

Editorial COMMENTARY

by Tom Starland, Editor and Publisher

On Our Cover This Month

On our cover this month is the work by Henryk Fantazos. It's part of his exhibition *Magic Dixie: The Art of Henryk Fantazos*, on view at Red Springs Artspace in Red Springs, NC, from May 11 through June 11, 2025. A reception will be held on May 11, from 2-4pm. This solo art exhibition of Fantazos features 48 paintings and 35 intaglios. When Henryk Fantazos immigrated to America in the late 1970s, he had already earned a master's degree from the Fine Arts Academy of Krakow in his native Poland. He wound up in North Carolina, which has been equally beneficial for him and us. The recurring themes of his paintings, as he puts it, are "wandering, social grotesque, commedia dell-arte and circus, and love of the South." Read about his exhibition on Page 31.

Don't Forget The North Charleston Arts Fest Is Still Going On

Enough said - check the gallery listings.

Second Chances Are Always Good

The Redux Contemporary Arts Center in Charleston, SC, is presenting *Karen Vournakis: Retrospective*, on view through May 17, 2025.

In January of 2024, we lost a dear friend and Redux Studio Artist, Karen Vournakis. Redux is honored to partner with her family to host a retrospective of her work.

Vournakis's work was ever-evolving. Starting as a painter, she moved to print-making before turning to photography as her primary medium in the early 70s with the gift of a Nikon from her husband, John. In 1995, she and John moved to Charleston

and she opened a studio/gallery on King Street.

I remember the first time I met Karen. Her studio was tucked in just off of King Street, almost at the intersection of Broad Street. I walked in the door to drop off some copies of our newly renamed publication *Carolina Arts*. No one was there. In those cases I usually waited until someone showed themselves so they didn't have to worry that someone walked in and ripped them off and left. As time passed, I got a little antsy as I had places to be and miles to go. Soon a door opened and Karen stuck her head out saying, "Sorry, I was working in my darkroom." My first reaction was, "Can I see?". Linda and I were in the darkroom business for 16 years before we started an arts publication and I missed it. The smell was like being in heaven. By the late 1990s, darkrooms were a thing of the past. From that point on I knew we would be kindred spirits.

When I finally heard about Karen's passing it was too late to pay our respects. That's kind of normal in the art community - once a person in the art community dies they become almost invisible, unless that artist is a household name, and there are not many of them. So, this is kind of a second chance to pay your respects and see Karen's work in this exhibition.

This is kind of my way of saying good bye and hoping Karen is enjoying that big darkroom in the sky - where you never run out of ready-made chemicals or photo paper, and no one walks through the door and turns the lights on.

What, No Craft Fairs Again?

For the second year in a row, the Piccolo Spoleto Festival will not be offering a [continued on Page 10](#)

Annual Piccolo Spoleto Outdoor Art Exhibition Takes Place in Charleston, SC - May 23 - June 7, 2025

The 45th Annual Piccolo Spoleto Outdoor Art Exhibition, takes place in Marion Square in historic downtown Charleston, SC, from May 23 through June 7, 2025, from 10am to 5pm daily.

Marion Square, at the intersection of Meeting, King and Calhoun Streets, is transformed into a beautiful open-air market as some of the finest and most creative local artists exhibit and sell their work. You can view original oils, pastels, watercolors, acrylics, encaustics, photography and more. Visitors have a unique opportunity to watch daily painting demonstrations and to personally connect with the artists who are on site for the exhibition's duration.



View of previous Outdoor Exhibition

The 2025 participants include: Sabine Avcalade Susie Barrett, Lu Bentley, Elaine Berlin, Chris Bilton, Sherry Browne, KC Collins, Carl M. Crawford, Christine Crosby, Tom A. Curtis, Nancy Davidson, Jeleata Nicole, Lauchlan Davis Sky, Alice Ann Dobbin, Morgan East, Dennis Fulbright, Alvin B. Glen, Floyd Gordon, Stephanie Shuler Hamlet, Joyce Harvey, Scott Henderson, Katherine Hester, Peggy Howe, Emil Hristov, Courtney Hunt, Cynthia Huston, Steven Hyatt, Daniel Ja-



