

Editorial COMMENTARY

by Tom Starland, Editor and Publisher

On Our Cover

On our cover are images by Charles Williams, from his exhibition, *Put Your Hands Where My Eyes Can See*, on view in the Elizabeth Dunlap Patrick Gallery at Withrop University in Rock Hill, SC, through Nov. 11, 2016. An artist talk and gallery walk-through is scheduled for Oct. 20, at 7pm.

I hope you find them hard to look at. I know I did. I've been noticing Williams' images on my Facebook page during the last year. They're the kind of images that are hard to scroll past without thinking - I can't imagine ever being in that situation. Not because I know to respect authority, but because I'm a white man.

I love it when artists have something to say in their work.

Too Much or Not Enough

This month while working on the exhibit listings - my favorite job - I ran into the usual problem of mining for information on the internet about exhibits taking place in the Carolinas. The websites were either too fancy with more whistles and bangs than a Shriner's parade or hardly any info at all.

My biggest disappointments this month came from colleges and universities in the Carolinas - many who teach media arts. And, are full of tech-savvy students. Now I don't expect professors who are my age or those who are just one year from that illusive tenured position to know how to build a website or keep it updated, but some of their students should.

This month I was checking websites to see if there was any info about exhibits there and some provided articles you'll be seeing in this issue. But most haven't changed in three years or more. And can you imagine

some colleges and universities don't even have a site for their art departments?

I don't know what kind of education an art student is getting if they know nothing about social media these days.

Now in the defense of these folks running these art departments, especially the gallery directors, I've heard the stories that they are not paid much, have too many hours in the classroom, not enough student help, or my favorite - their parking space is just too far from the media lab on campus. That's right - that's one of the excuses I got from a gallery director about five years ago. It's a good thing they are no longer on staff at that university.

Now I'm not buying any of the excuses for not doing a decent job in publicizing the exhibitions presented at their institutions. Most of the institutions claim that the purpose behind exhibits are - yes for student education, but also for the community. But the community has to know about these exhibits first before they can enjoy them.

And the real shame is that many of these exhibits being offered at colleges and universities (not all) are some of the best exhibits being offered in their respective communities. So the fact that the public doesn't know about them is a real shame.

Of course, there are probably some trustees who are glad the public doesn't know what their institution is presenting, but that's a subject for another day.

It might be just my thinking, but I feel that those institutions who seem to be challenged when it comes to publicizing their exhibitions are probably short-changing their art students on being educated on the world of social media and how to promote their work to the public.

Yes, yes, yes - there are a few artists who at some point in their career who will have

continued on Page 15

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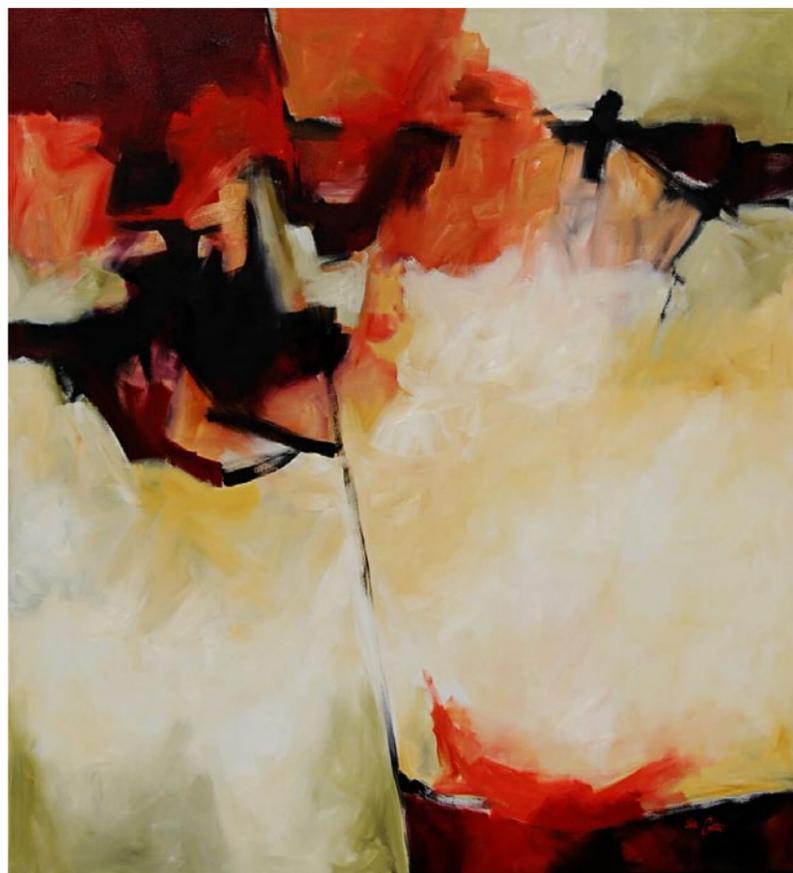
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