

Editorial COMMENTARY

by Tom Starland, Editor and Publisher

On Our Cover This Month

On our cover this month are a few works by Toni M. Elkins, NWS, WHS, of Columbia, SC. She is having an exhibition at the University of South Carolina's Koger Center for the Arts in Columbia, SC, in conjunction with the Jasper Project. This show, *Remembering Three*, will be on view February 20 - March 19, 2025, in The Nook, 2nd Floor Rotating Gallery. A reception will be held on Feb. 20, from 5:30-7pm.

Elkins exhibits her work all over the United States in juried shows and competitions. She is a major force in the Columbia art community, having served as the Superintendent of Fine Art for the South Carolina State Fair in Columbia for ten years. She also started the Facebook group, Artists Friends & Collectors, which now has over 3000 members and has sold over 60 works of art by Columbia area artists. Read about her exhibit on Page 15.

Remember February Only Has 28 Days

It's February, which is the worst month for us to produce our March issue in just four days. Our deadline is always the 24th of the month at 5pm, leaving only four days to complete an issue - an issue which is usually pretty big. So, if you can, don't wait until the deadline to send in your info this month. Those late arrivals really stick in my mind. I don't know how Linda, my better half feels about it, but I know I'll be pushing the panic button by the 20th if certain folks haven't sent their info yet. They know who I'm talking about, but unfortunately they don't seem to ever read my commentary or, and I hate to believe this, but they just might not care. But I must remind people, that this is a free publication and the only folks I'm obligated

to include are those who are doing paid advertising. I want to include everyone, but that's the facts, Jack! Please don't be a last minute contributor.

WNC Artists Being Featured in Shows Everywhere

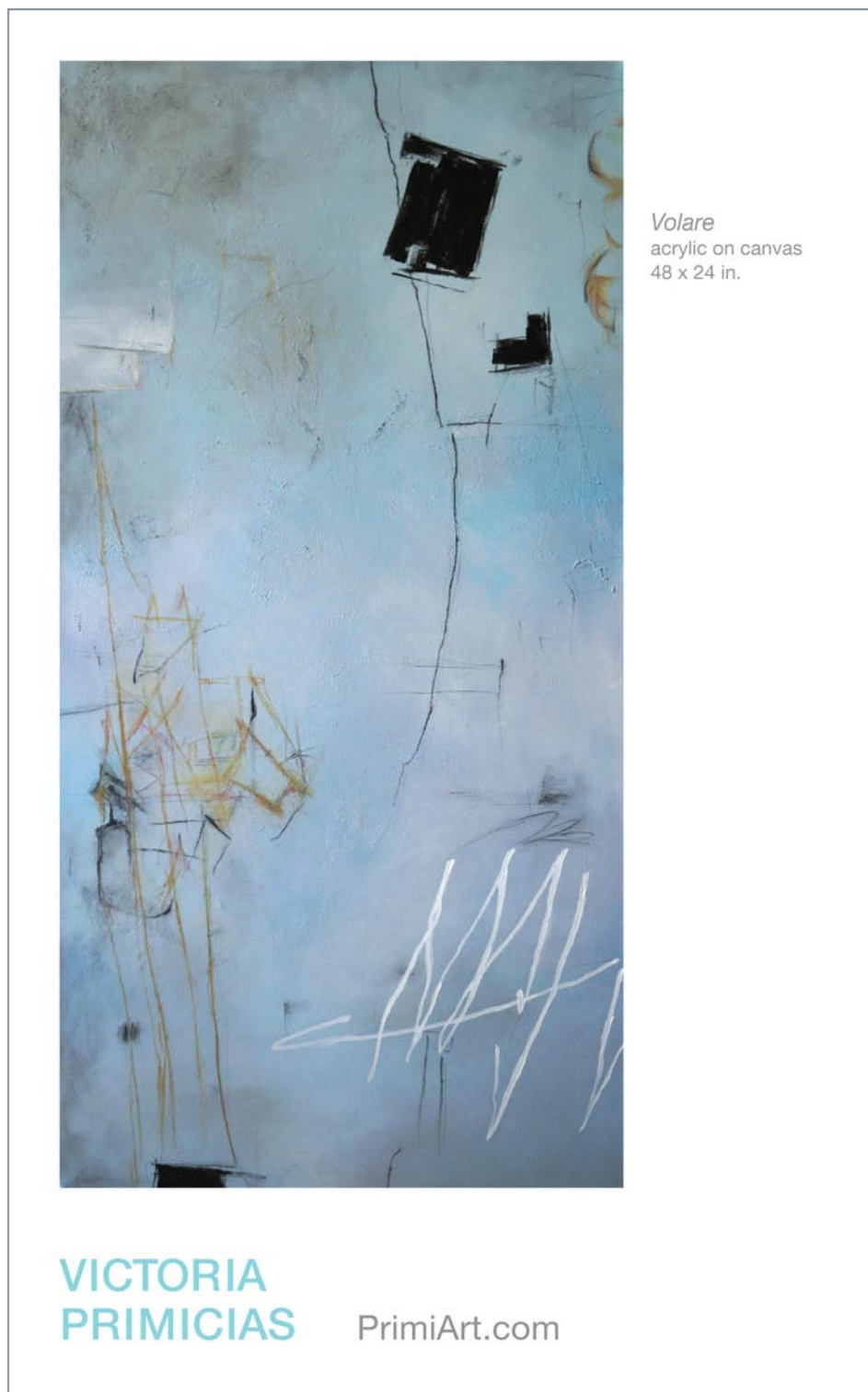
As you scan through this issue you will begin to notice that WNC artists who were effected by Hurricane Helene are being featured in shows all over North Carolina and even in parts of South Carolina. Many of these artists lost their studios and galleries where they showed their work, some even lost their homes. Various institutional and commercial venues are featuring these artists in hopes that people will come to these exhibits and buy some of the works being featured - folks, they need the money - it is going to be a long recovery and Winter for these folks. Help them if you can.

