

Editorial COMMENTARY

by Tom Starland, Editor and Publisher

On Our Cover This Month

On our cover this month is the work, *Profile and Right Angle*, by John Acorn, part of the exhibition, *20th Century Man*, on view at Hampton III Gallery, in Taylors, SC, just outside of Greenville, SC, from Apr. 11 through May 31, 2025. A reception will be held Apr. 11, from 6-8pm.

Acorn began teaching at Clemson University in 1961. After 7 years, he received a Fulbright grant and spent a year in Germany at a foundry outside of Berlin. He returned to Clemson and served as chair of the Art Department for 21 years, retiring in 1997.

Years ago - many years ago, I visited Acorn's gallery in Pendleton, SC, which was filled with wonderful items. His sculptures can be found in public spaces throughout Upstate South Carolina and at Hampton III Gallery. See an article about this exhibit on Page 15.

Not Making The Collection

We heard from a few artists in SC who expressed dismay over the fact that they would never have work included in the SC Art Commission's art collection. Not really! They had been ignored before and expected no change. They have no hopes of ever being a SC Arts Fellow either, which would only gain them a digital presence into the collection.

You see, some of them have been critical of the Arts Commission and some have supported *Carolina Arts* and my views on the arts in SC, which is a no no, if you want any support from the Arts Commission. At this point in their careers, they know, opportunities from the Arts Commission will never come knocking on their doors, while others get the special phone call or e-mail from staff members. They say you have to apply for the goodies the Arts Commission has, but some

know they'll get an invitation.

You can see who made it in at this link at (<https://www.southcarolinaarts.com/direct-programs/state-art-collection/>).

On a slightly related subject, I see that Jeffrey Day is back in Columbia. He's posting on Facebook, info about the arts taking place in the Columbia, SC, area. A lot has changed since he left Columbia for the West Coast. At least he's offering info where others don't. And on an even stranger note, I got a text from Ellen Dressler Moryl, former Director of the City of Charleston's Office of Cultural Affairs. Later we had a nice chat on the phone about the good old days. She was the best director the city ever had. I mean that.

Festival and Big Event Season Begins

With this month we begin the festival and big event season including and not limited to: STARworks Firefest in Star, NC (starworks.org); Columbia Open Studios, SC, (<https://www.columbiaopenstudios.org/>); Spring Pottery & Glass Festival at Cedar Creek Gallery in Creedmore, NC, (www.cedarcreekgallery.com); Western NC Hurricane Relief Potter's Market at Raleigh Iron Works, Raleigh, NC, (raleighironworks.com/event/wnc-potters-market/); Old Town Bluffton Spring Fling, SC, (blufftonartsdistrict.com); Artista Vista in Columbia, SC, (<https://www.vistacolumbia.com/special-events/artista-vista>); Annual Art Market at Historic Honey Horn on Hilton Head Island, SC, (www.coastaldiscovery.org); Annual Spartanburg Open Doors Studio Tour, SC, (artistscollectivespartanburg.org); The Celebration of Spring in Seagrove, NC, (www.discoverseagrove.com); and the Annual North Charleston Arts Fest, SC, (North-CharlestonArtsFest.com). And those are only the folks we've heard from. So get out and see some art! Oh, you could buy some too.

Charleston Artist Guild

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conservation.

The Charleston Artist Guild (CAG), was founded well over half a century ago by a small group of artists who wanted to network with other artists, reach out to the community with impactful volunteer projects and display their own work. Today the CAG has emerged as a vital non-profit organization of more than 600 members who enrich the community in countless ways with limitless beauty and inspiration. The Charleston Artist Guild is a large

family of artists and art lovers sharing a common goal. Our members are special and we invite you to be a part of our family. As it always has been, in the spirit of southern hospitality, we invite you to one of our general members meetings and to our gallery where you can meet other art lovers and join our family.

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings or call Steve Jacobs at 843/722-2454 or visit (charlestonartistguild.com).

The deadline each month to submit articles, photos and ads is the 24th of the month prior to the next issue. This will be Apr. 24th, at 5pm for the May 2025 issue and May 24, at 5pm for the June 2024 i-ssue.

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.

And where do you send that info?

E-mail to (info@carolinaarts.com).

