

# Editorial COMMENTARY

by Tom Starland, Editor and Publisher

## On Our Cover This Month

On our cover this month is a digital drawing by Kira Bursky of Asheville, NC, entitled *River Arts District*. Bursky explains, "After Hurricane Helene came through my town, I drew to process my feelings. The 31 drawings were created once a day during October. These drawings are dedicated to all those affected by Hurricane Helene and those who have gone through other experiences that have shaken up the world they know. I am inspired by art's power to give us space to process, reflect, and heal."

Bursky is currently self-represented. Her business, All Around Artsy, can be reached by calling 845/642-1449, e-mail to ([kira@allaroundartsy.com](mailto:kira@allaroundartsy.com)) or visit ([www.allaroundartsy.com](http://www.allaroundartsy.com)).

Bursky's (12" x 12") signed art prints and the full art collection book are available in her online shop. 20% of profits will be donated to BeLoved Asheville and ArtsAVL towards Hurricane Helene relief efforts. Check them out at (<https://allaroundartsyfashion.com/collections/hurricane-helene-art-prints>).

A list of upcoming exhibits featuring works by Bursky can be found at ([https://docs.google.com/document/d/1HJb5E3Uk5R2W5A4aBp\\_9PmUyIUDyKgf0xK2rIk\\_wMg/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1HJb5E3Uk5R2W5A4aBp_9PmUyIUDyKgf0xK2rIk_wMg/edit?usp=sharing)).

We want to thank Kira Bursky for adapting one of her prints to fit our cover.

## 2025

It's 2025, 38 years from when Linda and I started our first arts publication, *Charleston Arts* in 1987. We were in about our 14th year of running IF Labs in Charleston, a black and white custom photo processing lab. It was the beginning of the one-hour processing era and the beginning of the age of digital cameras, which meant photo processing by hand was soon on the way out. We were managing the SC Sierra Club's monthly newsletter, which was in the form of a newspaper. We dealt with a lot of folks in the arts - artists, advertising agencies, and art museums, and we had opened and run a photography art gallery, so it didn't seem that much of a leap to do an arts publication. I guess I was thinking it might be a hedge against a dying business - photo processing. Years later Apples' iPhone came along really putting a dent in the traditional photography thing.

An arts publication wasn't as profitable as our photo processing biz, so Linda decided to take a job where we would get health insurance coverage. It seemed to cost a fortune for a tiny business to be able to provide health insurance. So for a while we were doing some photo processing, publishing an

art newspaper and Linda was working full time. Did I mention she had our son at the same time we started the arts publication? They were some busy days!

It's funny, as there was a time during our photo lab days when we felt we had time on our hands and were bored. No one is laughing now. They say, "Find something you love to do and you'll never work a day." I think what they meant is there will never be a day when you're not working. My grandparents on my Mother's side were dairy farmers, so I guess it was in my genes. We both came from working class families.

Anyway, now we're both kind of retired and just producing *Carolina Arts*, an online publication, which is much easier than producing a printed publication which has to be physically distributed. You produce one copy, launch it in cyber-space, and people can download a copy for free, anywhere and anytime they like - easy peasy. Some publishers are LOLing right now. It's easier than some ways of publishing and a lot less costly.

Here's where I say, "Thank you, to the recession of 2008!" We were forced by 2010 to give up printing our publication, but it turned out to be the best thing that ever happened to *Carolina Arts* - in many ways. We could be in full color, we could have many more pages and cover a lot more areas of the Carolinas. I wasn't spending a week on the road burning gas like it was free. In 2008, they were not giving gas away for free. And, people only had to go to their computer and eventually smart tablets and phones to get a copy of each monthly issue - for free. And, for our supporters, advertising was a lot cheaper and we have maintained the same prices since we went digital in 2010.

So some folks ask us how long we are going to do this? My only answer so far has been, that I'm shooting for 40 years, which would be two more years, and after that, it would depend on if I come up with what we or I want to do after *Carolina Arts*. The field is wide open.

## This Small Issue

January is always a much smaller issue than those leading up to the holiday season. Folks who usually send us info about their exhibits got too involved in those crazy times we call the holidays, so they didn't send us anything. Some clever folks plan their exhibits to cover both December and January taking off the pressure of dealing with the holidays and their normal duties, which makes for less articles this month. It's also a transition time from one year to the next, which shows up in the gallery listings - all adding up to a smaller issue in January. It's OK with me, we can use the break too. And, next month will be the beginning of the run up to Spring.

The deadline each month to submit articles, photos and ads is the 24th of the month prior to the next issue. This will be Jan. 24th, at 5pm for the February 2025 issue and Feb. 24, at 5pm for the March 2025 issue. After that, it's too late unless your exhibit runs into the next month. But don't wait for the last minute - send your info now to ([info@carolinaarts.com](mailto:info@carolinaarts.com)).

[www.carolinaarts.com](http://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!

Send us your email address to be added to our list to receive notice of each monthly issue. [info@carolinaarts.com](mailto:info@carolinaarts.com)

Occhi  
acrylic on panel  
48 x 48 in.



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## HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL!

JOIN US AS PASTEL SOCIETY OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
MEMBERS RENEW TO OPEN A VIBRANT 2025 AT  
JANUARY 11TH ZOOM MEET, 10 AM TO 12 PM



Tony Allain, *Birch Trees, Glencoe*, pastel on pastel on sanded paper, 19.5 x 25.5 inches

NEW MEMBERS ALWAYS WELCOME TO ENJOY THE BENEFITS OF  
JOINING IN OUR GROWING STATEWIDE FAMILY OF ARTISTS:

- MASTER CIRCLE DEMOS (TONY ALLAIN, MARCH 2025)
- 2025 ONLINE EXHIBITION
- IAPS MEMBERS ACCESS
- MEMBER EXHIBITS, WORKSHOPS

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