

# Editorial COMMENTARY

by Tom Starland, Editor and Publisher

## On Our Cover This Month

On our cover this month is a work by Mary Walker, from the exhibit, *Mary's Wonderland*, which will be on view at the Corrigan Gallery LLC in Charleston, SC, from Oct. 4 - 31, 2023. A reception will be held on Oct. 6, from 5-8pm. The images are from the book, "Scenes from Alice in Wonderland", created by Walker, that will be available at the gallery and Buxton Books in Charleston. It is an edition of 150 which includes 27 images with an original print. Walker is one of Charleston's few fine art printmakers, something which she has been doing for a long time. She helped start the organization, Print Studio South, which eventually led to the creation of the Redux Contemporary Arts Center - which dates us both.

You can read all about the exhibit on Page 6 of this issue. Better yet, go see it.

## The Sweet Smell of Fall

Well, we made it to October after the long hot Summer. It's amazing how a drop in maybe 8 to 10 degrees in the daily temps can feel so much better. That's the South for you. Folks from the Midlands, Piedmont, and Coastal areas of the Carolinas will be heading to the mountains to see if the leaves will still put on a show after such a hot Summer. Of course they might take in a few art events during their journey in search of color. If you can't find any color outside, then look inside in a gallery.

## Frustration Time - Time To Blow Off Some Steam

Remember the Who, What, Where, When, and Why - the five Ws of communicating. Well, I think a lot of you have forgotten about them or never knew about

them to begin with. Unfortunately this is meant for the people who won't read my commentary, much less read our publication. This is for the folks who Hit & Run on social media - mainly Facebook and those who use Constant Contact as a catch all for marketing. The people who post but are not expecting any response, other than a thumbs up or a heart.

My frustration comes from seeing a post which only promotes an exhibit and its reception date, which is only part of the story they should be telling. If an exhibition is only going to be up or on view during those couple of hours on that certain day - they are doing a good job promoting a reception or maybe not. But more work needs to be done.

When I see an interesting image of an artwork posted, the first thing I want to know is who the artist is. Then, if it was made by a living or dead artist. Next is whether the work is part of an exhibition of works by this one artist or a group of artists - where it can be seen in person, when, and how long the opportunity to see it will last. Next, do I have to pay to see it or is that free? And then way down the line I might be curious as to how big the work is, what medium it is, and how much would it cost to make it mine. Other concerns would include how far away the venue is from me, if there is parking (free or paid) available nearby, and maybe if there is somewhere nearby where I might get a bite to eat. You could also throw in the fact that an overnight stay might be involved.

Of course I'm assuming that the work is for sale or someone wants you to pay them to see it. Otherwise why is it being posted on social media or why is someone sending me an e-mail about it?

If your intent was to see something included in *Carolina Arts*, you're going to need more than a photo and a reception date.

## Charleston County Public Library

continued from Page 3

fantasy", merging art with the natural world. Each painting contains a certain symbolic meaning. Her paintings, while contemporary and often non-conformist, are also influenced by classic literature and art.

While visiting South Carolina, she was charmed by the beauty of its nature and found inspiration everywhere: majestic mountains, enchanting forests, flowers and gifts from the garden often became a subject matter for her paintings. After permanently

relocating to South Carolina from the NY metropolitan area, she became an actively exhibiting member of the Waccamaw Arts & Crafts Guild, the Charleston Artist Guild and the Seacoast Artist Guild.

Presently she resides in Conway, SC, with her husband and their little cat Lina.

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings, call the Library at 843/805-6946 or visit ([www.ccpl.org](http://www.ccpl.org)).

## Charleston Artist Guild in Charleston, SC, Offers Works by Valentina Messina

The Charleston Artist Guild in Charleston, SC, will present *It's a Mouse's Life*, an exhibition featuring a collection of paintings by Valentina Messina, on view in the Guild Gallery, from Oct. 1 - 31, 2023. A reception will be held on Oct. 6, from 5-8pm.

Valentina Messina loves painting landscapes, but also loves to find beauty in small things and small animals, even small rodents, that in this series she painted on old handwritten paper found in an antique store in Italy.

Messina was born and raised in Italy and has always loved brushes and color, but growing up had less and less time to express her creativity. One day she realized the urge to create was so strong that she started taking painting lessons.

