

Editorial

COMMENTARY

by Tom Starland, Editor and Publisher

On Our Cover This Month

On our cover this month is the work by sculptor Bob Doster. Unlike Waldo, it shouldn’t take any effort to be able to spot a sculpture by Bob Doster of Lancaster, SC, anywhere and everywhere in the Carolinas. My suggestion is to start at your local school. My first sighting was at Bonner Elementary in Berkeley County when we first took our son to school - many, many years ago. There outside the school’s office were two stainless steel benches - just like the ones scattered throughout downtown Lancaster. They were early-on creations, unlike today’s unique sculptures made from school children’s “hand” cutouts of stainless steel - like eagles, panthers, horses, unicorns, and chameleons. If Bonner Elementary commissioned a sculpture by Doster today, they might get a large jumping fox out front of the school. Like the sculpture shown here at Howe Hall Elementary in Goose Creek, SC, in Berkeley County.

The children take part by tracing their hands on to sheets of stainless steel, and then they cut them out with a plasma cutter, with the guidance of Doster. The children even sometimes help with coming up with designs. It has got to be an amazing experience for the children, and when the final sculpture is delivered and installed, the children can search for their hands in the sculpture. You can read more about Bob Doster and his sculptures and his impact on both North and South Carolina and beyond on Page 17.

I wish we would have had a Bob Doster come to my elementary school back in Michigan. Back then we were lucky to have an art teacher visit, maybe once a month or so, and show us how to make things out of popsicle sticks or straws - like some of the projects they used to make on the *Captain*



This very large chameleon is perched outside of Howe Hall Elementary in Goose Creek, SC. It's the school's mascot. It's made up of “hand” cutouts of stainless steel of students at the school, cut with the help of Bob Doster, which he then assembles later in his workshop.

*Kangaroo* show, with Bunny and Mr. Green Jeans.

Attention Artists - They’re Coming For You

In early May the Trump administration cut millions of dollars from the NEA’s budget (National Endowment for the Arts) leaving many arts organizations, artists, and workers scrambling. So yes, Mr. artists and Mrs. artists and all you in between - first they attacked the lawyers, then the media, then the universities, and now it’s the artists by taking away your grant money. So now you have some skin in the game, but it’s not

[continued on Page 9](#)

City of North Charleston, SC

continued from Page 3

Arts Department is pleased to announce concurrent exhibitions of mixed media works by Madeline Dukes (North Charleston, SC) and Connie Rigdon (Charleston, SC).

North Charleston-based artist Madeline Dukes takes viewers on a visual tour of indoor and outdoor beauty found throughout the southeastern region of the United States in her exhibit *Flora, Fauna, Sunshine, Water*. Atmospheric nuances in the various terrain, light, and temperature are emphasized to showcase the beauty of the incredible yet subtle differences in our environments. While many of the paintings are based on daily plant life, some are inspired by the vistas and colors of the southern landscape. “This series is an homage to the unhomogenized regions within our environment and an emphatic ode to those differences,” Dukes explains.



Work by Connie Rigdon

Dukes studied studio art and political science at Winthrop University. Her work has been selected for several juried group and solo shows at museums and cultural centers in North and South Carolina, including the Etheredge Center gallery at University of South Carolina-Aiken, *Piccolo Spoleto Outdoor Juried Art Exhibition*, Southeast-Page 4 - Carolina Arts, June 2025



Work by Madeline Dukes

ern Wildlife Exposition, the Spartanburg Museum of Art, Lincoln County Museum, Sumter Museum of Art, McElvey Center, Mooresville Art Center, Pickens County Museum, the Rauch Gallery at Gaston College, and a traveling show with the South Carolina State Museum.

