

Editorial COMMENTARY

by Tom Starland, Editor and Publisher

Best Kept Secrets in the South Carolina Visual Art Community

For someone who has produced an arts publication in South Carolina for over 30 years and started covering both North and South Carolina's visual art community over 20 years ago - best kept secrets are no friend of mine. Our mission is to let our readers know what's going on, as far as visual art exhibitions taking place all over the Carolinas each month. There are a few exceptions where for one reason or another we no longer seek out info from, what I call a few bad players (we'll include their info if they send it, but we won't seek it out), but the rest of what we can't inform our readers about is because: either someone doesn't know how to tell others what they are offering, an inability to inform the public by our deadline as to what they are offering, or what I call the "who cares if others know what we're offering - it's too much work". So there are some best kept secrets in South Carolina, but not because of our efforts to find out what's going on and offering it to our readers. One of those areas is Spartanburg, SC.

The Spartanburg story begins with the Chapman Cultural Center. Spartanburg doesn't have an art council and arts councils in general seem to be a dying breed in SC - at least those that cover art communities in cities. Some cities have set up city government agencies that "control" the arts in that city. In those cities it would be hard for an arts council to compete or survive, as funding is always the key to everything in the arts. So, in Spartanburg, most of the money is filtered through the Chapman Cultural Center.

Its mission statement is: "Provide cultural leadership for Greater Spartanburg by developing, strengthening, and promoting

the scope, excellence and educational role of the arts, humanities and sciences, and to further their significance in the life of our community and all of its citizens."

It's not just an agency, but a physical facility including: Chapman's Administration & Business Office; Spartanburg Art Museum; Spartanburg Regional History Museum; Artists' Guild of Spartanburg Gallery & Student Galleries; and the John F. Green Spartanburg Science Center. It also includes a theatre, but our main focus is on the visual arts in Spartanburg.

We used to receive press releases about exhibits at the Center (when they were provided to them on time, so they could get them to us on time) from the Marketing department at the Chapman Center, but after some change in personnel they now just refer us to the calendar provided on their website which is not very informative and doesn't replace a press release, which now falls into the, "it's too much work" category. Someone is not doing their job very well.

The Chapman Cultural Center also funds HUB-BUB, an artist-in-residence program in Spartanburg, designed to provide time and space for emerging artists to live free and create. The Artists-in-Residence program provides an unfurnished apartment in downtown Spartanburg. All utilities, including internet, will be provided, although the artists-in-residence must provide their own wireless router. A monthly stipend of \$850 will be paid on the 5th of each month for the 11-month period, but no additional benefits will be provided. These artists are supposed to present exhibits, but we never hear about them and finding info about them isn't easy.

The Chapman Cultural Center also gives funding to many other visual art organizations and facilities in Spartanburg, as well as individual artists, and sponsoring art

continued on Page 5

City of North Charleston, SC

continued from Page 3

abstract. This vantage point allows him to create compositions that display the interplay of earth tones mixed with the green and blue of algae and water, while also capturing patterns and structures created by low and high tide.

Amble lives in Summerville, SC. He has worked as a high school educator, a photo studio manager, portrait and commercial photographer, and a media specialist for the Charleston County School District. He earned a BS in Biology from Mount Senario College and an MS in Educational Media from University of Wisconsin-LaCrosse, completed course work in Film Production at Trident Technical College, and is currently working toward an MFA in Photography from the Academy of Art University.

The North Charleston City Gallery is situated in two corridors of the northwest corner of the Charleston Area Conven-



Work by Richard Amble

tion Center, located on Coliseum Drive in North Charleston, SC. Inquiries regarding the artists or purchase information may be directed to the North Charleston Cultural Arts Department at 843/740-5854.

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings or visit the Arts & Culture section of the City's website at (www.northcharleston.org).



Halsey - McCallum Studio

William Halsey & Corrie McCallum

Both recipients of the Elizabeth O'Neill Verner Award

paintings • graphics • sculpture for the discerning collector

For information:

David Halsey 843.813.7542
dhalsey917@comcast.net

Don't forget about our website:

www.carolinaarts.com



You can find [past issues](#) all the way back to August 2004!

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

Also don't forget about our two blogs:

[Carolina Arts Unleashed](#)

[Carolina Arts News](#)

Send us your email address to be added to our list to receive notice of each monthly issue.

info@carolinaarts.com

Whimsy Joy© by Roz



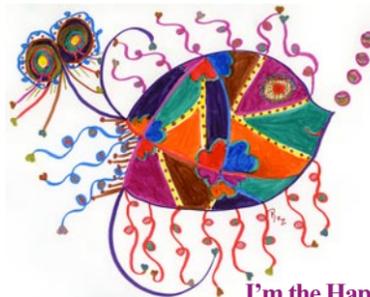
"We are Four Porpoises going Round and Round. We Touch and Connect with a Happy Sound!"...

"If You Look carefully, You can See US because we go In and Out the Water and blow air through our "spout".

"If You are Quiet and come Near, You can Gently Touch Us. We will Play with You. Wouldn't it be Fun, if We could go on the Bus?"

Images are available on:

Prints • Notecards • T Shirts • Decals
Aprons • Stickers • Calendar • Mousepads
Children's Paint Smocks



I'm the Happy One!

Check my website for new whimsies!

All images are copyrighted

Rosalyn Kramer Monat-Haller
M.Ed., LLC

Counseling for Children, Adolescents, & Adults
Mother, Grandmother, Daughter, Friend, Psycho-therapist
and Artist who uses color and whimsical imagination
to create joyful art for children of all ages

www.whimsyjoy.com

843.873.6935 • 843.810.1245