

Editorial COMMENTARY

by Tom Starland, Editor and Publisher

On Our Cover This Month

Veronika Hart of Hendersonville, NC, offers the following statement, "I was born and raised on an isolated farm in Tanzania, East Africa. At the age of 15 I left Africa for school in Europe. Shortly after finishing art training in Germany I met my American husband and after moving to the USA settled in the suburbs of NYC. Living there for most of my life I worked as an illustrator, raised a family and studied figurative oil painting."

"In 2003 I visited Tanzania and travelled to the farm I had once lived on as a child/teen. After returning to the USA I began a painting "Africa"; images mostly of the people and animals, and at some point began melding them together, launching a visual journey I have followed over the past 10 years."

"In 2007 we moved to Hendersonville, where I continued exploring ways to blend human and animals forms. My latest work features bears, wolves and horses."

"Molded by a blend of African and Western culture, and using oil on canvas, I strive to build aesthetic tension and engage the viewer with visual narratives of our contemporary life."

"With each painting I'm challenged anew to attain not only technical virtuosity, but also interesting conceptual content. Composition is the cornerstone of my work. I spend time contemplating diagonals, movement, and light before I begin."

"As a painting develops, through interplay of figurative accuracy, abstraction, whimsy and chance brushstroke, I invariably get lost in the process in a quest to find that perfect yet elusive sweet spot, the one that brings balance and meaning to the whole."

Hart has some paintings in The Gal-

lery at Flat Rock, Flat Rock, NC. And, she will be taking part in the sixth annual Open Studio Tour of Henderson County on Sept. 23-24, 2017. The tour will feature 66 artists in 36 studios, including 12 new studios and 19 first-time artists. Read about it on Page 32.

Is It Fall Yet or Just Autumn?

I've got friends back in Michigan who said they have had morning temps in the 30s and even a 29 degree morning - in August. I'll be happy when we start getting mornings in the 60s here in the Lowcountry of SC. That usually means no more 90 degree days. Plus, while I'm wishing and dreaming - how about no Atlantic hurricanes for the Carolinas! And, if they come to the Atlantic, may they all go out to the middle of the ocean to die.

Artists Be Careful Out There

The Charleston, SC, visual art community is just learning about an allegedly bad gallery in its ranks. It has been reported that artists dealing with this gallery have had a hard time collecting payment for works sold and landlords have had a hard time collecting rent. A lot of it sounds like artist said / gallery owner said stuff, but we've seen this before in the Carolina.

There was a gallery in Winston-Salem, NC, that went through bank foreclosures and angry artists who lost works that were not paid for. An then it happened to one of the biggest galleries in Chapel Hill, NC. The banks taking a million dollar home away from a gallery owner who wasn't paying his artists for all the sales they made. And, I understand that person is still operating in the Chapel Hill area. They keep sending me

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