

# Editorial COMMENTARY

by Tom Starland, Editor and Publisher

## Paying Tribute to Our Queen

Being Queen of the *Carolina Arts*' Facebook Page isn't just a hollow award of so called bragging rights. Good thing, as our current Queen, Kristi Ryba of Charleston, SC, doesn't brag about her accomplishments. Most of the time I learn about her accomplishments second hand. But, being our Queen comes with perks - not the kind you can take to the bank, but the kind others wished they had use of for sure.

And, let me remind some of how she got that crown. A work by Ryba was featured on our July 2017 cover of *Carolina Arts*. It received 7,524 views during that month - thousands more than our previous Queen, Wan Marsh of Charlotte, NC, who received several thousands more views than any other cover in our history. We'll never forget our first Queen.

Ryba's cover wasn't our most popular cover, several months later, our Nov. 2017 cover received 9,223 views that month, but the cover featured a group of works by a group of Seagrove, NC, potters - both men and women potters. We didn't want Kings and Queens battling to try and find out whose work was the most popular - which would be impossible to find out anyway - so we stuck with individual works by an artist who receives the most works to become Queen or King.

There have been a few covers that looked like they would put up a challenge, but they faded in a week or so. So for now, Kristi Ryba is our Queen.

So what is this all about? Well, on Page 10, we're running a full page ad promoting the first print Ryba is offering of one of her works, much like the work that was on our cover. If you got the bucks, you can own the original, but if not, she has two oppor-

tunities for less expensive ownership.

I'm giving you a warning that now is the time to start collecting works by this rising art star. Ryba recently won a Southern Prize and State Fellowship award from South Arts based in Atlanta, GA, was one of the top awards at ArtFields in Lake City, SC, and her work has been featured in the 701 CCA Biennial in Columbia, SC.

Strike now before her works rise above your pay grade. Long live our Queen!

## Hard Questions

Every month I get asked some hard question that are mostly answered with hard answers.

Like speaking of covers, I get asked, "Why that work?" meaning why not my work or work they like. I usually tell them it's complicated, having to do with: exhibits, timing, covering regions, etc., but mostly we have to pick from works presented to us each month - meeting all those factors. If it was just up to me, you'd be seeing a lot of abstract works on our cover.

People, mostly artists, ask why they don't see more articles from the areas they live? First off, those galleries have to send us notice of those exhibits and send them on time. We hear a lot from artists in Raleigh, Durham, Chapel Hill, Columbia, Beaufort, Greensboro, Rock Hill, all over the Carolinas. We also hear from artists in Savannah and Augusta, which don't seem to understand the meaning of our name - *Carolina Arts*. The worst is explaining to an artist who thought the gallery presenting their exhibit was sending us info, but they didn't.

Artists also ask us a lot why we didn't include the info they sent us about a reception; about bringing some new work to a

[continued on Page 11](#)

## Gibbes Museum of Art in Charleston, SC, Features Works by Manning Williams

The Gibbes Museum of Art in Charleston, SC, is presenting *Manning Williams: Reinventing Narrative Painting*, on view in the Museum's Gallery 8, through Apr. 18, 2021.

Williams's paintings are rooted in the history, traditions, and terrain of the South Carolina Lowcountry. A Charleston native and lifelong resident, Williams (American, 1939—2012) earned degrees from the College of Charleston and the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts. His highly personal approach to realist painting emphasized storytelling and was fueled by an interest in portraying subjects that he found on the periphery of the city and along the barrier islands. Western subjects also commanded Williams's attention, and during the later years of his career his concern with narrative was expressed in a more abstract style. *Reinventing Narrative Painting* features thirty paintings from Williams's prolific career that spanned more than forty years.



"Sunday in the Marsh", 1987, By Manning Williams (American, 1939-2012); Acrylic and charcoal on paper; 51 x 75 inches; Gibbes Museum of Art; 2005.001.0003

This exhibition is sponsored by BlueCross BlueShield, Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Foundation, *The Post & Courier*, Jane Smith Turner Foundation, Anson Restaurant, Law Office of



"Oyster Roast", 1985-86, By Manning Williams (American, 1939-2012); Oil on canvas; 50 x 96 1/4 inches; Courtesy of the Charleston County Aviation Authority

Kathryn M. Cockrill, LLC, The Gable Foundation-Carl and Sally Gable, Anne and Ben Moise, Anne Gilmore Simms Pincus, David and Carol Rawle, Dora Ann and James J. Reaves Jr., and Evans and Frances Townsend.

Explore the exhibition *Manning Williams: Reinventing Narrative Painting* with Executive Director of the Ohr-O'Keefe Museum of Art in Biloxi, MS, David Houston. This tour will be streamed through Facebook Live @theGibbesMuseum and is free and open to the public. Use this link (<https://m.facebook.com/theGibbesmuseum/>) to join the tour.



"Rice Fields", 1985-86, By Manning Williams (American, 1939-2012); Oil on canvas; 71 1/4 x 142 1/2 inches; Courtesy of the Charleston County Aviation Authority

Home to the Carolina Art Association, established in 1858, the Gibbes Museum of Art is recognized among the oldest arts organizations in the United States. Housing

[continued on Page 6](#)

Don't forget about our website:

[www.carolinaarts.com](http://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](#)

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[info@carolinaarts.com](mailto:info@carolinaarts.com)

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[Table of Contents](#)