

# Editorial COMMENTARY

by Tom Starland, Editor and Publisher

## Phone Number Change

I know this will be a hassle for many - especially me, but we're dropping our old land line numbers and switching all calls to my cell number - **843.693.1306**. And I bet most of you will get it down before me.

Why the change after all these years? It's simple - no one calls the other numbers. So why keep paying for them?

Most communications are done by e-mail. We can go weeks before someone gives us a call.

## Address Change Too

So while we're going through the pain of changing our phone number we might as well change our mailing address too. The majority of the mail we get is junk mail. Most people send us their press releases by e-mail, and many pay their bills using our PayPal account. The new address is: **Carolina Arts, 511 Hildebrand Drive, Bonneau, SC 29431.**

Like they say - the only thing constant in life is change.

## What's The Problem With Juried Shows?

Good question. Just after Christmas, I posted a blog entry on my personal blog at *Carolina Arts Unleashed* (<http://carolinaarts.com/wordpress/>) about extending deadlines and the jury process of ArtFields©. Good thing I had written it a few weeks ago as the grandchildren brought me a cold for Christmas. It's hot as heck and I catch a cold - go figure.

Anyway, that blog attracted a lot of interest - our highest one day total on Facebook. If you're interested, check it out. Funny thing - it didn't attract a lot of public comments. Oh, I heard a lot from folks using

back channels - e-mail and messages on Facebook - stuff others couldn't see.

Artists know that in SC you don't make your opinions known in public without paying a price. One day a revolution will come and artists will speak loud and clear about what they are fed up about. One day, but not this day or anytime soon. But look out if the SC Arts Commission ever runs out of money to distribute.

Many of the complaints I heard, not all were about ArtFields©, were about juried shows where the selected juror probably knew a lot of the people entering the competition, which isn't a good practice. Another complaint was about jurors who teach workshops and then tend to award those who have taken past workshops. And, a lot of folks complained about entry fees for juried shows - as if they were just fundraisers. Well, putting on a juried show is not cost-free, but some are making much more money off of entry fees than they give out in awards.

ArtFields© doesn't have a problem with high entry fees and skimpy awards, but they do seem to have a problem with attracting artists to enter their competition and attracting artists who have entered one year, but don't again. That's a bad sign of something and they need to find out what it is instead of just marching forward.

I like ArtFields© and I try to be supportive, but I can't turn a blind eye to things I think they are doing wrong. There was a change in leadership this year, just as I think I was making some headway in getting them to make some changes, but I'm not sure what's going on now and the extended deadline was a setback to me.

One day I hope they wake up and learn something about the visual art community they are trying to attract to their competition or one day it will be too late.

Don't forget about our website:

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



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You can find [past articles](#) all the way back to June 1999

Also don't forget about our two blogs:

[Carolina Arts Unleashed](#)

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[info@carolinaarts.com](mailto:info@carolinaarts.com)

## Rhett Thurman



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