

Editorial COMMENTARY

by Tom Starland, Editor and Publisher

ArtFields® 2015 Update

Since we seem to be your regional source for info about ArtFields®. We're here to tell you that ArtFields® is under new management, better management in my opinion.

The Community Museum Society, the organization which runs the Jones-Carter Gallery in Lake City, SC, has taken over operation of ArtFields®.

During the 2014 event I learned that Ray McBride, Executive Director of the Community Museum Society had taken over logistics for ArtFields®. Now, he and his team will be taking over all the duties of the festival.

Here's their official call for entries:

From Apr. 24 through May 2, 2015, Lake City, SC, will be host to the third ArtFields® festival, a community-focused celebration of art awarding \$100,000 in prizes to artists from across the Southeast.

Initially founded in 2013, ArtFields® annually transforms the historic district of Lake City into a Southern art mecca for nine days, allowing visitors, residents, and artists to experience a massive arts festival in the heart of one of South Carolina's most charming small towns.

Artists from the 12 Southeastern states (Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia and West Virginia) are invited to submit artwork for the competition and their chance at their share of \$100,000 in prizes. These life-changing prizes will be awarded as a Top Prize (\$50,000), a Juried Panel prize (\$25,000), a People's Choice two-dimensional (\$12,500) and a People's Choice three-dimensional (\$12,500) prize during the ArtFields® 2015 Art Festival.

The Call for Submissions opens Sept.

14, 2014, at (www.artfieldssc.org) and closes Nov. 14, 2014.

Established and emerging artists may submit one 2-D or 3-D piece (painting, sculpture, photography, drawing, digital media, installation art, etc.). Artwork will be submitted online to be reviewed by a jury of visual art professionals. This jury will select 400 works of art to compete in Lake City for the prize money. Artists will be notified no later than Jan. 1, 2015, of acceptance into the ArtFields® 2015 competition.

Applicants must be 18 or older by Nov. 14, 2014, and reside in one of the 12 Southeastern states. Only original artwork is eligible for submission and must have been completed within two years of the submission deadline of Nov. 14, 2014.

For the complete list of rules and eligibility for the ArtFields® 2015 competition, please visit (www.artfieldssc.org).

For artist inquiries, please contact the Art Team at 843/374-0180 or e-mail to (ArtTeam@artfieldssc.org).

Back To Me on ArtFields®

I think we're going to see a lot more entries from outside the Carolinas, and probably not as many from Charleston and Columbia, SC. The word on ArtFields® is getting out to the heavy hitters in the regional visual arts community and that will make the competition and exhibition even better than last year.

I'm still sticking to my basic advice to artists who ask me about whether I think they should enter or not. I'm telling people to think outside of their art box, go big, and enter with three main things in mind: 1 - you just might win some money, 2 - you could make some good connections if you get in the exhibition, and 3

- you might sell your work to one of the visitors who comes to Lake City, SC, to see this event. It's not all about winning one of the four prizes. Finally, don't be crazy when putting a price on your work.

For the people who come to ArtFields® my advice is to come for several days to see it all and enjoy this small Southern town that's trying to bring back the energy it once had as a major farm community.

We Have A King

By the middle of June our activity on Facebook was going so crazy I named our cover artist that month, Wan Marsh of Charlotte, NC - Queen of the Carolina Arts' Facebook page. She did so well it was going to be a hard act to follow, but we found a contender in Keith Spencer of Tryon, NC. His cover image attracted a lot of attention too, not as much as Marsh did, but really close and if we compared apples with oranges, he might have done just as good, but since we made the crown a Facebook thing - he has come in a strong second. And, since he is way out in front of any other male artist, were making Spencer "King" of our Facebook page, but like in the UK - the Queen has all the power.

How do the numbers stack up? Wan Marsh's cover reached 7,440 people with 129 shares. Spencer's cover reached 4,948 people with 91 shares. In another category, our June issue had 80,122 downloads and our July issue had 102,013 (as of July 30). Which is better? I don't know - we're just having some Summer fun.

For Shepard Fairey Lovers

For all those folks in Charleston, SC, who are still ecstatic over Shepard Fairey, you might want to head to Hartsville, SC, to see the exhibit *Inspired: Canvas and Clay*, by Patz Fowle.

The Black Creek Arts Center, located at 116 West College Avenue will present this exhibit in the Jean & James Fort Gallery, from Aug. 7 - Sept. 26, 2014. A reception



Work by Patz Fowle

will be offered on Aug. 7, from 5:30-7pm. The exhibition will feature a series of 25 feline inspired, small works on canvas (6" x 6") along with extraordinary, anthropomorphic ceramic sculpture.

Come To Pottery Heaven

Collectors will once again have access to the latest works by leaders in the rich tradition of North Carolina pottery when potters from across North Carolina and surrounding areas return to Mint Museum Randolph, in Charlotte, NC, for the 10th annual Mint Museum Potters Market Invitational on Sept. 6, 2014, from 10am-4pm.

Fifty outstanding North Carolina potters have been invited to participate in this year's event, presented by the Delhom Service League, the ceramics affiliate of The Mint Museum, promoting ceramic arts and education. Every year, hundreds of pottery enthusiasts line up hours in advance of the opening to gain access to the day's best treasures.

For more information and to register, visit (<http://www.mintmuseum.org/happenings/496/mint-museum-potters-market-invitational-2014>).



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