

Editorial COMMENTARY

by Tom Starland, Editor and Publisher

One Of Our Friends, Upstairs Artspace, Is In Need

One of our friends in the Carolina Visual Art community is hurting and needs your help. They had a flood and it did more damage than they were insured for. The gallery has served the Upstate South Carolina and Western North Carolina area and its artists for over 40 years. They have shown work by many of the best artists in the region, some for the first time, and now they need your help. Give them a call or send an e-mail and ask them how you can help - write a check, donate some artwork, whatever you can, so we can get back to telling you about the next great exhibit they are presenting. They are not asking for your help, but I will for them. Read about how they are on the mend.



After The Flood...upstairs [artspace] in Tryon, NC, Is On The Mend...

We hope you have been wondering what is happening at upstairs [artspace], Tryon, NC's oldest art gallery.



We've been closed for renovations since September 2021 because water pipes broke and flooded the entire three-level gallery, causing more than \$100,000 worth of damage. We hope to reopen this June or July.

As if the COVID pandemic was not bad enough! Thank goodness we had insurance, even though it will not cover the cost of the entire renovation.

"It has been a most difficult time," Board of Trustees Treasurer Patti Trobaugh said. "We thought being closed because of the pandemic was a problem. What we are calling 'The Great Flood' made matters so much worse. But there's a light at the end of the tunnel, and with a lot more hard work and a little luck, we once again exhibit the finest contemporary art to be found locally and regionally."

As you can see from the photos there was a great deal of water damage to the floors and walls. The entire kitchen is being replaced, as well as much of the hardwood floors. The problem started after a Saturday night reception: After everyone went home, pipes leading to the hot water heater broke, and the water ran freely until it was discovered on Tuesday. Extensive damage was done on the main top level and the lower gallery. Actually, water made its way to the basement.

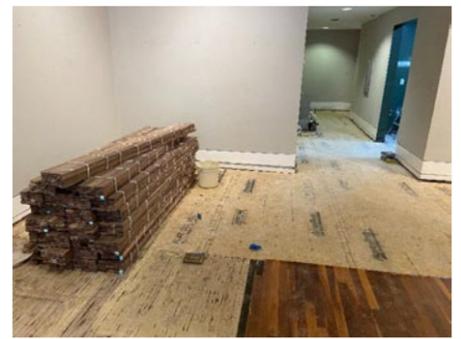
continued above on next column to the right

ered on Tuesday. Extensive damage was done on the main top level and the lower gallery. Actually, water made its way to the basement.

"Because we were closed for so long and had employee turnover, we are having to rebuild some of our processes, such as the website, social media, donor management, even our telephone services," Trobaugh said. "We ask that the public and our patrons be patient as we re-establish these routine office and management systems. As we continue toward reopening, we'll keep everyone updated."

The Mission Statement is: upstairs [artspace] is a nonprofit 501(c)3 organization with a mission to develop understanding and appreciation of contemporary art and craft forms through exhibitions, programs, and educational activities that enrich the cultural life of the region.

How to Reach Us...



New Website (work in progress)... (UpstairsArtspace.org); Telephone... 828/859-2828 (If we don't answer, please leave a message.) E-mail... to (frontdesk@upstairsartspace.org) Office Hours... Most afternoons, Monday through Thursday (We have one part-time manager for now.) Just Got To Reach Us Now... Patti Trobaugh at 843/290-4402 or Steve Wong 86/316-6559.

Looking for info on the next juried art show in the Carolinas, an opportunity to show & sell your work at the next festival taking place in the Carolinas or do you want to know who the new director of an art museum in the Carolinas is - just check out our Blog, "Carolina Arts News" at (<https://carolinaartsnews.wordpress.com/>).



Bethany Fields, *Tangled*, Pastel on Paper, 10 x 8 inches



Now offering demonstrations from the comfort of your home.

May 14, 2022 - Bethany Fields via Zoom
Taking a Poor Reference in a New Direction

Become a member and join us so you won't miss out!
<https://www.pastelsocietyofsc.com/>

WELLS GALLERY



RUSSELL GORDON
MAY 21&22

MEET THE ARTIST
LIVE PAINTING
NEW WORKS

THE SANCTUARY AT KIAWAH ISLAND GOLF RESORT
1 SANCTUARY BEACH DR | KIAWAH, SC | 29455 | 843.576.1290
WWW.WELLSGALLERY.COM

Annual North Charleston Arts Fest Set for May 4-8, 2022

The 39th annual North Charleston Arts Fest is set to take place May 4-8, 2022. The celebration of arts and culture highlights the talents of regional and local artists and performers in the areas of music, dance, theatre, visual arts, and literature. Performances, activities, and exhibits take place in a variety of venues throughout the city of North Charleston with free admission for all. Residents and visitors can enjoy concerts, dance performances, comedy, art demos, kid's programs, a variety of exhibitions, an Arty Block Party, and more. Complete details about the five-day event are available at (NorthCharlestonArtsFest.com).



Arts Fest Block Party, photo by Elizabeth Courtenay



Arts Fest "Judged Art Exhibition & Competition"

Exhibit Hall A at the Charleston Area Convention Center will host the Arts Fest's *Judged Art & Photography*, *South Carolina Palmetto Hands Fine Craft*, and *Tri-County Youth Art & High School Sculpture Competitions & Exhibitions* during the entire run of the festival, May 4-8. Viewing hours are Wednesday, May 4, 6-8pm; Thursday-Saturday, May 5-7, 10am-6pm; and Sunday, May 8, noon-5pm. Award winners of the competitions will be acknowledged at 6:30pm during the Arts Fest Opening Celebration on Wednesday, May 4. The event, which takes place from 6-8pm, features food, music, and more, set among the hundreds of pieces of artwork on display. The Exhibition Encore on Sunday, May 8, from 2-5pm, serves as a closing reception, allow-

ing patrons to view the artwork in a festive atmosphere and make final decisions on purchases. In addition to a final look at the exhibits, the event offers musical entertainment, a live painting demo, and complimentary "bites and bubbles."

Other visual art highlights include a solo exhibit at Park Circle Gallery featuring mixed media works by the Arts Fest's poster design competition winner Deborah Kinard and the *16th Annual National Outdoor Sculpture Exhibition* installed at North Charleston Riverfront Park. North Charleston City Hall will display the *15th Annual African American Fiber Art Exhibition - From Chaos to Beloved Community: Envisioning Social Justice*, as well as a wearable art exhibition by California-based contemporary folk artist, Rachel D.K. Clark. Clark will present a fashion show as a supplement to her exhibition on Thursday, May 5, from 6-7:30pm, which takes place concurrently with the free public reception for the *African American Fiber Art Exhibition*.

Theatre, music, and dance offerings during this year's Arts Fest run the gamut. Concerts range from bossa nova and bluegrass to folk and funk to rock and reggae, and take place in a variety of venues, including restaurants, distilleries, libraries, chapels, and parks. A World Dance Showcase at the new performance pavilion in Oak Ter-

continued on Page 5