

# Editorial COMMENTARY

by Tom Starland, Editor and Publisher

## Back to School - Back to Normal

Summer is over, except for the heat and hurricanes, and things are getting back to normal. The children are back in school, the vacation is long forgotten (if you got one) and most of you remembered what our deadline was for getting in this issue. A few forgot and you'll find their articles starting on Page 48. They're the lucky ones who got us their info before we were finished with the layout.

The Summer months have not been bad to us - slower for sure, but not bad. We had almost 60,000 downloads in the dreaded month of July and over 72,000 in August, so we're expecting big things with this issue - which is packed. A bigger paper usually translates to more downloads, but we'll see by the end of the month. It's all up to you readers in whether you just look or look and spread it around. Spread all you want - we'll make more.

## Four Big Events

There are four big events taking place in the Carolinas that we are reporting on in this issue which are not your typical "one site" events. In fact, by the time we have launched this issue - some changes will have taken place or new events added. So it is advised that you check into these events' websites to make sure you get the full picture. Our articles are as complete as they could be at the time.

Here's a short description of the four events:

The FRANK Gallery in Chapel Hill, NC, invites the public to enjoy *FRANK: In Focus*, a two month-long, (Sept. 5 - Nov. 1, 2012) area-wide festival of photography. In addition to an exhibit by eleven diverse fine-art photographers at the FRANK Gal-

lery, there will be panel discussions, other exhibitions, lectures, an outdoor slide show, an area-wide photo scavenger hunt, and much more. Prominent curators, collectors, critics and photographers will be coming from throughout the southeast to participate. During September and October, the Triangle area will be focused on the wonder and diversity of the medium of photography. Don't miss *FRANK: In Focus*. For complete and up to the minute information on the events and exhibitions and participant bios, please visit (<http://frankinfocus.tumblr.com/>).

The Upstate Heritage Quilt Trail (UHQT) and the Lake and Mountain Quilt Guild (LMQG) in Upstate, SC, are collaborating in celebrating quilts and quilting throughout Anderson, Oconee and Pickens Counties, in Upstate, SC, through Sept. 31, 2012, culminating in the biennial *LMQG Quilt Show*, Sept. 21 - 22, 2012, held in Seneca, SC. For complete information contact the Upstate Heritage Quilt Trail by e-mail at ([info@uhqt.org](mailto:info@uhqt.org)); call 864/723-6603 or visit ([www.UHQT.org](http://www.UHQT.org)). You can also visit the Lake and Mountain Quilt Guild's website at ([www.LMQG.org](http://www.LMQG.org)).

Close to 60 Toe River Valley glass artists have joined forces to create "Glass in the Mountains", (Sept. 20 - 23, 2012) an activity-rich, four day celebration that commemorates the 50th anniversary of the birth of the American studio glass movement. A dozen galleries and studios throughout Burnsville, Bakersville, Penland, and Spruce Pine in Western North Carolina will be hosting tours, unique glass exhibits, demonstrations, a book signing and even a special "goblets and glasses" wine tasting where locally made, handcrafted wine glasses will be available for sale. As "Glass in the Mountains" ap-

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## USC Upstate and Spartanburg Art Museum in Spartanburg, SC, Host Contemporary Still Life Paintings

The Curtis R. Harley Art Gallery at the University of South Carolina Upstate, in collaboration with the Spartanburg Art Museum at the Chapman Cultural Center, in Spartanburg, SC, are presenting works by twelve nationally known artists in the exhibit, *Contemporary Still Life Painting Invitational 2012*. Their works will be on display at the Spartanburg Art Museum through Oct. 20, 2012, and at the Harley Gallery from Sept. 26 through Oct. 28, 2012. The exhibit is curated by Dr. Henry Fagen, adjunct professor of art at USC Upstate. Opening receptions will be held Sept. 20 at 7pm at the SAM, and Oct. 11 from 4:30-7:30pm at the Harley Gallery; they are free and open to the public. The opening reception at the SAM will feature a tour and discussion led by the curator. The opening at the Harley Gallery will feature a discussion led by Laurin McCracken.



