

Editorial COMMENTARY

On Our Cover This Month

On our cover this month is a work by Corrie McCallum (1914-2009). The work is part of the exhibition, *Other Worlds*, on view at The George Gallery, located in downtown Charleston, SC, from May 22 through June 8, 2024. A reception will be held on May 22, from 6-8pm.

From their press release which you can find on Page 6, "The George Gallery presents an exhibition from the estate of Corrie McCallum, including prints on paper and paintings on canvas. McCallum, a Charleston local and art educator, played a pivotal role in advancing the modern art movement in the South alongside her husband, William Halsey."



Work by Corrie McCallum, from 1989, with that famous "Corrie Blue" as the main attraction in this work

I was lucky to get to know Corrie McCallum and her husband, William Halsey while publishing *Carolina Arts*. I used to deliver copies to their home/studio on Fulton Street,

by Tom Starland, Editor and Publisher

where I would get history lessons about Charleston's visual art community and hear what it was like to be senior artists in a world where the "new kid in town" was the latest fad. They knew and I learned that most of those "shooting stars" faded out within a short period of time, as there is always a new star, just around the corner. I like those senior artists who are putting out some of their best work on a daily basis - they can't help it - they're artists, they need to create - they have to create.

This is a must see show, just in time for the Spoleto and Piccolo Spoleto festivals. If you're coming to Charleston for those festivals - check out the local visual art community in Marion Square and all over the city. Most of it is free, unlike the performing arts.

Speaking of the Piccolo Spoleto Festival

There is some sad news about this years festival, apparently the Piccolo Spoleto Crafts Fairs have been canceled this year. "Oh no!" I can hear thousands of people yelling. It has something to do with the refurbished Wragg Square park. I hope it returns next year, the Charleston Crafts Coop have made it a must see show since the beginning of the festivals. And I know a lot of people are going to be disappointed.

Linda and I used those fairs to add to our pottery collection - until we ran out of safe places to display pottery with three Grandboys "running" around the house. Through those fairs we were able to add works by famous potters from all over the Carolinas - with just a trip to downtown Charleston. Some we didn't know were famous and others became famous over the years. We got some pieces while they were on the way up. That means cheaper than what their works will cost you today. A lot cheaper.

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City of North Charleston, SC, Will Present Its Annual North Charleston Arts Fest - May 1-5, 2024

The 41st annual North Charleston Arts Fest will take place May 1-5, 2024. 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, an Arty Block Party, and more. Complete details about the five-day event are available at (NorthCharlestonArtsFest.com).

Exhibit Hall C at the Charleston Area Convention Center will host the Arts Fest's Judged Art & Photography, South Carolina Palmetto Hands Fine Craft, and Tri-County Youth Art & High School Sculpture Competitions & Exhibitions during the entire run of the festival, May 1-5. Viewing hours are May 1, 6-8pm; May 2-4, 10am-6pm; and May 5, noon-5pm.



View of previous exhibits at the Charleston Area Convention Center

Award winners of the competitions will be acknowledged at 6:30pm during the Arts Fest Opening Celebration on May 1. The event, which takes place from 6-8pm, features food, music, and more, set among the hundreds of pieces of artwork on display. The Exhibition Encore on May 5, Page 4 - *Carolina Arts*, May 2024

from 2-5pm, serves as a closing reception, allowing patrons to view the artwork in a festive atmosphere and make final decisions on purchases. In addition to a final look at the exhibits, the event offers musical entertainment, fiber art demos, and complimentary "bites and bubbles."

Other visual art highlights include a solo exhibit at Park Circle Gallery featuring paintings by the Arts Fest's poster design competition winner Jirah Perkins and the 18th Annual National Outdoor Sculpture Exhibition installed at North Charleston Riverfront Park. North Charleston City Hall will display the 17th Annual African American Fiber Art Exhibition – Celebrating Black Music throughout the festival dates and beyond, remaining on display until June 16, 2024.

Music, theatre, and dance offerings

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Of course the good news is that there will still be artists in Marion Square park, located between King and Meeting Streets, at Calhoun Street, in the heart of downtown Charleston, from May 24 through June 8, for the 45th Annual *Piccolo Spoleto Outdoor Art Exhibition*. Marion Square is transformed into a beautiful open-air market as 54 (+ or -) of some of the finest and most creative artists in South Carolina exhibit and sell their work. Stroll through the park and browse the artists' tents as you view original oils, pastels, watercolors, acrylics, encaustics, photography, and more. Many are also represented in the numerous art galleries scattered throughout the downtown area and the greater Charleston area. So beyond this show there is a lot more to see just blocks away.

Don't Forget About the North Charleston Arts Fest!

Before the Charleston festivals start, there is the 41st Annual North Charleston Arts Fest, taking place from May 1 - 5. 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, an Arty Block Party, and more. There are lots of exhibitions at the Charleston Area Convention Center. Check them all out at (NorthCharlestonArtsFest.com).

Something Was Missing Last Month

Last month I was waiting to receive a press release about an exhibition of works by Brian Rutenberg, on view at the Anderson Arts Center in Anderson, SC. Rutenberg is one of South Carolina's most famous and talented living artists, and a sort of "symbol" artist for *Carolina Arts*, but it never came in time for us to include it. I was beside myself. Works by Rutenberg can be



Work by Brian Rutenberg

seen in almost every issue of *Carolina Arts* and on the *Carolina Arts* Facebook page - for well over 30 years. We have covered shows of his works all over both North and South Carolina and at the Jerald Melberg Gallery in Charlotte, NC. Some months he's the first to like our post on Facebook announcing a new issue of *Carolina Arts* - he's a real friend of *Carolina Arts*. But, the long and sad story short is, we didn't receive a press release about his exhibition in Anderson. I guess they were tied up with their big annual juried show taking place at the same time. (It finally came on Apr. 12, but I wasn't able to use what they sent - a photo of a press release.)

Rutenberg was the Featured Artist during the 4th Conference of the International Network of Michelin Cities (INMC) taking place in Anderson in April. He also gave a lecture at Anderson University. This conference was a pretty big deal for Anderson. People from around the world would be attending.

Anyway, I put together an article about this exhibit for this month's issue, as it is still on view at the Anderson Arts Center's Atrium Gallery, through May 31. You can find it on Page 11 in this issue. I recommend you go see it and if you go before May 10, you can also see the 49th Annual Juried Show, juried by Dr. Roxanna Albury. This is also a pretty big deal in Anderson.

Oh, and did I mention Rutenberg is an abstract artist. You know me - I like abstract art. So I had to add one here or did I add two in this commentary. I slip them in every opportunity I get. I can't help it.

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FINE ART PHOTOGRAPHER

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