

# A Few Words From Down Under

continued from Page 15

all the while unacknowledged by the gallery attendant, who is usually busy on the phone or computer. Even more frustrating is being in an unattended gallery and hearing laughter or banter coming from in the stock room.

Quite the opposite occurs if the staff member knows I'm an art journalist. Then it's all smiles and 'Have a seat, would you like a cup of tea?' I am sure the same attention is given to any recognized collector who steps into the gallery. But it's not good enough. Everyone who comes through the door should be treated with equal courtesy.

I recall how once, after entering a gallery to review an exhibition, the owner gave me a warm welcome then left me to do my work while she attended to some duty in the stock room. Shortly after she disappeared three people entered the gallery. The first, a middle aged woman, did a slow walk around, examined each exhibit, then left. Perhaps she was just looking but I do wonder if she would have stayed longer, or considered a purchase, had she been greeted on entry, or if a staff member was available. Then a thirty-something couple arrived. They spent time viewing all the exhibits but returned to a certain painting more than once to discuss it quietly. He waited by the desk with catalogue in hand for a while but when no one appeared, they left. Was a sale lost or will they come back later? About forty-five minutes after my arrival, my notes completed, I left. In all that time the gallery was unattended while the owner was 'out the back'. (PS like most 'open' galleries, this one has a 'beeper' that sounds in the back room when anyone walks in the front door.)

Yes, I do understand that running a commercial gallery involves a great deal more than just sitting in a space filled with pretty pictures. I do realize it is a hectic business where the staff must juggle three different sets of paperwork for current, previous, and future shows all at once. I do know that organizing an art exhibition is difficult at best and even more vexing when deadlines are not met or when more/less exhibits than expected arrive, some still wet others damaged. Then there are the egos and insecurities to contend with at every turn, I'm talking collectors as well as artists here. Still, if the operative word is 'commercial' then the art gallery is a specialty store, a business, and as such should be run like one.

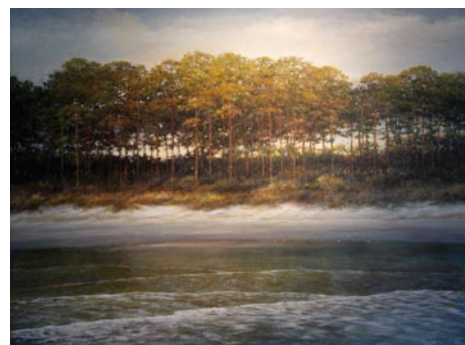
I can only assume the reason some fine art galleries don't act like a Fine Art Shop is the snob factor. They wouldn't want to be confused with retail interior decorators. But then, I know a few good decorator stores that have lasted a lot longer than many a snobby commercial art gallery.

Judith McGrath lives in Kalamunda, Western Australia, 25 minutes east of Perth. She received a BA in Fine Art and History from the University of Western Australia. McGrath lectured in Art History and Visual Literacy at various colleges around the Perth area, and was an art reviewer for *The Sunday Times* and *The Western Review* both published in the Perth area. McGrath was also a freelance writer and reviewer for various art magazines in Australia. She also co-ordinated the web site *Art Seen in Western Australia* found at (<http://pandora.nla.gov.au/tep/25381>). McGrath is currently enjoying retirement.

## Art League of Hilton Head on Hilton Head Island, SC, Features Works by Jim and Addison Palmer

The Art League of Hilton Head on Hilton Head Island, SC, will present *Generations*, featuring works by Jim and Addison Palmer, on view at Art League Gallery, from May 3 - 28, 2016. A reception will be held on May 5, from 5-7pm.

It all began with a pen and ink artist out of New York. Harry Palmer was the first artist of the Palmer family, a well-known multi-generational family of artists. Generations later, Jim and Addison Palmer are collaborating with their Art League of Hilton Head exhibition.