It's Always California

Whenever there is a major disaster in the Carolinas, California is sure to steal the spotlight soon after.

Back on Sept. 22, 1989, Hurricane Hugo hit Charleston, SC, as a Category 4 storm. The storm caused widespread damage, including significant damage to downtown Charleston and uninhabitable homes in beach towns. Less than a month later, on Oct. 17, 1989, the Loma Prieta earthquake occurred on the Central Coast of California. It happened during a national live broadcast of the 1989 World Series stealing all attention from the disaster Hurricane Hugo caused in the Carolinas. Remember, Hugo defied the logic that hurricanes lose their punch when they make landfall - tell that to those

[continued on Page 6](#)



Volare
acrylic on canvas
48 x 24 in.

VICTORIA
PRIMICIAS

PrimiArt.com

Charleston County Public Library

[continued from Page 3](#)

She has a multicultural background which manifests itself in her style and her art. She was born in Poland, but spent her formative years growing up in the Soviet Union under the careful, ever-present eyes of the communist government; this gives her knowledge of life and different cultures and a depth to her art.

Trained as a Russian and French Literature and Language teacher in Baku, Azerbaijan, she had to adjust her life after immigrating to the United States. Her love for art brought her to the Montclair State University (NJ) where she received her Master's degrees in Fine Arts and Art History. She also studied design and painting at the International American University and the Marshutz School of Art in Aix-en-Provence, France.

Padlowski has now dedicated herself to painting and making soft sculptures from recycled materials.

Padlowski's soft sculptures, both whimsical and quirky, are based on mythical stories, operas and fairytales. Her paintings have a very personal cast: the marriage of Russian, Azerbaijani

and Eastern European cultures. Her art is unpredictable and uniquely attractive. Padlowski's paintings sometimes express sadness and despair, while at other times they are bursting with happiness and colors. She calls her art a "symbolic fantasy". Each painting contains a certain symbolic meaning. Her paintings while contemporary and often non-conformist, are also influenced by classical literature and art.

While visiting South Carolina, she was charmed by the beauty of its nature and found inspiration everywhere: majestic mountains, enchanting forests, flowers and gifts from the garden often became a subject matter for her paintings.

After permanently relocating to South Carolina from the NY metropolitan area, she became an actively exhibiting member of Waccamaw Arts & Crafts Guild, Charleston Artist Guild and Seacoast Artist Guild.

Presently she resides in Conway, SC with her husband and little cat Lin.

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

Public Works Art Center in Summerville, SC, Features Pottery From Seagrove, NC

Public Works Art Center in Summerville, SC, is presenting *Another Clay Community: Seagrove Potters of North Carolina*, on view through Mar 15, 2025

Nestled in the countryside of Seagrove, NC, you will find the largest concentration of working potters in the United States. Within a twenty mile radius there are over fifty pottery studios and shops to visit. The Public Works Art Center is proud to display the wares of twenty one

of Seagrove's finest, all deeply engaged in the Seagrove pottery community.

The participation potters include: Fred Johnston and Carol Gentithes, David Stuempfle, Ben Owen III, Bulldog Pottery's Samantha Heneke and Bruce Gholson, Studio Touya's Hitomi and Takuro Shibata, Jared Zahmer, Dean & Martin Studio's Stephanie Martin and Jeff Dean, Triangle Studio's Kate Waltman, Blue

[continued above on next column to the right](#)

Hen Studio's Anne Partna, Hannah Cupp, Donna Craven, Jugtown Potters, Pam, Vernon, Travis and Bayle Owen, Chad Brown, and Sid Luck.



Work by Samantha Heneke of Bulldog Pottery



Work by Bruce Gholson of Bulldog Pottery



Work by Ben Owen III of Ben Owen Pottery

sculptural creations, folk art and historical forms of the past. History is embedded in this community going back several generations when clay was dug out of the hills surrounding Seagrove and processed for use. This is still the case today individually and through the assistance of the Ceramic Supply Shop at Starworks in Star, North Carolina.

Join us for our exciting show, and in the future, make a plan to spend a day or two discovering Seagrove and experience the diversity of these amazing accomplished North Carolina potters.

Experience Seagrove's pottery tradition on a self-guided tour of over 50 working studios in the Handmade Pottery Capital of the United States. For information visit (www.DiscoverSeagrove.com).

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings, call the Center at 843/900-3225 or visit (<https://publicworksartcenter.org/>).

This exhibit will offer a range of pottery from everyday contemporary utilitarian ware and one of a kind vessels, to

The deadline each month to submit articles, photos and ads is the 24th of the month prior to the next issue. This will be Feb. 24th, at 5pm for the March 2025 issue (don't be late for this one) and Mar. 24, at 5pm for the April 2024 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. And where do you send that info? E-mail to (info@carolinaarts.com).