

# Editorial COMMENTARY

by Tom Starland, Editor and Publisher

## Coming From A Small Town in SC

I have noticed over the years that in SC, sometimes it pays to come from a small town or stay in a small town. Artists living in small towns can be a big fish in a small pond. Small towns usually have an old bank or school building that can be converted into an arts center. And, sometimes being associated with a small town can get you a historical highway marker telling people driving by that a famous artist once lived in this town. Such is the case for Dr. Leo Franklin Twiggs, who was lucky to be born in the town of St. Stephens, in Berkeley County, SC.

Dr. Twiggs has been on sort of a roll lately having been recently inducted into the South Carolina Hall of Fame, in 2017 he received his second Verner Award and the Order of the Palmetto, but on Feb. 15, 2020, he was honored with an official Day of Celebration as a native son of St. Stephens.

Most people might think Dr. Twiggs was from Orangeburg, SC, since he lives there and was a Professor of Art at South Carolina State University, from 1973 - 1998. He developed the Art Department there and was the Director of the I.P. Stanback Museum. Twiggs was named Professor Emeritus in 2000. Most people would associate him with Orangeburg. But, he was born in 1934 in St. Stephen, SC.

Dr. Twiggs is probably best known presently for his series "Requiem for Mother Emanuel". This series of batik painting was made in response to the racially-motivated murders of nine parishioners at the Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal church in Charleston, SC. Within weeks of the shooting, Twiggs began creating art to process the profound pain he experienced in response to the event but also his feelings of hope as he witnessed a unifying response. In 2016, he completed a series of nine batik paintings entitled "Requiem for Mother Emanuel"



Henry Horowitz, Immediate Past Chair of the Board of the SC Arts Commission (L), Dr. Leo Franklin Twiggs (C), and SC Governor Henry McMaster (R). Photo taken at the ceremony where Twiggs received the Order of the Palmetto, the state's highest civilian honor and his second Elizabeth O'Neill Verner Governor's Award for Lifetime Achievement in the Arts from the South Carolina Arts Commission in 2017.

that honors the nine men and women who perished. Painting by painting, Twiggs' series captures the progression of emotions from terror and pain, to grace and unity that surrounded the tragic event. Twiggs says his series of paintings are a testimony to the nine who were slain but explains that the works also represent "the one shining moment people came together not because of the color of their skin but because of the humanness in their heart."

### We've Been Hacked !

The good news is *Carolina Arts* is seeing enough traffic to attract a hacker to set up malware to divert people looking for *Carolina Arts* in search engines to go to a place selling "boner pills" instead of us. Thanks to a good friend who came across this and mentioned it to us, we contacted our server and between them and Linda, we got that cleared up so you can go back to searching for art news and find us again.

## Charleston Artist Guild in Charleston, SC, Offers Works by Kathy Watson

The Charleston Artist Guild in Charleston, SC, will present *My Photographic Journey*, featuring a unique collection of images by Kathy Watson, on view in the Guild Gallery, from Mar. 1 - 31, 2020. A reception will be held on Mar. 6, from 5-8pm.

*My Photographic Journey* includes macro photography, landscapes, and architecture from New Jersey and New York, as well as landscapes and wildlife from South Carolina. Watson's exhibit includes both color and black and white (sepia tone) images.

Watson, a native of New Jersey, started her photographic journey in the darkroom using black and white film. Later she moved on to digital photography. Her images depict different photographic styles. While in New Jersey, she received several Merit Awards, Honorable Mention awards, and a Best In Photography award in several different art galleries.

In 2018, Watson and her husband retired to South Carolina. Her love of photography continues to grow here. They enjoy exploring new places to capture the beauty of the landscapes and wildlife in the Lowcountry.

Sales made help support the Guild's non-profit community outreach programs.

The CAG was founded well over half a century ago by a small group of artists who wanted to network with other artists, reach out to the community with impactful volunteer projects and display their own work. Today the CAG has emerged as a vital non-profit organization of more than 600 members who enrich the community in countless ways with limitless beauty and inspiration. Our mission remains largely the same and you'll find CAG



Work by Kathy Watson artists all over town exhibiting their work, teaching art classes and sharing their talents by volunteering in outreach projects. The CAG offers a diverse selection of volunteer opportunities that include outreach efforts and engaging programs for children, Alzheimer's patients, high school seniors and younger school children. We're pleased to make a difference by sharing art and fostering the magic art brings to many.

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings, call Steve Jacobs at 843/722-2454 or visit ([www.charlestonartistguild.com](http://www.charlestonartistguild.com)).

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

## LINDA FANTUZZO: *Penumbra*



**City Gallery at Waterfront Park**  
34 Prioleau Street, Charleston, SC

January 18 - March 1, 2020

Hours: Tue - Fri 11 am - 6 pm, Sat - Sun 12 pm - 5 pm, Closed Mon

Phone: 843-958-6484

[www.citygalleryatwaterfrontpark.com](http://www.citygalleryatwaterfrontpark.com)

[WWW.LINDAFANTUZZO.COM](http://WWW.LINDAFANTUZZO.COM)

How do you get your exhibit mentioned in Carolina Arts?  
You can contact us by calling 843/693-1306 or by e-mail at - [info@carolinaarts.com](mailto:info@carolinaarts.com)  
but do it before the 24th of the month prior to our next issue.