

# Editorial COMMENTARY

by Tom Starland, Editor and Publisher

## On Our Cover

On our cover this month is a couple of works from the exhibit *Pent Up Pink*, featuring works by Fleming Markel, on view in the Main Gallery at the Greenville Center for Creative Arts in Greenville, SC, from Dec. 1 through Jan. 24, 2024. A reception will be held on Dec. 1, from 6-9pm. Read about the exhibit on Page 12.

## Buy Art For The Holidays

It's my year end mantra - asking readers to buy art for holiday gifts, for family, friends, loved ones and yourself. Amazon doesn't need anymore profits, the big box stores don't need anymore profits. Who needs a little profit? Artists need some profits. They are counting on some holiday sales to get them through the dog days of Winter.

You've seen those commercials by Esty showing people how to get unique gifts from creative people. Esty's OK, but why give a cut to them when you can buy from artists in your own community? Or support art galleries and art organizations by purchasing art through them. These profits trickle down throughout your own communities - not going to buy a bigger yacht for some overpaid executive or a ride into space.

And, we're not just talking adults here - young folks can do with a little art themselves - over another video game. You could purchase art lessons at a local art center, arts & crafts kits for at home activities, or some small craft items.

For Aunts and Uncles, you could take someone to an art exhibit at a commercial art gallery or an art museum. A really fun trip would be to one of the many art walks, art crawls or art strolls taking place all over the Carolinas. That's a real gift - getting a peek at the crazy art world in a party atmosphere.

It works both ways - you young folks could take an aging Aunt or Uncle to an art walk as a holiday gift.

And, for those of you out there who have plenty of money to spare - you know who I'm talking about - you could make a year-end donation to one of the many non-profit art organizations out there. Buy yourself a gallery named after yourself or a new wing of your favorite art museum. You can't take the money with you when you pass on to - let's say greener pastures and if you got that money by nefarious means - it's just going to burn up where you're going anyway. Of course if you are as bad as the Sackler family, they'll just strip your name off those galleries and wings after the world finds out about you - but then you might be dead already and you won't know it. So use the dirty money to buy some good publicity while you can. Of course if you're as smart as the Murdochs out there, you'll buy yourself a media empire to lie about all those dirty deeds.

Enough about those folks - I'm speaking to all the good folks out there - who are already planning to make art their mode of gift giving this year. You know a gift of art can last forever, not just through the end of January.

## Year End Wish

I wish that when people post news about exhibitions on social media, that they would include the beginning and ending dates for the exhibit as well as the date of the reception - including times of the reception. It's as if gallery owners only expect people to come to the reception for a couple of hours and never come again to look at the art or better yet, buy art. Everybody can't be a party animal - some people have lives and obligations and might not be able to do receptions.

Don't forget about our website:  
[www.carolinaarts.com](http://www.carolinaarts.com)



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## International African American Museum in Charleston, SC, Offers Exhibit Focused Holiday Observances

The International African American Museum (IAAM) in Charleston, SC, has set in place the next exhibition, *Creative Gathering: A Space for Gathering, Fellowship, and Reflection*, along with holiday observances and events running from Dec. 14, 2023, through Martin Luther King Jr. Day on Jan. 15, 2024.

The exhibition, which will be curated from the permanent collection of IAAM, is a month-long showcase that invites the community to delve into a cultural and thematic exploration of the African diaspora. It includes a series of seasonal celebrations designed to reflect IAAM's commitment to fostering an understanding of African American history and its global impact.

The *Creative Gathering* opening kicks off with a reception on Dec. 14, at IAAM, 14 Wharfside Street, in downtown Charleston. Guests will have the opportunity to engage with artists whose works are featured in the exhibition and the museum's broader collection. They may also partake in a self-guided tour of the entire museum from 7-9pm that evening. Guests can register for the reception and tour at ([iaamuseum.org](http://iaamuseum.org)).

Other special celebrations and events, all of which will be held at the museum, include:  
A Kwanzaa Celebration | Storytelling, from Dec. 26 - 29, 2023, from 1-2pm.

The IAAM invites the community to daily storytelling sessions hosted by Julian Gooding. As digital media specialist for the Charleston County Public Library System and an experienced storyteller, Gooding brings to life the connections between West African tales and the narratives of enslaved peoples in America, celebrating the seven principles of Kwanzaa:

Umoja - to strive for and maintain unity in the family, community, nation, and race  
Kujichagulia - self-determination



The image is from "Creative Gathering: A Space for Gathering, Fellowship, and Reflection" exhibition, courtesy of the International African American Museum.

Ujima - collective work and responsibility  
Ujamaa - cooperative economics  
Nia - purpose  
Kuumba - creativity  
Imani - faith

Registration is not required. Program attendance is complimentary with the purchase of museum admission for the dates listed.

Onwards From Freedom's Eve, takes place Jan. 1, 2024, from 3:30-5pm.

This event commemorates the historical significance of Freedom's Eve and the legacy of emancipation within the Gullah Geechee and broader African American community.

Visit the IAAM website and follow @iaamuseum on social media to learn more.

IAAM KING Day of Celebration on Jan. 15, 2024, from noon-5pm.

IAAM Bold, IAAM Powerful, IAAM Courageous, IAAM My Ancestors' Wildest Dream, IAAM King.

Celebrating MLK Day, this event will showcase vendors, food trucks, music, and community engagement, in celebration of the life and contributions of Dr. Martin

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Luther King, Jr.

Visit the IAAM website and follow @iaamuseum on social media to learn more.

The International African American Museum (IAAM) explores the history, culture, and impact of the African American journey on Charleston, the nation, and the world, shining light and sharing stories of the diverse journeys, origin, and achievements of descendants of the African Diaspora. Across eleven galleries and a memorial garden with art, objects, artifacts, and multimedia inter-

action, IAAM is a champion of authentic, empathetic storytelling of American history. As a result, the museum will stand as one of the nation's newest platforms for the disruption of institutionalized racism as it evolves today. The mission of IAAM is to honor the untold stories of the African American journey at the historically sacred site of Gadsden's Wharf and beyond.

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings, call 843/872-5352, or visit ([iaamuseum.org](http://iaamuseum.org)).

## City of North Charleston, SC, Features Works by Melissa Meverden and Daisy McClellan

The City of North Charleston, SC, will present two concurrent solo exhibits, featuring works by Melissa Meverden and Daisy McClellan, on view in the Park Circle Gallery, from Dec. 1 - 30, 2023. A reception will be held on Dec. 1, from 5-7pm.

The City of North Charleston's Cultural Arts Department is pleased to announce concurrent solo exhibitions of mixed media and fiber works by Melissa Meverden (North Charleston, SC) and Daisy McClellan (Charleston, SC).

Rick Rubin once said, "The act of creation is an attempt to enter a mysterious realm. A longing to transcend. What we create allows us to share glimpses of an inner landscape, one that is beyond our understanding. Art is our portal to the unseen world." Inspired by this quote, local artist Melissa Meverden presents *My Heart is a Forest*, an exhibition of mixed media and fiber works that explore nature and intuition.

"When I reflect on what the mysterious realm of creativity looks like, I imagine a primeval forest - full of changing light, meandering paths, and layers of rich color and texture," Meverden explains. "The works featured in this exhibition serve as artifacts from journeys into that dense



Work by Daisy McClellan

inner landscape."

Meverden came to visual arts as a calligraphy student in her 30s. She was always crafty as a child but identified as a journalist, creative writer, and public

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