

Editorial COMMENTARY

by Tom Starland, Editor and Publisher

Out Lasting Summer

I guess the trick in the South is to outlast the oppressive temperature of the Summer - before you melt down. After suffering through a record hot June and I'm sure what will be a record hot July - except for a couple of cool days near the end of the month - Summer is not over. Of course some of my hot days were made bearable due to the fact that the Northern part of the country was suffering from some hot days that would seem mild to us. Just knowing some of my old friends back in Michigan were crying about the heat made me feel cool. Last time I was there in the month of August it was 70 degrees and I had to put on a light coat. They laughed, but I told them I just came from a place where it was 95 - 100 - 70 is cool compared to that.

Of course some of our discomfort was aided by the fact that the last component of our central heat and air system went on the fritz - the downstairs inside unit. We've been on a four year replacement journey and this was the last of the old system. So now we have two new outside units and two new inside units. It's been a financial drag, but hopefully this system will last for another 10 - 15 years. Which means I might be able to last that much longer. But I tell myself that after being here for 45 years I'm used to the heat - if there is such a thing. I think mentally I accept the fact that it's just going to be hot. But you definitely learn some things along the way. Walk on the shady side of the street, stay in the shade if you have to stop and talk to someone, dress lightly (I wear shorts at least 9 months of the year), wear light colors, no black hats, drink lots of water - all things that can make your life in the outside better.

Of course it helps if you have a job that's sitting at a computer inside most of the time and when you go out you might be going to a

nice cool art museum or an art gallery where they have to keep the temps cool for the art. It's for the sake of the art, but if you're looking at the art you get to enjoy the cool temps too. So, it might be a good way to beat the heat for a few hours this Summer and "Fall" - that's what they call our late Summer, and then by November we could even have an Indian Summer.

I did some of that myself last month, I finally made it up to Greenville, SC (not that other Greenville we all recently heard about) to visit the Greenville Center for Creative Arts, which has been open for about 4-5 years. I don't get to travel as much as I used to, but I'm slowly but surely getting out there more.

This Center was a great facility, you can tell it was started by two artists because it's designed and laid out with the artists in mind, not another institution. I got to see a couple of exhibits there, one involving an artist whose work I have one of in my own collection and I also got a tour of the facility. I posted a blog about it over at *Carolina Arts Unleashed*, which hasn't got much use lately, but will see more posts from me in the future. Check it out at (<http://carolinaarts.com/wordpress/?p=3339>). It's just part of the *Carolina Arts* social media network, which includes two blogs, the other being *Carolina Arts News*, which is where we post items about artists' opportunities, like calls for entries and calls for participation in outdoor shows. It also has some other info about visual art related things which we don't put in our online publication. Then there are the *Carolina Arts* Facebook page and our Twitter page. And there is my personal Facebook page which shares a lot of art related items, but also carries political posts too. Some folks don't care for the politics, but I'm more than a one trick pony. Don't get me started on Clemson and the Carolina Panthers.

Redux Contemporary Art Center in Charleston, SC, Features Works by HNin Nie & Grace Stott

The Redux Contemporary Art Center in Charleston, SC, is presenting *Me and My Girlfriend*, featuring works by HNin Nie and Grace Stott, on view through Sept. 13, 2019.

Redux's annual two-person exhibition examines the interconnectivity and parallels between the work of two distinct creative practices.



HNin Nie, "Hell Razor Manicure", plaster, polymer clay, acrylic and gouache, 2019

Me and My Girlfriend highlights the power and significance of female relationships and reveals an imaginative survey of female identity. Through their individual bodies of work, HNin Nie and Grace Stott use a cross-media approach to discuss the strength and power women possess. With references female liberation, self-defense, and companionship, the artists each approach their subject matter with a whimsical overtone, welcoming the viewer into a fantasy world dosed with a heavy hand of



Grace Stott, "Lounging Ladies", ceramic wall hanging, 2019

real-life feminist iconography.

Lipstick? Check.
Pepper spray? Check.
Claws?

HNin Nie gets targeted daily by advertisements and news stories to look flawless and to be safe. As a previous nail tech, HNin has always been inspired by her clients - from their fashion statements to their choices in nail designs. When the #MeToo movement flooded HNin's timeline, it also flooded her thoughts on daily precautions. HNin noticed that her "on hand" self-defense weapons were often unreachable, so she sculpted and is reintroducing stylish weapons on hand.

Nie is a member of the Goodyear Arts Collective in Charlotte, NC. She uses her life events as inspiration for works ranging from paintings and sculptures. Nie reveals underlying humor in failure and tragic through narratives and vibrant imagery, often for common characters like

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Negative Nancy and Flo.

Grace Stott creates layered narratives both playful and existential. Through ceramics and mixed media painting her reoccurring images and dimensional textures create a charming feminine fantasy and a disturbing hyper-reality. A surreal exploration of millennial female identity.

In conjunction with her studio practice, Stott has also organized curatorial and community projects, and is an active member of the Goodyear Arts Collective in Charlotte.

Redux Contemporary Art Center is a nonprofit organization committed to fostering creativity and the cultivation of contemporary art through diverse exhibitions, subsidized studio space for visual artists, meaningful education programs, and a multidisciplinary approach to the dialogue between artists and their audiences.

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings, call the Center at 843/722-0697 or visit (www.reduxstudios.org).

Charleston Artist Guild in Charleston, SC, Offers Group Exhibit for August

The Charleston Artist Guild in Charleston, SC, will present *Summer Love*, featuring beautiful original paintings and photography from many local artists, on view at the CAG Gallery, from Aug. 1 - 31, 2019. A reception will be held on Aug. 2, from 5-8pm.

Summer Love will include many images of our beautiful Lowcountry marshes, warm beaches, colorful sunsets, sunlit architecture, and other scenes of Summer. The paintings and photography in this exhibit capture the essence of the summer season in the Lowcountry of South Carolina.

Sales made at the gallery support the nonprofit Guild's community outreach work.

The Charleston Artist Guild (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



Work by Lynne Frasier

and you'll find CAG 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).

Looking for info on the next juried art show in the Carolinas, an opportunity to show & sell your work - just check out our Blog, "Carolina Arts News" at (<https://carolinaartsnews.wordpress.com/>).