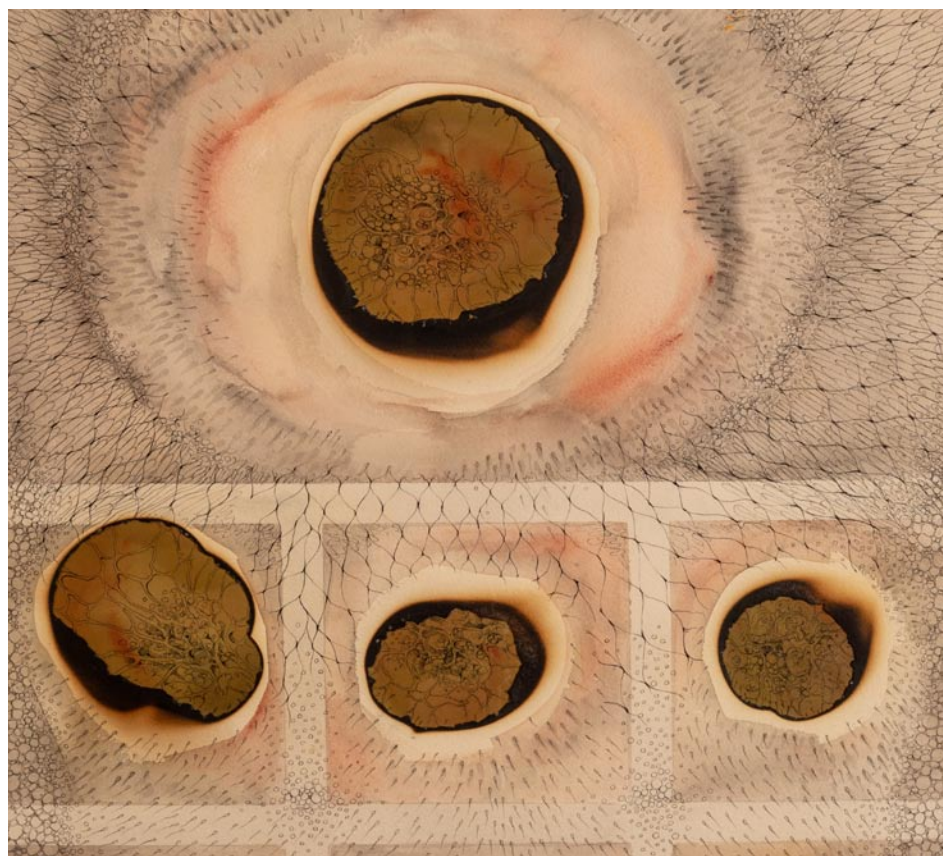
Ten years ago, visiting Charleston as a tourist, Messina was immediately struck by its large and vibrant artistic community, but would never have imagined that one day she would be part of it. Exactly one year after her first visit to Charleston, something



Work by Valentina Messina

really unexpected happened: she won the green card lottery and moved to the USA with her family.

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings or call the Guild at 843/722-2425.



## AS GOOD AS GOLD: 50 YEARS OF THE MFA AT CLEMSON

Clemson MFA Program 50th Anniversary Art Exhibitions

### PART I

Sept. 6–Oct. 31  
M–Th, 9 a.m.–4:30 p.m.  
Reception  
F, Sept. 29, 5–7 p.m.

Lee Gallery

### PART II

Sept. 6–Oct. 31  
M–F 1–5 p.m.  
Reception  
Th, Sept. 28, 5:30–6:30 p.m.

Brooks Center for Performing Arts–Lobby Area

### PART III

Jan. 26–Mar. 8  
M–Th, 9 a.m.–4:30 p.m.  
Reception  
F, Jan. 26, 5–7 p.m.

Lee Gallery



## Whimsy Joy® by Roz

Therapeutic Expressions for All Ages



Bentley's Wagon



Ellie's Apple Tree and Bird



Ava's Roses

- Images are available on:
- Prints
  - T Shirts
  - Aprons
  - Calendars
  - Children's Paint Smocks
  - Notecards
  - Decals
  - Stickers
  - Mousepads

Check my website for new whimsies!

All images are copyrighted

Rosalyn Kramer Monat-Haller M.Ed., LLC

Counseling for Children, Adolescents, & Adults  
Licensed Independent Social Worker - CP

Mother, Grandmother, Daughter, Friend, Psychotherapist  
and Artist who uses color and whimsical imagination  
to create joyful art for children of all ages

[www.whimsyjoy.com](http://www.whimsyjoy.com)

843.873.6935 • 843.810.1245

The deadline each month to submit articles, photos and ads is the 24th of the month prior to the next issue. This will be Oct. 24th for the November 2023 issue and Nov. 24 for the December 2023 issue. After that, it's too late unless your exhibit runs into the next month.

But don't wait for the last minute - send your info now.  
And where do you send that info? E-mail to ([info@carolinaarts.com](mailto:info@carolinaarts.com)).