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## Rick Rhoads Photography

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tographs have been exhibited at Piccolo Spoleto and the Hill Gallery at the College of Charleston. She received the Redux Contemporary Art Center's Award for Photography in 2011, and was awarded the President's Choice Award for Photography at the College of Charleston's *Salon des Refuses* in 2010 and 2012. She is currently working towards her MFA at the University of Notre Dame.

For further information check our SC Commercial Gallery listings, call the gallery at 843/766-7425 or visit ([www.rickrhoadsphotography.com](http://www.rickrhoadsphotography.com)).



Work by Megan Coyle

## Editorial Commentary

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proaches and details of venues and events crystalize, they will be posted on our website ([www.glassinthemountains.com](http://www.glassinthemountains.com)).

CowParade, the world's largest public art exhibit, has come to the Triangle area in NC with CowParade North Carolina 2012. Presented by Wells Fargo for the benefit of NC Children's Hospital, 80+ cows, hand-painted by local artists, are on parade across greater Raleigh, Durham, and Chapel Hill through Dec. 7, 2012. The cows will then be collected and stored until the CowParade NC Gala Auction on Jan. 26, 2013, where the best of the exhibition cows will be auctioned live to the highest bidder, with proceeds benefiting NC Children's Hospital. For further information about CowParade North Carolina visit ([www.cowparadenc.com](http://www.cowparadenc.com)).

### My Willard Hirsch Story

When I first came to Charleston, SC, in 1974, I came planning to be a fine art photographer. My first jobs in the area were selling cameras in various retail outlets. One of those jobs was at Howard R. Jacobs, a local camera store and photo processor located in South Windermere - West of the Ashley.

I was the new guy working with several longtime employees manning the front counter when one day an elderly man started walking toward the front door. Instantly, every employee, but me, vanished into the back room.

This man was Willard Hirsch who had a reputation with employees at Jacobs as being a cranky old man who could never be satisfied. He looked at me (he didn't know me) and started asking through a list of employees to see if someone could help him. I guess I wouldn't do. When I went to the back they all refused to come out saying

he was my customer now. I guess I was being hazed. There were several more special customers that became mine.

Mr. Hirsch (that's what I called him long after we had established a relationship) was a little cranky, but after I learned his problem - I didn't blame him. He was frustrated in trying to photograph his sculptures and no one seemed to be able to help him.

Long story short - I became his personal photographer for a time - making him very happy. In fact, I found him to be a sweet old guy that was great to be around. He had some great stories about Charleston's art community, and I loved visiting his studio.

He was just another artist frustrated about trying to get good photographs of his artwork - a common problem for many artists to this day. All it took was the right equipment and some know-how. All he wanted was decent photos of his work.

I've been very lucky to have known some of Charleston's great artists like Mr. Hirsch, William Halsey and Corrie McCallum. But, I'm still frustrated today because many artists still don't know how to get good photos of their work. It's one of the cornerstones of being a successful artist and yet to this day it prevents many artists from getting in juried shows, getting decent publicity and having good records of the works they have created.

It's a problem I think should be handled by State arts agencies and local arts councils. It's a service they should be providing to their members at least several times a year. Free workshops should be offered to show artists how to photograph their work. But, that's a soapbox for another day. And that day will come soon.

Go see the exhibit, *Willard Hirsch: Charleston's Sculptor*, on view at the Gibbes Museum of Art in Charleston, SC, from Sept. 21 through Dec. 30, 2012.

**CARL PLANSKY**  
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