Work by Jim Palmer

Jim Palmer, grandson of Harry Palmer, got his first major break at the young age of 16 when President Dwight D. Eisenhower purchased his painting on exhibit at the Masters Golf Tournament in Augusta, GA. Jim Palmer moved to Hilton Head in 1965 upon finishing study at University of South Carolina and Atlanta College of Art. Before Jim's focus became the Lowcountry scenes he is so known for today, he painted mainly in the abstract.

"From an early age, I have been drawing and painting the world around me" states Addison Palmer, son of Jim Palmer, who grew up on Hilton Head Island. A Brevard



Work by Addison Palmer

College graduate, Addison works as a full time artist while teaching workshops all across the eastern seaboard, as well as at Art League Academy. In 1994, Addison moved to St. Simons Island, GA, where Jim also resides, and opened his own gallery.

Currently, Jim and Addison Palmer both enjoy painting landscapes and Lowcountry scenes. Both Palmers are in collections and homes throughout the United States and around the world. And it looks like the generations of Palmer artists will continue with Jim's granddaughter, Addison's niece, Emily Palmer. Emily is enrolled at a New York college studying art.

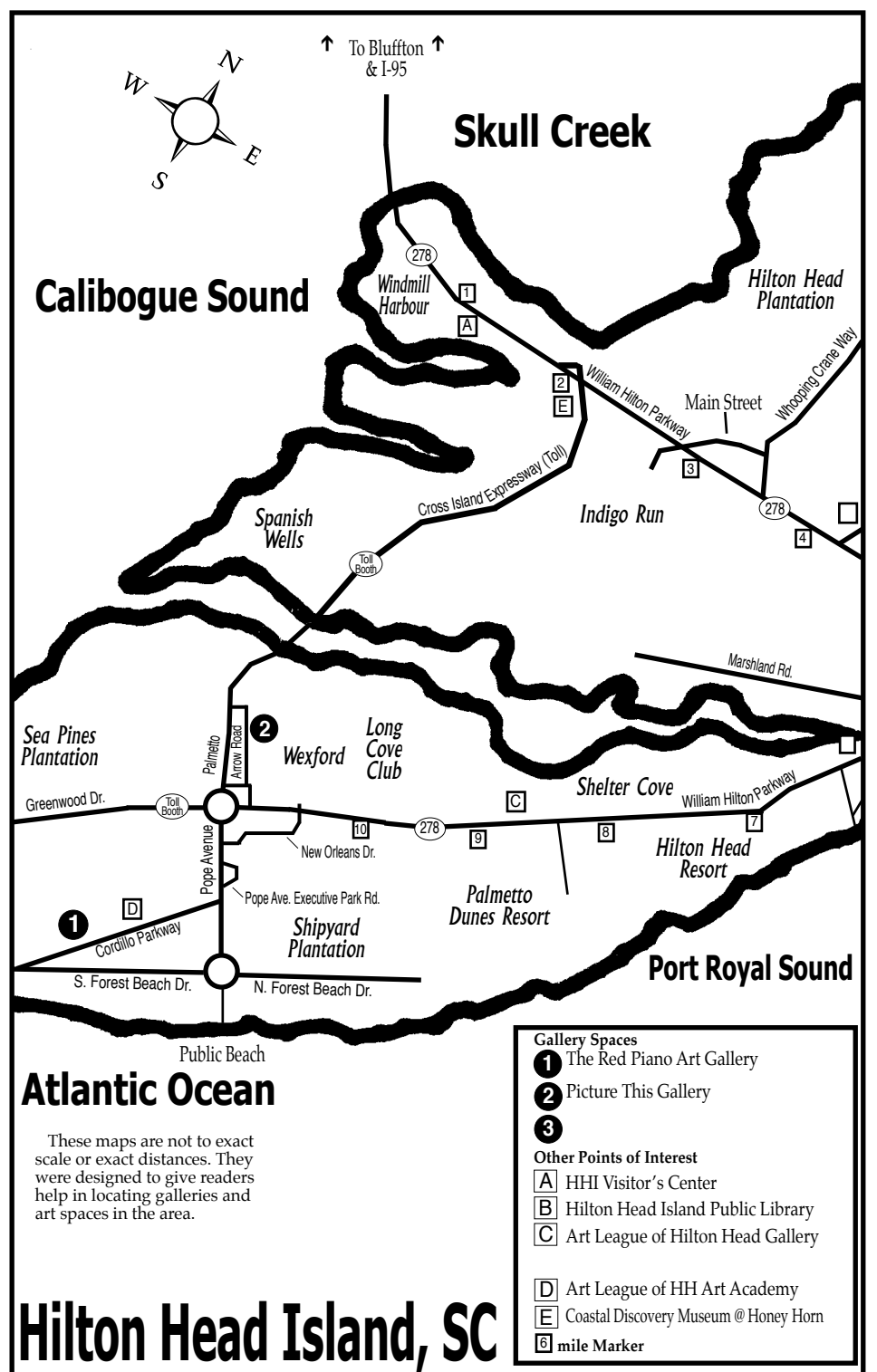
The Art League of Hilton Head Gallery is located mid-island inside the Arts Center of Coastal Carolina, on Shelter Cove Lane, on Hilton Head Island.

