

# Editorial Commentary

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And change seems to be the word of the day. More like it - it's change, adapt, or die. I myself have been subject to change way too much this year, but I'm getting used to it and now after a year of it, I decided to embrace it a bit.

For 25 years, the focus of our newspaper has always been on exhibitions. Exhibits of works by individual artist or groups of artists, at commercial art galleries, public art institutions, and non-profit arts groups, which take place over a defined period of time, in the Carolinas. Beyond covering visual art festivals and a few other major visual art related events - exhibitions have been our focus.

The flood gates are not going to open, but we will slowly begin to offer a few different items to include some who have been left out due to the fact that they don't offer exhibitions.

The big thing to remember here is that it is still just Linda and I working here and

that won't change any time soon. We'll still depend on others feeding us with the information we offer. And, any changes will come slowly.

Last month in my commentary I called for suggestions on what we could offer that we are not doing now, and beyond a few who suggested changes which we are already doing - not much came in. So we're still waiting to hear from you, the readers. Now that the holidays are over - people can focus better on that offer.

We're also open to adding new voices to the paper, as long as folks are not looking for a paycheck, but a venue for their views and opinions. We've got the venue and a growing audience, but what we don't have is cash for writers. But, we're looking for folks who are interested in the long haul, not just a little dabble in the public forum.

We're looking forward to a new year and hoping like most, that it will be better.

## Looking Back At Carolina Arts

January 1997

It's been 15 years since we started *Carolina Arts* and a lot of things have happened during that time - some good - some not so good. We think it might be interesting to look back at our beginnings of covering the visual arts community in both North and South Carolina.

Through the pages of the paper we'll take a look at what was going on 15 years ago during the current month's time frame - making some comparisons and reflect on what's different today.

So let's take a look back 15 years into the past.

### On the Cover

Our cover artwork was a photograph by Rick Haithcox of Dallas, NC, who had won the First Place Color award in the *Southern Visions Photography Exhibition* at the Museum of York County outside of Rock Hill, SC. That museum is now part of the Culture & Heritage Museums in Rock Hill and they don't seem to do any more visual art exhibits.

Our cover articles were about that competition and exhibition at the Museum of York County and an introduction from me about becoming *Carolina Arts*. The reason I say cover articles is because in those days we folded the paper in half, with artwork on the top half and articles on the bottom half. There's is nothing but art on our covers these days.

Back then we used to list the cities we covered on the front cover. They included: Aiken, Anderson, Beaufort, Charleston, Columbia, Florence, Greenville, Hilton Head, Myrtle Beach, Rock Hill, Spartanburg, and Sumter in SC. Then there was Asheville, Chapel Hill, Charlotte, Durham, Fayetteville, Greensboro, Greenville, High Point, Raleigh, and Winston-Salem in NC, and, of course many points in between. Within a year we had to drop many of those cities due to a lack of support and interest. We received regular calls from people in those cities we dropped asking us to return, but they never offered any support.

It wasn't until 2011, when we went electronic on the web were we able to cover all areas of the Carolinas again. At least those who send us info by our deadline.

### The Paper

Our first issue of *Carolina Arts* was 24 pages and we printed 10,000 copies. It was all black and white.

My commentary talked about several things, one why Linda and I started an arts newspaper to begin with, which basically was because we once owned two unsuccessful art galleries which suffered from not having any way to get news out to the public about our exhibits. At one time we had advertised our galleries in *The Arts Journal* which came out of Asheville, NC - a long, long, time ago.

Another subject was - why North Carolina - despite the obvious name. When we thought about expanding the paper we also sent out feelers to Georgia. We heard back first from North Carolina - mainly the Jerald Melberg Gallery and the Mint Museum of Art in Charlotte, NC - who both had ads in our first issue. I was also encouraged to come north by a good friend, Blanche Ravenel, who owned a dance company in Greensboro, NC. Charlotte from the start has always been one of our best supporters and still is today.

The final subject was about arts centers in the Carolinas - some with good prospects and some not. We talked about the SC State Museum in Columbia, SC, having problems getting funding to open a new restaurant facility, a group in Charleston, SC, called LOCUS Center for Contemporary Arts, which never had a facility and never did create one, but their name implied that they did. I also talked about my prediction that North Charleston, SC, would have an arts center before Charleston would. We also mentioned how a group of Republicans were cutting funding for the City Gallery of Contemporary Art in Raleigh, NC. Sound familiar? I'm happy to report they were all removed from office in the next election. Maybe that will happen again in the next election.

