

Editorial COMMENTARY

by Tom Starland, Editor and Publisher

ArtFields

Starting Oct. 30, 2013, you can register online for the 2014 ArtFields Competition and Exhibition in Lake City, SC. The 2014 ArtFields Competition and Exhibition takes place in Lake City from Apr. 25 through May 4, 2014.

Whether you're an established or emerging artist, you can submit your artwork to the 2014 ArtFields Art Competition for a chance to win part of \$100,000 in total cash prizes! The Call for Submissions will open Oct. 30 and will close Dec. 13, 2013 at (<http://www.artfieldssc.org/artists/how-it-works/>). That link will be closed until Oct. 30.

One big change from last year is that the People's Choice award of \$25,000 will now be split into two categories: \$12,500 – People's Choice 2-Dimensional and \$12,500 – People's Choice 3-Dimensional.

Each of the People's Choice awards is determined by visitors' votes throughout the ten-day artfest. Visitors will register in Lake City, and vote for their favorite entries during ArtFields. Visitors may only vote once per entry.

For further info visit (www.artfieldssc.org) and read, print it out, and read again.

You Don't Have To Go Home Again

It has been said that you can never go home - after you have left. I wouldn't know, I've never had a desire to return, other than for a short visit, after I came south to South Carolina in the fall of 1974.

It was a bit of a cultural shock to say the least, but in a good way.

I had worked for a time in one of Michigan's auto factories and didn't want to do that for the rest of my life. The money was good but my brain wasn't being taxed very

much.

During the two years before I decided to leave I was involved in the wrong end of a gas station holdup - just for visiting a friend who worked there. It was children who held a shotgun and rusty knives in our faces as we gave them all we had. As we looked in their faces we saw their brothers - with whom we had gone to high school. The police officer asked us if the gun was loaded? We responded - WTF did that matter?

On another late evening I was driving home from work at a restaurant when I stopped for a red light. I just happen to look over at the driver in the car that pulled up next to my car to see he was raising a gun - pointed at me. I ran the red light.

These were the days of the oil embargo and the auto factories were laying off many workers who were used to living large and the money wasn't coming in like it used to. Crime was on the rise.

It wasn't the crime and violence that drove me away from Michigan - that had been part of my environment for a long time. We had race riots in my high school. It was a woman who eventually caused me to look for greener pastures, but that's a story for another day.

I've been in the greater Charleston, SC, area for almost 40 years and what's been interesting is the fact that I keep running into folks in the Carolina art community who were also from Michigan. We're fellow expatriated Wolverines who have vowed to never suffer from being snow blind again. We all ended up here for one reason or another, but I never expected to be an editor of an arts newspaper covering the visual arts in North and South Carolina preparing an article about an artist from Saginaw, MI, my home town, showing at a gallery in Conway, SC.

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But that's what's happened this month, and in some ways I'm not surprised. The Michigan connection has been high in the last year.

So you see - you don't have to go home again - home will come find you.

P.S. - I've given you enough clues. If you want to know the who, what, where - read the paper or at least check the index.

Facebook or NSA?

I'm old enough to remember a day when we thought our ways of communicating were private. We didn't think that when we left a letter in our mailbox that the mailman took it home and read it and acted on anything he learned in the letter before he sent it along to the address posted. We didn't feel that operators at the phone company were listening in on our conversations and acting on what was said - at least after "party" lines no longer existed.

Oh yes, maybe Mr. Hoover's G-men were intercepting some of those communications, but we didn't have the feeling that all forms of communicating were subject to "Big Brother's" inspection as we do today.

And now we have the ever-changing Facebook. A free service where you can write messages, post photos, videos, play music, talk in code or use symbols to express ourselves. Who sees all this stuff? Your "friends"?

Well now Facebook is telling us that by continuing to use this free service we have agreed to allow them to collect all this content and use it for whatever they want to make money and they can let anyone see what you are posting "friend" or not. Or is that what they are saying - who knows, but like they say - nothing is free. Recently Wordpress has notified me that readers of my "free" blog with them - *Carolina Arts News* - might start seeing ads on my posts. Hey, if I could figure out how to put ads on that site - I'd do it.

In some ways none of this bothers me. I'm not going to be doing anything I shouldn't that I don't want anyone to see or know about. The main objective of our business and job is to distribute informa-

tion. I like us to get credit for what we do but I don't mind if people take it and spread it around - that's what we do - spread info around. And, we encourage people to spread our info around. But, I'm concerned that artists are going to stop posting images of their work on Facebook, or allowing us to do that, if they think Facebook will sell it to be used in ads or for whatever. And without images Facebook is a pretty boring medium for spreading info.

But, most of the time Facebook users are their worst enemy, by spreading rumors and false fixes that are meant to stop the changes being offered. Unless you read what the changes are or go to a trusted source - you'll never know what's going on.

If Facebook is the great medium many people think it is for spreading info and I'm still not sure it is, but without an alternative - I'd rather pay a monthly fee to know exactly what I'm getting. Of course then I'd have to pay someone to tell me how to use what I'm getting. It's a no win situation for those of us who just can't seem to get a handle on all this tech stuff.

I have friends who think Facebook and Google are the government collecting everything about you anyway. And why shouldn't we think that these days?

My dream is for somebody like Apple to come up with an alternative, but without a fee - they'll be looking for ways to make money too.

The real problem is that some people think that you can get something for free, but nothing is totally free. We are not free as Americans - we never have been. There are all kinds of responsibilities attached to our citizenship. And while we're still free to voice our opinions - I'll say that what Facebook has been doing is crap. Not about the changes, but by not offering good tech service and good info about how to use their product. But we all agreed to it.

I'm going to keep using it as long as the "price" isn't too costly, but I want them to know - at some point I'm going to walk away and not feed them anymore. Of course that doesn't solve the problem of who owns the content I've posted there for years.

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CURTIS R. HARLEY ART GALLERY



BODO BERHEIDE Between image and language

October 4 - November 1, 2013
Lecture / Reception - October 10, 4:30 p.m.

The USC Upstate Visual Arts Program includes Bachelor of Arts programs in:

Art Studio (graphic
design emphasis)
Art Education
Art History (minor)

Harley Gallery:

The Gallery, located on the
first floor of the Humanities
& Performing Arts Center, is
free and open to the public
from 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Mon.-Fri.

To learn more:

Visit uscupstate.edu
(Search the A to Z index for Gallery)

Find us on Facebook
(Search Curtis R. Harley Art Gallery)

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