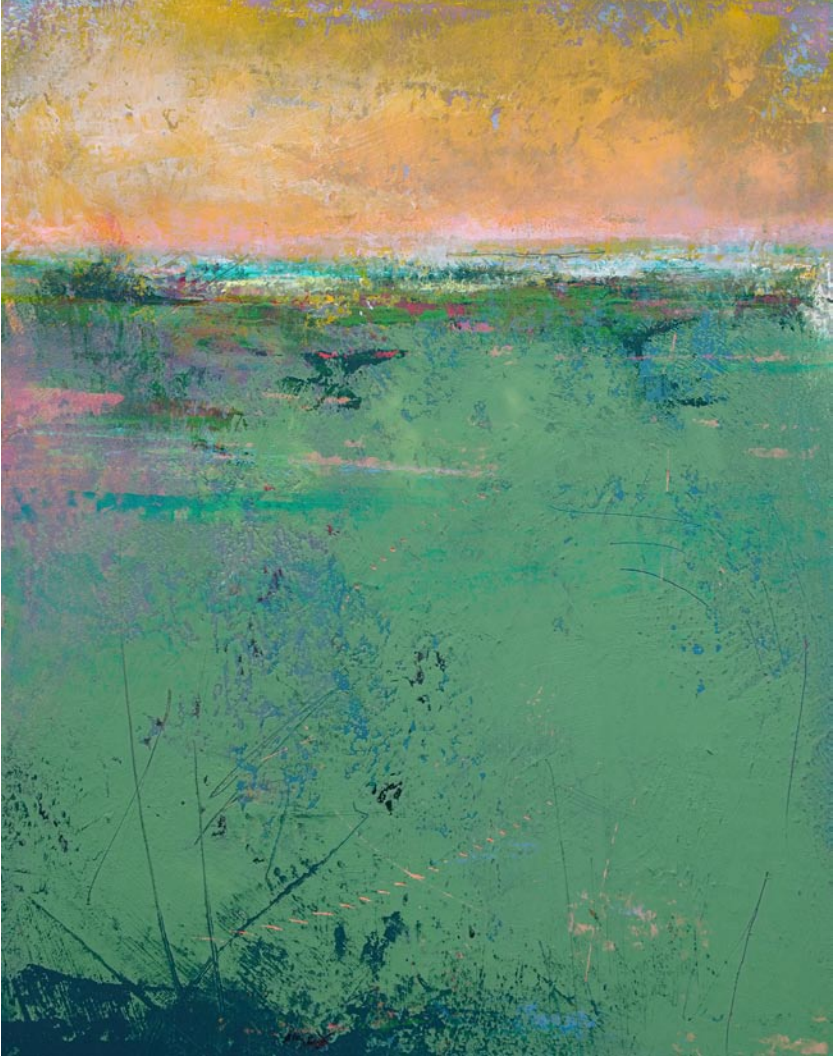
Work by Robert Maniscalco

cobs, Kellie Jacobs, Carla Johannesmeyer, Monnie Johnson, Ivo Kerssemakers, Daryl Knox, Madison Latimer, Setsuko Lawson, Gerardo Leccese, Gaston Locklear, Helli Luck, Robert Maniscalco, Valentina Messina, John Michiels, Dianne Munkittrick, Tate Nation, Patrick Reid O'Brien, Maryann Palmgren, Scott Penegar, Sandra W. Roper, Sheryl Stalnaker, Daniel Strickland, John Walters, Amelia Whaley, Colleen Weissmann, and Cat Wondergem.

Focusing primarily on artists of the Southeast region, Piccolo Spoleto is the perfect complement to the international scope of Spoleto Festival USA, its parent festival, and its 700 events in 17 days transforms Charleston into an exhilarating celebration of performing, literary and visual arts.

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings, contact the City of Charleston Office of Cultural Affairs by calling 843/724-7305 or visit (piccolospoleto.com).

Emerald Reverie
giclée on stretched canvas
30 x 40 in.



VICTORIA PRIMICIAS

PrimiArt.com

Park Circle Community Building in North Charleston, SC, Features Works by Morgan Serreno East

The Park Circle Community Building in North Charleston, SC, will present *NOCTURNE*, a new exhibition of works by Morgan Serreno East, on view May 16 & May 17, 2025.

North Charleston-based artist Morgan Serreno East premieres *NOCTURNE*, a two-day exhibition at the Park Circle Community Building. The show explores how humans seek refuge in nature through the lens of underwater, monochromatic dreamscapes. A reception will be held on May 16, from 6-8pm, with the exhibition also open for viewing on May 17, from 11am-3pm. Guests are encouraged to wear black, white, or anything in between to Friday night's opening - a subtle nod to the show's monochromatic roots. Saturday's open gallery hours offer a more casual viewing experience with no dress code required. For more information about the event and to RSVP, visit (<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/nocturne-tickets-1313009409489?aff=oddtcreator>).

Inspired by the power of black and white imagery, this new body of work is painted entirely with titanium white, ivory black, and mars black pigments. As the artist explains, "There's something undeniably beautiful and nostalgic about an image distilled to pure black and white... the absence of distraction allows the composition to speak for itself."

NOCTURNE also features select works



Work by Morgan Serreno East

in color, old and new, that continue East's exploration of water as both subject and symbol. "Humans continually seek comfort and healing in nature," East writes in her artist statement. "Water has always served as a central theme in my work - its quiet gentleness and immense power mirror the balance we seek in our daily lives."

This project is funded in part by the South Carolina Arts Commission which receives support from the National Endowment for the Arts. This project is also funded in part by a generous award from the John and Susan Bennett Memorial Arts Fund of The Coastal Community Foundation of South Carolina.

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings, call 843/740-5854, or visit (<https://culturalarts.northcharleston.org/>).

Charleston Artist Guild in Charleston, SC, Offers Works by Dr. Nancy DeMore

The Charleston Artist Guild in Charleston, SC, will present *Blooming Expressions: A Dance of Color*, a stunning series of both large and small paintings by Dr.

Nancy DeMore, on view in the Guild Gallery, from May 1 - 31, 2025. A reception will be held on May 2, 2025, from 5-8pm, [continued on Page 6](#)