Editorial by Tom Starland, Editor and Publisher COMMENTARY

Gathering the Flock

When I was working on getting our calendars in ship shape condition this month - getting rid of the old info and putting in the new - I came across that title, *Gathering the Flock*, for an exhibit taking place in Wilmington, NC, this month. And I thought to myself, "That's what I'm doing every month". At times it feels like gathering a flock of cats that can fly, especially in February when we only have four days after deadline to pull an issue together. Believe me, those extra two or three days makes a big difference.

Every day the e-mail brings in articles about exhibits, photos of artwork, info about gallery listings and some bring ads that help make this publication possible. I gather them together, check them out, and sort and process them, so they can make an issue of information for you.

Sometimes I have to respond to those e-mails because the sender forgot to give the exhibit's ending date, or to identify the artist with the image of artwork, or they just forgot to say where the exhibit is taking place - oh it happens - more often than you would think. So just receiving an e-mail isn't the end of that story and some are long drawn out stories. Some are never ending.

Of course we also get lots of e-mail about all sorts of stuff that we don't need or want, but most of it I have to open just in case someone forgot to identify themselves in the subject line. You'd be surprised what I've found at times in e-mail listed as - important, no subject, or Dearest - the kind of e-mail most people just dump right off the bat, but I've found articles and ads in e-mail marked like that. After all these years I'm never surprised at what I find in a sketchy looking e-mail. So you gather the good with the bad so no one gets left out.

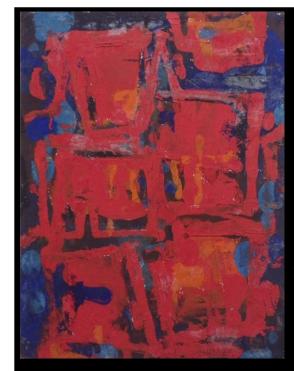
Why just the other day I helped this Prince of an African nation I had not heard of before transfer \$3 million dollars to a local bank I had not heard of, just before a military coup took place in his country and it only cost me \$500 to open the account so they could transfer the money into it. I'm waiting on the return e-mail with the account number so I can get my share out. You see it pays to open your e-mail.

Well since I borrowed the title of their exhibit, I guess I should give the gallery and the artist an extra plug: Acme Art Studios, located at 711 N. 5th Avenue in downtown Wilmington, NC, will be presenting an exhibit titled *Gathering the Flock*, bringing together four decades of ceramic sculptures by Dina Wilde-Ramsing, on view on Mar. 3, from 10am-noon and Mar. 11, from 1-3pm. Other times could be arranged by appt. For further info contact Dick Roberts at 910/232-0027, e-mail (dickdow64@gmail. com) or Angela Rowe at (arowe@ec.rr. com) or visit (www.acme-art-studios.com).

I think the interesting thing about this exhibit is that apparently people who have purchased works by this artist over the past four decades are loaning their works for this "gathering". The kind of thing that happens at major museums when they present big retrospectives by a major artist. But who's to say Acme Art Studios and Dina Wilde-Ramsing are not in the "major" category in our art world - not me. So don't take this opportunity lightly - if someone is "Gathering the Flock", you should go see it.

Health Update

Well, I'm almost recovered from my initial surgery with the wound closing up nicely and chemo treatments start Mar. 12. Not having gone through that before I'm going to hold off judgement on that for now.



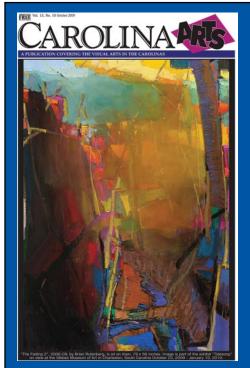
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