

Editorial COMMENTARY

by Tom Starland, Editor and Publisher

If It's November?

If it's November, it's probably time to vote. Most of you probably didn't know this, but Nov. 5, is an election day - mostly for municipal offices - mayors, council members and maybe dog catcher, which I don't understand why everyone always says - "They couldn't get elected dog catcher!" Did we ever elect dog catchers? Or is it the true meaning of that phrase - since dog catchers are not elected it's an even worse burn saying someone couldn't get elected to an office we don't even elect people to. We Americans say a lot of things that don't seem to have much meaning in them, but we all seem to understand what the person who says them means, like "Make America Great Again". First you'd have to think America isn't that great any more and if that's true, why is everyone around the world trying to get here?

And, they say, "All Politics is Local". What does that mean? I think it should be, "All Politics is Loco". But they are right about this one. Your life is more affected by who is mayor of your city, who sits on your county council or on the school board. Local elections are important. So, get out and vote on Nov. 4 and make a difference.

The Holidays Are Upon Us

The month of November is always an active month in the visual art community as folks try and get people to buy original, hand-made art for holiday gift giving. First comes the Greenville, SC, Open Studio Tour, the Mother of all studio tours in SC, held on Nov. 9 & 10, 2019. Then comes Vista Lights in Columbia, SC, it is a kickoff of the Christmas season in the midlands of SC. It takes place Nov. 21, from 5-9pm. Up in Spartanburg, SC, the West Main Artists Co-op (Artists Collective Spartanburg) will open

their studios up on Nov. 21, from 5-9pm, part of their *Open Door* exhibit. And then there is the Celebration of Seagrove Potters in Seagrove, NC. It is a gathering of more potters than I can count on all my fingers and toes (and there is another pottery Festival, the 38th annual Seagrove Pottery Festival, which takes place in Seagrove at the same time). And these are just the folks who advertise with us - you'll find many more events included in this issue, but you'll have to find that info on your own. And, don't forget about the commercial galleries who advertise with us - they make this possible.

All these artists and gallery owners are hoping you'll spend your holiday budget and more by buying their creations. Now I'm not suggesting you buy an expensive painting for a seven year old (although it might be a great investment), I don't want the children of the Carolinas hating me, but you could buy that child a special Christmas ornament. I'm talking about the adults in your life and the number one person you should buy a special gift for - you. That's right, you deserve something special. And, they say the economy has never been better. Well, one person is saying that, but he exaggerates.

Instead of that bread maker, foot massager, or that soda maker you saw in a commercial on TV, think about getting that person a piece of pottery, hand-blown glass, limited edition print, or hand-dyed scarf. There are lots of types of art that can be purchased in the same range as the latest gadget. But, if you're one of the 1% who has really made out big in this economy - you should be thinking big when it comes to your art purchase - investment grade art - the kind that will be sold at auction decades after you have left this earth. Imagine what that person will be thinking of you when they hear - "sold for \$1.2 million!" But think of the smile you'll see when they open your gift this holiday season. Think about that.

Corrigan Gallery in Charleston, SC, Features Works by John Hull and Ed Wordeck

Corrigan Gallery in Charleston, SC, will present *West of the Fields*, featuring paintings by John Hull and photographs by Ed Wordeck, on view from Nov. 1 - 30, 2019. A reception will be held on Nov. 1, from 5-8pm. This is Wordeck's first time showing in Charleston with his friend of four decades.

John Hull, when asked about this show said, "I've known Ed for the better part of 40 years. We met in Baltimore and were young artists together in that city for a number of years. Since that time, we've moved several times with Ed ending up in Chadd's Ford, PA, and myself in Charleston. We've stayed in touch throughout maintaining a friendship, examining and considering each other's work."

"The common bond we share as artists comes from a commitment to a sense of place and man's intrusion into the landscape," adds Hull. "These are always American pictures and while neither the paintings nor photographs in this exhibition can be considered pure landscapes, it is the landscape that defines both the artist and the work."

