

Editorial COMMENTARY

by Tom Starland, Editor and Publisher

PR Folks Wake From Their Holiday Nap

Well, it seems that most of the PR folks in the visual art community of the Carolinas have woken up from their deep sleep over the holiday season. It happens every year, from Thanksgiving to New Years, that the people in charge of doing publicity for the exhibitions taking place during that time either don't get the word out before the holiday hurricane hits or it takes then time to recover from the aftermath until the middle of January. In some cases it's both reasons and a few areas are still asleep, but we received a flood of releases about shows that are ongoing or about to start.

That's why I always advise artists who are going to be featured in exhibits that it won't hurt for them to push these PR folks about getting the word out - on time, or even putting the word out themselves. I never complain about getting too much info about an upcoming exhibit or notice well in advance. I do prefer to hear officially from the exhibition space, but if an artists lets me know of an upcoming exhibit and I haven't heard from the venue, I can check up on it - by deadline. They don't have to know how I know they're going to have that exhibit and most of the time they are happy to be pushed when the result is publicity.

This is good advice for the whole year. There is nothing I hate worse than hearing from an artist after we have launched an issue - "I didn't see the article about my exhibit, didn't they send you a press release?" And, the answer is usually - "No".

In some cases we can get the word out about shows that fell through the cracks in the floor, but I don't have a lot of sympathy for missed opportunities - which

we offer for free. So, the point is - artists - take some responsibility for getting the word out about your exhibits - they don't come that often to let them fall through those cracks.

The exception is - group exhibits. I don't like receiving press release about a group exhibit which only mentions the artist sending me the notice. That's not fair to all involved. So, in that case you have to bug the folks hosting the exhibit to get the full info out.

SC Governor Takes Another Swing at SC Arts Commission

SC Governor Nikki Haley says she wants to fold the SC Arts Commission into the State Museum. "Fold" that's one way of saying it, but she wants to kill the agency. I think she sees it as her one and only legacy as a one tern Republican governor. She hasn't accomplished much of anything else.

Is this a good idea? I don't think so. As usual the Gov is way off base. The SC State Museum and its board and staff are not equipped to handle the duties of the Arts Commission. A better fit is SC PRT our tourism division. Much like our neighbor to the north, that state we share a name with - as the Carolinas - the Arts Commission should be merged under PRT. North Carolina has been much more successful in developing and promoting the arts as a economic power under the umbrella of tourism.

So if the SC Governor wanted to really accomplish something worth a legacy - she should look to the north for guidance. Yes, the State Art Collection should go to the State Museum, but the Arts Commission's other functions would be much

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City of North Charleston, SC, Features Works by Members of Goose Creek Artists Guild

The City of North Charleston's Cultural Arts Department is pleased to announce that works by members of the Goose Creek Artists Guild will be on exhibit at the North Charleston City Gallery, located in the Charleston Area Convention Center, from Feb. 1 - 28, 2013. A reception for the *Goose Creek Artists Guild Annual Judged Show* will be held on Feb. 9, from 2-4pm.

The Goose Creek Artists Guild, founded in 1982, will commemorate its 30th Anniversary with its *Annual Judged Show* featuring two-dimensional works in a variety of subjects and mediums. Comprised of artists from Berkeley, Dorchester, and Charleston counties, guild members from all levels of expertise express their talents in oil, watercolor, acrylic, pastel, drawing, and mixed media. Ribbons for Best of Show as well as first, second, and third place in multiple categories have been donated by Real Art in Goose Creek and will be awarded by guest juror, Alice Grimsley.

The Goose Creek Artists Guild meets monthly for live demonstrations and



Work by Karen Gaag

business to further its purpose "to bring together a group of artists interested in self-improvement, public recognition, and the promotion of the arts in the community". For more information, contact the Guild President, Muriel Lanciault, at 843/486-6328.

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings, call the Cultural Arts Department at 843/740-5854 or visit (<http://bit.ly/culturalarts>).

Redux Contemporary Art Center in Charleston, SC, Offers Works by Lauren Kalman


Redux Contemporary Art Center in Charleston, SC, is presenting *Spectacular: Works by Lauren Kalman*, on view through Mar. 3, 2013.

Kalman focuses on the creation, documentation, and display of wearable sculpture, electronic adornments, photographs, video, and performance that critique the fashion industry's ability to sexualize the experience of pain, disfigurement, illness,

and abnormality and to promote this sexualization as a desirable aesthetic. Kalman's work recognizes such uncomfortable connections in visual culture among body image, media, class, and style.


In this exhibition, diseases like acne, cancer, herpes, and elephantiasis, or physical trauma like amputation and facial reconstruction surgery, are presented as

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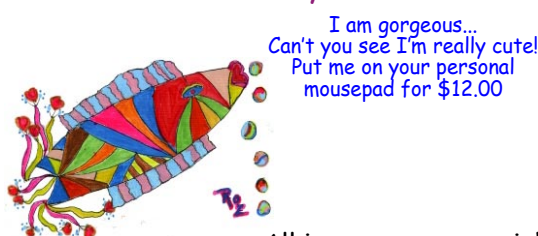


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