

Editorial COMMENTARY

by Tom Starland, Editor and Publisher

Voting on Nov. 6, 2018

If you are an artist, art lover, art supporter, have children or relatives who are artists - you better vote blue this Nov. 6, 2018. You can be sure that if Republicans stay in power eventually they will take all arts funding for any art programs and convert them into tax cuts for the rich and corporations. In their view, the arts are an unnecessary extra going to just a few people - people they don't like to begin with.

If you don't vote, saying you're not political - you are the problem for the way things are now and how bad they will get in the future. Living in this world is a participation sport. And, if you don't like me saying that - too bad. I suggest you step off of my cloud. Don't tell me to stick to the arts - as soon there won't be any arts.

If you are not registered to vote or haven't voted in the last couple of elections, you need to check to see if you are still registered and if you're not - get registered and by all means vote. I'm suggesting you vote blue, but in America, you can vote any way you like. But if you're involved in the arts and you're reading this editorial - you need to vote blue.

Here's some info about registering to vote in the Carolinas.

SC Online Voter Registration: Any online voter registration application submitted by Sunday, Oct. 7, 2018, will be accepted (application must be submitted by 11:59pm, Oct. 7). Register online at this link (<https://info.scvotes.sc.gov/eng/ovr/start.aspx>). To complete your Voter Registration online, you MUST have a valid driver's license or identification card issued by the SC Department of Motor Vehicles. If your address has changed, you MUST update your address with DMV first before

proceeding with Online Voter Registration. To access the SC DMV Change Address page, click on the link at (<https://www.scdmvonline.com/Public/Transactions/AddressChange/Page1.aspx>).

There is no online voter registration in NC.

In order to register to vote in North Carolina, a person must meet the legal qualifications to vote and complete a voter registration application, which you can download at (<https://www.ncsbe.gov/Portals/0/Forms/NCVoterRegForm06W.pdf>). When completing the application, applicants must provide their full name, residential address, date of birth, and citizenship status. In addition, the application must be signed pen to paper (Electronic signatures do not count). Failure to complete a required field on the form will delay the processing of the application. After completion, the application should be mailed to the board of elections office in the county in which the applicant resides. You can find the address of your county board of elections office by clicking at (<https://vt.ncsbe.gov/BOEInfo>). The deadline for registration in NC is Oct. 12, 2018 (postmarked).

Hurricanes are the Worst Art Critics

Hurricane Florence decided to visit the beach this Summer in North Carolina - Wrightsville Beach, NC. She stayed way too long and dropped record amounts of water in both North Carolina and parts of South Carolina. As our President stated - lots of wet water.

My wife and I started an arts publication in Charleston, SC, in 1987, two years later Hurricane Hugo came for a visit just north of Charleston and wiped out the art community in Charleston as we knew it. It

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took almost a year for the art community to recover. I hope it doesn't take that long for the art communities hit by Hurricane Florence to recover but that all depends on the people in those areas hit and how the rest of us react to that situation.

Take cities like Wilmington and New Bern - if you watched the Weather Channel or newscast you could get the impression that everything was destroyed or is under water. These folks tend to show viewers the worst case scenario in pictures that don't tell the whole story. Not everyone suffered the same amounts of physical damage, but everyone suffers the economic damage a storm can do in an area hit. And once most of the damage is done and they get their pictures - they tend to move on to the next disaster. They rarely go back a month later to show how these communities have recovered.

I was shocked to learn that 30 years ago the building we were working out of in downtown Charleston was literally untouched by Hurricane Hugo - the only mess to clean up was the one we made securing the windows and moving items out of the location. We learned we were located on one of the highest points in Charleston although the harbor was just a block and a half away. Most of the real damage came after the storm had left and it took tourists almost a year to return to a city they saw destroyed on their TV screens. It wasn't totally destroyed, but they didn't know that and without tourists there wasn't much need for the arts, as locals were tied up dealing with insurance adjusters, FEMA agents, contractors and scam artists who came to prey on victims of the storm.

It took a long time for the art community to recover, but when it did it was stronger and better than ever.