"People come and go in my paintings suggested by fortune or misfortune and while Ed's photographs don't include people, the residue of human beings is constantly on display. I've always had a sense, in Ed's photographs, that there was someone always waiting in the wings. Ultimately, the work in this exhibition displays an attachment to natural and material phenomena where both the stubborn peculiarity of the place as well as the stubborn expression of human beings reside together," says Hull.

The Spanish poet, Jorge Guillen, wrote "The landscape imagines me." "Having spent most of my life making paintings I can only say, 'Me too.' I suspect Ed's response would not be much different."



Work by John Hull

Ed Wordeck's response was "I think (John's statement) captures our intent." These are artists of few words leaving the work to speak for them as the landscape influences them.

Hull's paintings glow with the energy of the conversations and tensions portrayed in the works. Wordeck's photographs are startling in contrast as classic frozen moments where all humans have walked away leaving evidence but no breath. Perhaps Hull's pieces suggest where Wordeck's past inhabitants have ended up.

Hull is from New Haven, CT. He teaches at the College of Charleston where he formerly was the chair of the Studio Art department. He has also taught at Yale where he received a BA in 1977 and an MFA from the University of Illinois in 1981. He has been exhibiting ever since with exhibitions country wide. His work is in collections such as the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Denver Art Museum, the Israel Museum, the New Museum of Contemporary Art, Greenville County Art Museum, the Edwin A. Ulrich Museum and the Yale University Art Gallery. He has received four National Endowment for the Arts Visual Artists Fellowships.

Wordeck is from Baltimore, MD. He *continued above on next column to the right*

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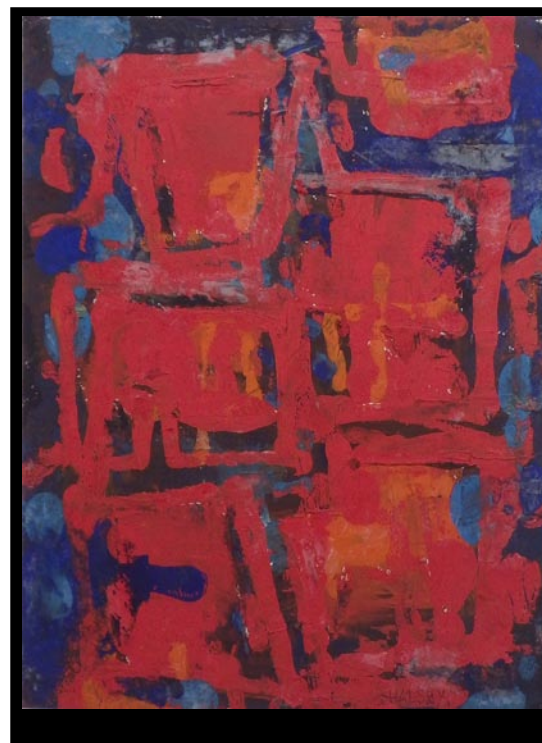
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holds a BA from Washington College including a semester at Warwick University Coventry, England. His MFA in studio art was earned at the University of Maryland. Before entering graduate school he worked as a social worker working with children suffering from abuse, neglect, and medical issues. He taught as a photography professor for 40 years. During this time, he served several times as chair of the studio art and art history department. From 1996-1999 he was a teaching fellow and faculty member at Yale. He has exhibited widely and his work is included in numerous collections including the Baltimore Museum of Art. His books include *Foundations in Fertile Soil* and *In the Valley of the Shadow*.

Corrigan Gallery represents Charleston contemporary artists, artists of the Charleston Renaissance and second market pieces of significance. A sampling of the works can



Work by Ed Wordeck

be found online. Artworks of merit can be seen 6 days a week and feature shows are mounted 6-8 times a year. The gallery is in the historic district of Charleston.

For further information check our SC Commercial Gallery listings, call the gallery at 843/722-9868 or visit www.corrigan-gallery.com.

You can contact us by calling 843/693-1306 or by e-mail at - info@carolinaarts.com
but do it before the 24th of the month prior to our next issue
to be included in our December 2019 issue.