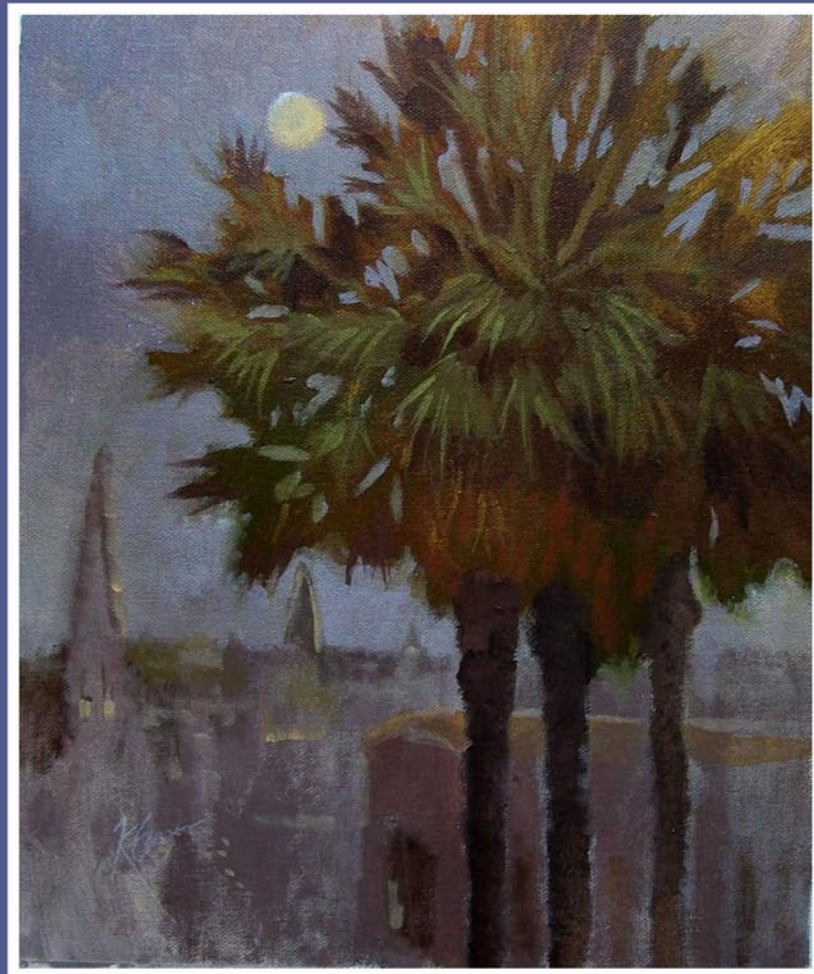
Articles that stand out were about exhibits taking place around the Carolinas including: *Paintings by Linda Fantuzzo* at the University Gallery at USC-Sumter in Sumter, SC; *An Enduring Spirit: The Art of Three Polish Printmakers* at the Guilford College Art Gallery in Greensboro, NC; a Winthrop University Faculty Exhibit in Rock Hill, SC; and the Folk Art Center in Asheville, NC, was presenting three exhibits - *Berea College: Student Crafts Program*, *Selections from the Guild's Permanent Collection of Craft Objects*, and *African American Quilters*. The collection mentioned at the Folk Art Center was that of the Southern Highland Craft Guild.

We also had an article about the SECCA Center in Winston-Salem, NC, which was presenting *Southern Arts Federations/National Endowment for the Arts Regional Visual Arts Fellowships*. As most of you know, the State of North Carolina had to eventually take over the operations of the SECCA Center.

The Mint Museum in Charlotte, NC, was presenting the exhibit, *ArtCurrents 22: Richard Jolley*. This was before the Mint opened the Mint Museum of Craft + Design - which has now moved to the new Mint Museum Uptown. It's amazing how fast some things change while other things stay the same.

In Jan, of 1997, we had seven pages of gallery listings. Our Dec. 2011 issue had 26 pages of gallery listings. There were 9 1/2 pages just for the NC Commercial Gallery listings. Yes, we've expanded our coverage a little.

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