Hopefully people have learned a few things over the last 30 years in how to recover from storms like Hugo and Florence and it won't take too long to recover, but here's my advice to you. Contact those artists, art businesses, and arts organizations you used to interact with to see how they are doing and what you might could do to help with their recovery - if they need help.

Participate in their offerings when they are being offered.

No one is asking you to tread flood waters to get to locations, you might find that you can buy items from galleries online and have them shipped to you. You might be surprised on how creative these folks can be in giving you the opportunity to support them. And, that's what they are going to need more than ever - your support. First by those close by and then by the folks who will travel there once roads are dry and cleared and people are ready to take them.

I remember that Charleston's hotels that were not damaged during Hugo were full of FEMA folks, insurance adjusters, and contractors for months. There wasn't much room for tourists even if they came.

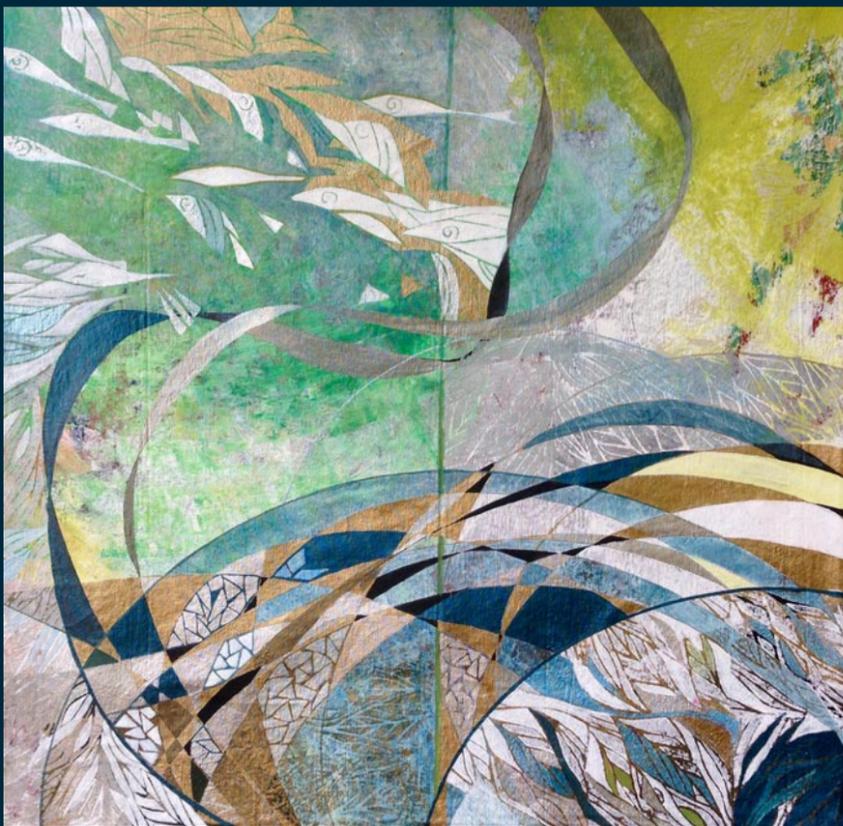
So, the message is - don't forget these folks and go on with your lives just because you were not affected - reach out, make contact and support.

We have lots of information about exhibits that we received from folks in the areas where the storm made itself known. Some have contacted us with changes, but many are busy with other "things". So, before you go to a show, how about giving them a call first to make sure that exhibit is still on. And, if it is - by all means go and support them.

Carolina Arts will not be charging any of the galleries or art group who have ads this month in the areas hit by Florence. It's not that big a deal but we want them to know we understand what they are going through and we appreciate their support and want to support them.

On Pages 18 & 26 of this issue we have ads for CERF+ The Artists Safety Net. CERF+ was started by artists for artists in the craft community as a grassroots mutual aid effort in 1985 and has since emerged as the leading nonprofit organization that uniquely focuses on safeguarding artists' livelihoods nationwide. CERF+ serves artists who work in craft disciplines by providing a safety net to support strong and sustainable careers. Their core services are education programs, advocacy, network building and emergency relief.

Nance Lee Sneddon Wet Sand Patterns



Piscean Dream Mixed Medium on Canvas 37 x 37 inches



White Sand Beach Mixed Medium on Canvas 50 x 50 inches

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