

# Editorial COMMENTARY

by Tom Starland, Editor and Publisher

## Buy Art for Christmas

I don't know about the logic of having one day a year when people are asked to shop locally, but there is no better way to pump money into the local economy than buying art made by a Carolina artists, sold in a Carolina art gallery. And, there's no better gift you can give a loved one or yourself than original art - a gift that keeps on giving and in many cases a gift that grows in value.

Or, you could give a gift of art supplies (from a local supplier); a gift of an art class or workshop (from a local instructor); give someone an art book (from a local writer, from a local bookstore); etc. The key word is local. And, it would be especially good if you purchased any one of these things from someone who supports *Carolina Arts*.

## ArtFields® 2015 Sets New Record for Artist Submissions

A record number of artists from throughout the Southeast have submitted new work to the ArtFields® 2015 competition taking place in Lake City, SC. By the midnight (extended) deadline on Nov. 21, 2014, 1,061 artists submitted work; that's a 35% increase over previous years. A panel of art professionals will select approximately 400 competition pieces.

Why did the deadline have to be extended? In this year of 2014, many artists are still challenged when it comes to making an online entry, which isn't too different from 20-30 years ago when artists couldn't get decent slides made of their work. Perhaps universities, arts agencies and arts groups should be offering their artists free workshops on how to make online entries and images of their work?

Now that might be a decent use of the taxpayer dollars we all give them - or not. Maybe those artists are being culled from the herd by natural selection.

## On Our Cover This Month

Who Doo Dolls - who knew? I'm not even sure Susan R. Sorrell of Greenville, SC, knew what would happen when she first made a few. But, since August of this year I've kind of watched these dolls take off on Facebook. I'm not sure how far the Who Doos will go, but it's a home grown hand-made product. Check out the story on Page 30.

## Some Artists?

I see a lot of strange stuff on Facebook - I'm sure you do too. Between last month's issue and this one, I came across a post that told about a movement by artists in the UK who want to be paid for displaying their art - in art museums, especially when it came to museums that were being subsidized with public funding.

You see, they felt they deserved a cut of that public funding. Why should the museums get all that money?

To these artists I guess it wasn't enough that they were being showcased in all those exhibits, while other artists and the public had to pay admission to get to see their art. It's not enough that all the reviews are written mostly about museum shows.

It kind of reminds me of the artists who now want to get a share of the sales of their work on the secondary market, like royalties. Maybe they could get paid a certain amount for every time someone looks at one of their works? Who knows were that will stop - if it ever gets started?



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