Charleston County Public Library in Charleston, SC, Features Works by Lewis Watts

Charleston County Public Library in Charleston, SC, will present *First Words of Freedom: A Photographic Study of Abolitionist Imprints*, featuring works by Lewis Watts, on view at the Main Branch's Saul Alexander Gallery, from Apr. 1 - 30, 2025. A reception will be held on Apr. 2, from 6-7pm.

First Words of Freedom: A Photographic Study of Abolitionist Imprints by Lewis Watts in the collection of the Jonathan Green Maritime Cultural Center at the University of South Carolina Beaufort.

This unique exhibit showcases Lewis Watts' photographs of the front matter from rare abolitionist books, highlighting the power of printed media in the fight for freedom. These images reveal the intricate designs, personal inscriptions, and compelling language used to inspire action and advocate for justice. Throughout the exhibit, connections to Charleston's history and its role in the abolitionist movement are illuminated, offering a rich perspective on the city's ties to this pivotal struggle.

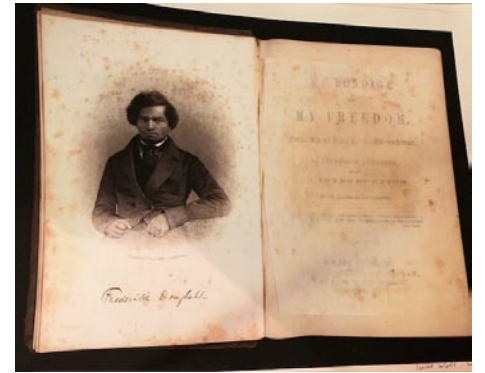


Image from the exhibit, "First Words of Freedom: A Photographic Study of Abolitionist Imprints".

By focusing on the physical and textual details of these historic artifacts, Watts' work invites viewers to connect with the abolitionist movement's literary legacy and its enduring impact on the fight for human rights.

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings, call Megan Summers at 843/805-6946 or visit (www.ccpl.org).

42nd Annual North Charleston Arts Fest Takes Place Apr. 30 - May 4, 2025

The 42nd Annual North Charleston Arts Fest Takes Place throughout North Charleston, SC, from Apr. 30 - May 4, 2025. The celebration of arts and culture highlights the talents of regional and local artists and performers in the areas of music, dance, theatre, visual arts, and literature. Performances, activities, and exhibits take place in a variety of venues throughout the city of North Charleston with free admission for all. Residents and visitors can enjoy concerts, dance performances, art demos, kid's programs, a variety of exhibitions, and more.

Highlights include: Apr. 30, from 6-8pm - Opening Reception at the Charleston Area Convention Center, Exhibit Hall C; May 3, from 5-8:30pm - ARTY Block Party, in Olde Village of North Charleston; and May 4, from 2-5pm - Exhibition Encore, at the Charleston Area Convention Center, Exhibit Hall C. Award winners for all competitions/exhibitions will be acknowledged at the Arts Fest Opening Celebration on Apr. 30, from 6-8pm.

A variety of exhibitions will be presented at various locations throughout North Charleston including:

The *South Carolina Palmetto Hands Fine Craft Competition & Exhibition*, will be on view at the Charleston Area Convention Center, Exhibit Hall C, from Apr. 30 through May 4. Artists and artisans from across South Carolina showcase their fine craft objects in the media of clay, fiber, glass, metal, wood, and 3-D media in the 23rd annual juried competition and exhibition. Awards for the exhibit will be selected by the juror, Brittany Gilbert,



Work by Bob Doster, part of the "19th National Outdoor Sculpture Competition & Exhibition".

Assistant Professor of Fine Arts at Francis Marion University in Florence, SC.

The *Judged Fine Art & Photography Competitions & Exhibitions*, are also on view at the Charleston Area Convention Center, Exhibit Hall C, from Apr. 30 - May 4, 2025. View hundreds of fine art and photography pieces in a variety of styles and subjects by artists from throughout the Lowcountry. Award winners for fine art pieces in acrylic, oil, drawing, pastel, watercolor, printmaking, printed new media, and 2-D mixed media will be selected by Kayla Twomey Flaman, owner and curator of The Miller

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Ecco
acrylic on canvas
36 x 60 in.

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