bay Street, across the street from the Clock Tower, Beaufort. **Ongoing** - New works by more than 90 exhibiting members of the Beaufort Art Association Gallery - exhibits and featured artists change every six weeks. In addition to framed paintings in a variety of media, the gallery offers prints, photographs, unframed matted originals, jewelry, sculpture, ceramics and greeting cards. Hours: Mon.-Fri., 10 am-5pm. Contact: 843/521-4444 or at (www.beaufortartassociation.com).

Belton

Belton Center for the Arts, 306 North Main Street, Belton. **Aug. 4 - Sept. 1** - "The Great Eclipse," an open show. A reception will be held on Aug. 4, beginning at 7pm. Hours: Tue.-Fri., 10am-5:30pm & 1st Sat., 10am-2pm. Contact: 864/338-8556 or at (<http://www.beltoncenterforthearts.org/#exhibits/cfvq>).

Bluffton

Society of Bluffton Artists Gallery/Learning Center, 8 Church Street, corner of Calhoun and Church Street, Bluffton. **Through Aug. 5** - "Birds and Other Stuff," featuring works by Stephen Moscovitz. His exhibit will feature acrylic paintings of wild life, real life and still life. Moscovitz is a lifelong artist who studied at the Rochester Institute of Technology, School of Art and Design. He earned wide recognition as an illustrator for several years until he moved on to creating fine art with wildlife. **Aug. 7 - Sept. 3** - Featuring an exhibit by wood sculptor and wood turner Nicholas Di Mona. A reception will be held on Aug. 11, beginning at 5pm. Di Mona creates unusual wood sculptures from dead and fallen trees. The

beauty and elegance of the knots, inclusions, grain and natural imperfections make the final product a one-of-a-kind piece of art. **Ongoing** - Featuring works in a variety of mediums by over 100 area artists, with all work moderately priced. Changing shows every six weeks. Hours: Mon.-Sat., 10am-5pm & Sun., 11:30am-3pm. Contact: 843/757-6586 or at (www.sobagallery.com).

Charleston

Avery Research Center for African History and Culture, at the College of Charleston, 125 Bull St., Charleston. **Denmark Vesey Conference Room, Ongoing** - "KABOH: A Legacy of Twelve." Charleston Quilter Dorothy Montgomery made "KABOH" in honor of the "Priscilla" story. The quilt was in the possession of Dr. Joseph Opala who donated it to the Avery Research Center in July, 2008. **Corridor (2nd Floor), Ongoing** - "Esau Jenkins: A Retrospective View of the Man and His Times" This exhibition was developed in 1991 by the Avery Institute. After its display in Charleston it traveled throughout the state of SC under the auspices of the State Museum Traveling Exhibition Program. Consisting of (15) panels measuring 24" x 36", the exhibit chronicles the myriad of activities Mr. Jenkins was intimately involved in. Additionally, it highlights his leadership skills as a conscious and compassionate community activist, organizer, entrepreneur and Civil Rights leader. Hours: Mon.-Fri., 10am-5pm & Sat., noon-5pm. Admission: by donation. Contact: 843/953-7609 or visit (www.cofc.edu/avery).



Work by Steven Ives

Charleston Artist Guild Gallery, 160 East Bay St., Charleston. **Aug. 1 - 31** - "Adventures Through the Lens," featuring works by Steven Ives. A reception will be held on Aug. 4, from 5-8pm. Inspired by nature and recognizing the remarkable beauty that it holds, Ives manages to capture distinguished images from the Low country and beyond. Understanding the inherent perfection in the wild, his work merely strives to reproduce the awe experienced from his adventures. **Ongoing** - Featuring an exhibit of works by over 80 plus members of CAG who display a wealth of talent in different media including, oils, acrylics, pastels, watercolors, photography, printmaking & sculpture. The Gallery is also home for the CAG office. Hours: Daily, 11am-6pm. Contact: 843/722-2454 or at (www.charlestonartistguild.com).

City Gallery at Joseph P. Riley, Jr. Waterfront Park, 34 Prioleau Street, Charleston. **Through Aug. 27** - "conNECKted: Imaginings for Truth and Reconciliation," a multi-media installation by the Charleston Rhizome Collective. Led by artists Jean-Marie Mauclet and Gwylene Gallimard, with members of the Charleston Rhizome Collective including educators/activists Pamela Gibbs, La'Sheia Oubre and Debra Holt, the artistic team for "conNECKted" has developed interactive pieces that will be installed throughout City Gallery. The exhibit represents an Art-in/with community project that seeks to explore social dynamics and to question cultural expression in Charleston. Hours: Tue.-Fri., 10am-6pm &

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