Work by David Gray

Participating artists are: Ginger Bowen (Phoenix, AZ), Linda Cancel (Laurens, SC), Loren DiBenedetto (Huntersville, NC), Frankie Denton (Winston-Salem, NC), Bevin Engman (Winslow, ME), Ron Ferkol (Gerald, MO), David Gray (Tacoma, WA), Chad Hughes (Oxford, NC), Andrea Kemp (Golden, CO), Laurin McCracken (Leland, MS), Randall Mooers (New York, NY) and Daniel Sprick (Denver, CO).

"When you say 'still life paintings,' most

people think about pictures of flowers and fruit sitting on a shadowy table," Steve Wong, marketing director for the Chapman Cultural Center, said. "That is not always the case, and this exhibit is especially good at showing the vastly different aspects of still life art. Technically, the term still life used to refer to paintings of things that were dead - fruit and flowers cut from the plant and therefore no longer alive. Actually, a great many pictures show the dying process: wilted flowers and rotting fruit. Even in this exhibit, there are pictures of decaying animals, as well as some beautiful displays of vibrant flowers and luscious fruit. Keep an open mind when seeing this exhibit and understanding what it has to say."

The show's twelve artists hail from North and South Carolina, Missouri, Colorado, Arizona, Washington, Mississippi, New York, and Maine, and their works represent the finest examples of recent still life paintings being created in the country. These artists have all exhibited in galleries and museums, and have been featured in national art magazines. Their works depict the ephemeral illusions, mystery, nostalgia, surreal ordinariness and humor contained in today's American culture. The varied media, including oil and watercolor, exemplify the artists' skills in descriptive examination and analysis about the experience and residue of life.

"The sophisticated viewer may glean some references to literature, poetry, philosophy or historical events," said exhibit curator, Dr. Fagen. "Still life painting has always been a visual communication device that reflects varied interests of a society's cultural and economic condition. The detritus and joys of human existence are illuminated within the still life. Still life paintings are not new to the Upstate and Spartanburg

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Voted Best Art Gallery on Hilton Head



Artful Toys For Children



Art For the Walls  
24" x 24" Plaque by Sticks

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Art To Wear by Joan Z. Horn  
"Sealed With a Kiss" Necklace



Art To Light Your Way  
Glass Lantern by Melanie Leppla

## Smith Galleries

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300 Artists and Craftsmen Represented

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area, however, these works may challenge the status quo."

Also in conjunction with the show, artist Laurin McCracken will offer a watercolor workshop at the SAM from Oct. 9-11.

For further information check our SC

Institutional Gallery listings, contact Michael Dickins, Harley Gallery manager, at 864/503-5848 or ([mdickins@uscupstate.edu](mailto:mdickins@uscupstate.edu)); the SAM at 864/582-7616 or visit ([www.spartanburgartmuseum.org](http://www.spartanburgartmuseum.org)).

## Gaffney Visitor's Center and Art Gallery in Gaffney, SC, Offers Works by Diana Farfán

The Gaffney Visitor's Center and Art Gallery in Gaffney, SC, is presenting the exhibit, *The Toy Republic*, featuring works by Diana Farfán, on view through Sept. 29, 2012.



Work by Diana Farfán

Born in Bogotá, Colombia, Diana Farfán received her BFA at the National University of Colombia and her MFA in Ceramics at the University of South Carolina. Her 2D and 3D works have been shown and awarded in a number of exhibitions in places including Colombia, the US, and Taiwan.

Farfán is known for her surrealistic ceramic toys, marionettes, puppets and dolls. Her pieces illustrate her observations about our ambivalent human condition - manipulated, fragile, impotent, vulnerable, and isolated - countered by the ability to find hope. With her ceramic and mix media figures, she incorporates both classical and contemporary elements to represent the human body and its identity in dysfunctional modern times.

"By working with clay, I have discovered the freedom and happiness that is play - a way of being that we have forgotten," says Farfán. "Now I realize that a broken toy is not necessarily an obstacle; rather, it is a possibility for creativity, for imagining new ways of playing. And here I recognize that life is a form of play and I a toy. As such, I play with clay in order to live, to create, to build, and also to repair my own dreams and the dreams of others. My transition from Colombia to the United States and

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