

Editorial COMMENTARY

by Tom Starland, Editor and Publisher

Be An Artful Santa This Year

Every year in our December issue I use my commentary to put in a plug for people to use art in their gift giving. No more than now, during this Pandemic, does the visual art community need you to be an artful Santa. Artists, art galleries, art centers, art museums, art organizations and art publications have taken it on the nose and their bottom lines during this Pandemic. There are few and far between receptions, art walks, arts festivals, craft fairs, or people filling their eyes with art during this time, which means less opportunities to get that feeling of - "I have to take this home with me". It's a magical thing.

Of course, many in the Carolina visual art community have switched to an online existence, and some have opened in a limited capacity, but it's not the same as a one on one experience. But, like everything else, we all have to make adjustments to this new reality. The adventurous can still do some shopping in person, but for those who feel safer at home, they can still do their shopping online. And, I'm not talking Amazon or Walmart. Most artists have a website, galleries have websites and ways to shop online, institutions have websites, organizations have websites - heck we even have a website. Like Oprah might say, "We all got websites!" Our Gallery listings are full of websites and Google can find the website of any artist who has one.

The options are endless. Tired of wearing that surgical mask everyday - fiber artists are offering creative masks to show off your individuality. It's going to get cooler, even in the Carolinas, so who couldn't use a new hand-woven scarf? Are you finding it harder to get up every morning while drinking a gallon of hot

Joe? OK, that's my only Biden reference this month. Potters all over North and South Carolina are just taking their latest mug creations out of the kiln. If you know someone who needs more than a cup of coffee to get them out of bed, get them a face jug to wake up to. I've got a couple next to my bed that pop my eyes open for good if I see them when my eyes first open.

Craft artists have many creative ways to make tree ornaments which every year, when taking it out of the box, will always remind the receiver of the special person who gave it to them.

For those with deeper pockets who have been saving by not going out to their favorite restaurant and ordering that \$50 bottle of wine and putting that big smile on your wait person's face with that larger than life tip - you can make artists and a gallery smile by giving an original painting or sculpture to your nephew or niece who hasn't gotten to live on campus this year. Give one something to put a smile on their face who is getting tired of looking at the four walls of their bedroom that now acts as class room, dorm room, party room, and everything else they can't have right now. Or, you could give them an online art class to break up their day. The possibilities are endless. It works for all relatives.

But above all, don't forget to give yourself some artful joy during the holidays. You deserve it and you certainly have been good by getting all your loved ones, friends and co-workers all those artful gifts. So, don't forget yourself.

Get yourself that Jon Gnagy art kit you always wanted (they still make them). It's never too late to start. So your parents wanted a Doctor or Lawyer in the family,

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Redux Contemporary Art Center in Charleston, SC, Features Works by Morgan Kinne

Redux Contemporary Art Center in Charleston, SC, will present *True North*, featuring works by Morgan Kinne, on view in the Center's Main Gallery, from Dec. 4 through Jan. 30, 2021. A reception will be held on Dec. 4, from 5-7pm. An Artist Talk will be offered on Jan. 21, beginning at 6:30pm.

This exhibition presents a body of work created by Morgan Kinne, using the house as the 'North Star' of metaphors.

Buildings naturally speak of contrasts, of opening and closing, revealing and concealing. They penetrate deep into the imagination and stimulate mystery, poetry, beauty and play. Stories lie in the history, labor and structural intelligence of the built environment. Even in its finished form, it bears the imprint of the people who have built it. We leave traces of ourselves every day, in everything we encounter. These traces offer clues to our identity. Even the smallest impression holds within it the creation of place, memory and history.

Driven by a deep curiosity for people and culture Kinne's work develops as layered objects built up through a repetitive process. She looks for universals to find parallels between different cultural narratives, abstracting the environment to examine the perceived and experienced contexts we find ourselves in, and works in juxtapositions - using both found and fabricated materials, precious and non-precious, manipulating traditional processes to expose the beauty in dirt alongside the crudeness of refinement.

With a background in sculpture, Kinne's process is tactile, expressive and experimental. While the work may be unmistakably Charleston, its roots can be translated anywhere - history and culture is evident in the built walls of a town.



Work by Morgan Kinne

Wandering the streets, among the homes, she sees relationships between geography and culture, people and objects.

Kinne is the recipient of the Coastal Community Foundation's Gryffith-Reyburn Lowcountry Artist of the Year Award 2020, that supports the creation of a new work that represents unique aspects of the Lowcountry's lifestyle, culture and environment. Her work is often recognizable, approachable and in some ways, beautiful. But it is also a challenge. With the award winning piece, she hopes to engage the community with all aspects of Charleston life - the beauty of course, but also more uncomfortable themes like rising waters, inequity and irresponsible development - addressing a wide spectrum of Lowcountry life, aesthetics and history.

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www.carolinaarts.com



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Also don't forget about our two blogs:
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Pastel Society
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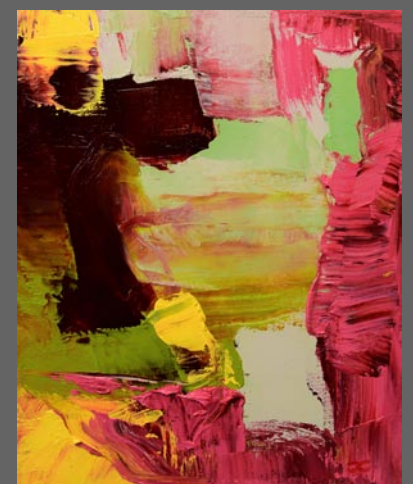
Welcoming New Members!

The Pastel Society of South Carolina, Inc.
"PSSC" is a not-for-profit organization whose objectives are:

- To promote public awareness of the pastel as a fine art medium.
- To provide educational programs for its members and other interested parties and opportunities for them to exhibit their work.
- To unite pastel artists in order to bring about recognition of their work.



Canna Lily oil 24 x 30 inches



Tongue oil 11 x 14 inches

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