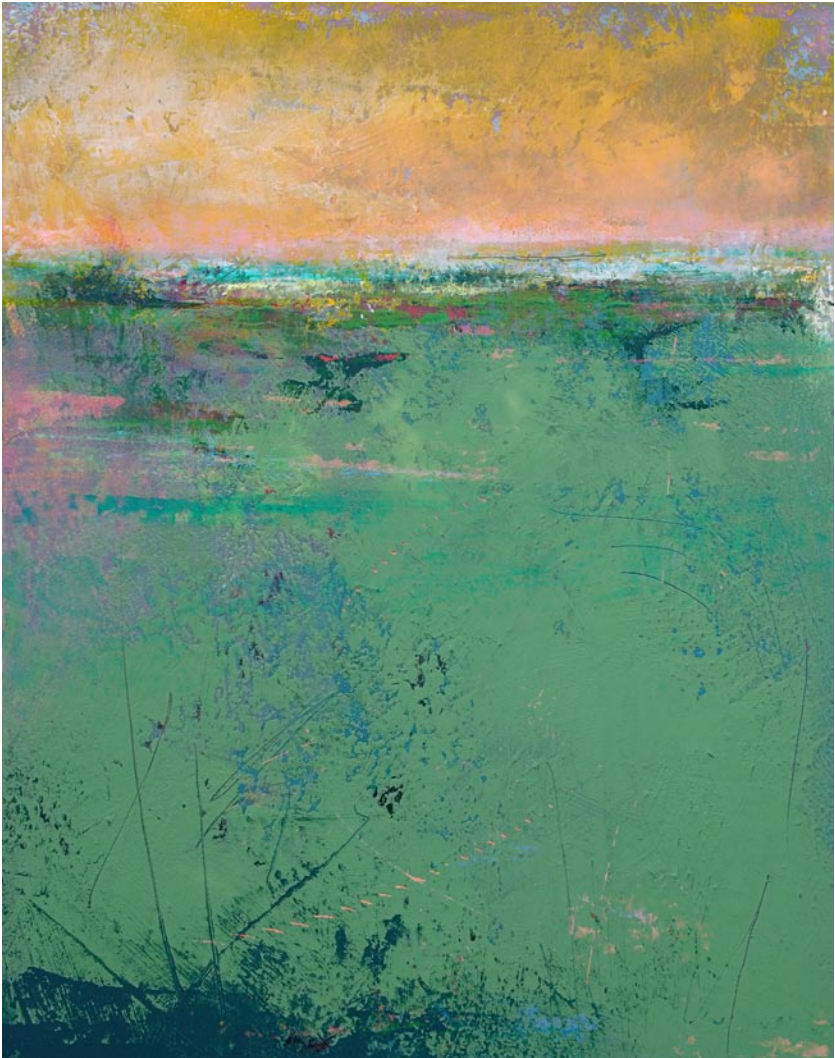
Dukes’ work has also been featured in Fine Art Connoisseur and can be found in private and corporate collections throughout the US including the ACE Hotel in New Orleans, LA.

In her exhibit, *Pangaea: Unity and Wholeness*, Charleston-based abstract expressionist Connie Rigdon presents a collection of mixed media works in oil, acrylic, and cold wax to express her attempt to find calm and order within our fragmented artificial world. Rigdon hopes that the viewer can connect with the natural rhythms of the complexity beneath and the calmness that keeps our world and our psyches in balance. “It is my goal to invoke a feeling for the viewer,” Rigdon states. “When it does, I have succeeded.”

Rigdon was born in Taipei, Taiwan, raised in Hawaii, Southern California, and Taipei, and now lives and works in

[continued above on next column to the right](#)

*Emerald Reverie*  
giclée on stretched canvas  
30 x 40 in.



VICTORIA  
PRIMICIAS

PrimiArt.com

Charleston. Originally an architect, she has translated her love of the Art of architecture and years of problem-solving skills into her contemporary works, bringing about a perfect union of her two passions. Her evolution from architecture to pure abstraction was inevitable in that the Art of architecture was always her true inspiration.

Rigdon’s work today is that perfect blend of the influence of the man-made and natural environment’s effect on how she expresses her feelings on canvas. Rigdon is currently represented by Hagan Fine Art (Charleston, SC), Presson Art Gallery (Monroe, NC), The Campbell Collective (online gallery based in Greenville, SC),

and Saatchi Art (online).

The Park Circle Gallery is located on Jenkins Avenue in North Charleston. Admission is free and free street parking is available on Jenkins Avenue in front of the gallery, as well as on the adjacent streets and in parking lots close by.

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings, call the gallery at 843/637-3565 or e-mail (culturalarts@northcharleston.org). For information on other Cultural Arts programs and artist opportunities, visit the Cultural Arts Department section of the City’s website at (<https://culturalarts.northcharleston.org>).

Magnolia Plantation and Gardens in Charleston, SC, Features LEGO® Works by Sean Kenney

Magnolia Plantation and Gardens in Charleston, SC, is presenting *Sean Kenney’s Nature POP!® Exhibit*, on view through Aug. 15, 2025.



Colorful Bunny sculptures by Sean Kenney

This highly anticipated, awe-inspiring exhibit will feature more than 40 larger-than-life sculptures made entirely of LEGO® bricks, celebrating the beauty of nature through a playful pop-art lens and inviting guests of all ages to marvel at gravity-defying creations like a majestic fox in brilliant colors and lively birds captured mid-flight.

Each sculpture not only dazzles the eye



Dragonfly sculpture by Sean Kenney

but also sparks curiosity about the interconnectedness of our natural world. As you wander through the gardens, you’ll discover how these stunning pieces highlight the delicate balance of ecosystems and the bonds between species, all while enjoying interactive content that deepens your understanding of nature.

Join us daily from 9am to 5pm for this unforgettable experience! This exhibit is included with daily garden admission, so gather your family and friends for a day of art, science, and inspiration in the heart of

[continued on Page 7](#)