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings, call the League at 843.681.5060 or visit ([www.artleaguehhi.org](http://www.artleaguehhi.org)).

The deadline each month to submit articles, photos and ads is the 24th of the month prior to the next issue. This will be May 24th for the June 2016 issue and June 24 for the July 2016 issue.

After that, it's too late unless your exhibit runs into the next month. But don't wait for the last minute - send your info now.

And where do you send that info?  
E-mail to ([info@carolinaarts.com](mailto:info@carolinaarts.com)).



## Coastal Discovery Museum on Hilton Head Island, SC, Features Annual Photography Exhibition

The Coastal Discovery Museum on Hilton Head Island, SC, will present *Low Country Through the Lens*, the 7th Annual exhibition of the Camera Club of Hilton Head Island, on view from May 5 through June 29, 2016. A reception will be held on May 11, from 5-7pm.

The exhibit will contain over 80 images showcasing the artistic talents of some of the 150 members of the club. The exhibit will also feature work by students of the Hilton Head Island High School Visual Arts program who were recent winners of the Kurtzberg Awards, which are presented annually by the club.

A People's Choice Award Program for the best photos in the show will be conducted. Those visiting the exhibit can vote for their favorite photo along with a \$1 per vote donation. Ribbons will be awarded and funds will be used to support the Kurtzberg high school youth competition award program.

Experts from the club will present "Gallery Talks" at the Museum on six Saturdays during the exhibit. These talks are free and open to the public, starting at 10:30am and ending at noon.

Themes for the talks are:  
May 7 - Tips for the Traveling Photographer - Donna Varner



Work by Fran Hubbell

May 21 - Easy Tricks for Better Pics - Tom Calanni

June 4 - How to Take That Memorable Photo - Ed Funk

June 11 - Macro Photography - Jean-Marie Cote

June 18 - Exploring the New Windows 10 Photo App - Jack Wilfore

June 25 - Approaches to Wildlife Photography in the Lowcountry - Eric Horan

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings, call the Museum at 843/689-6767 ext. 224 or visit ([www.coastaldiscovery.org](http://www.coastaldiscovery.org)).

## 8th Annual Hilton Head (SC) Art Festival at Shelter Cove Harbour - May 28-29

The 8th Annual Hilton Head Island Art Festival takes place at Shelter Cove Harbour & Marina, Hilton Head Island, SC, where 100 of the finest artists and crafters will converge for a two-day juried outdoor gallery style art exhibit. Enjoy a wide variety of original artwork and affordable crafts

and register to win the free Art Giveaway, Saturday, May 28 and Sunday, May 29, from 10am to 5pm

The eclectic displays representing diverse styles and artistic media will feature fine art exhibits that will include paintings,

continued on Page 17