

Editorial COMMENTARY

by Tom Starland, Editor and Publisher

Buy Art for the Holidays - From December 2012

It's my annual plea to call for readers to buy art for the holidays. Many of you have heard it before - many times, but I'm giving it again to remind readers that one of the best ways to help our economy - especially our local economies - is to buy art from local artists, from local galleries, from local art museum gift shops, and other non-profit art organizations. But, make sure the works are made by local artists.

There are many ways you can accomplish this act of giving art. The most direct is buying art at one of the many Holiday art sales taking place this month at arts councils, art groups, and art organizations. Many of these facilities don't show exhibits during the month of December to give local artists an opportunity to have a sales venue. Also, many outdoor art fairs or sales will be taking place.

Buying art in a gallery provides a double hit to the economy, as it helps an artist and helps maintain the main outlet for seeing and buying art in the Carolinas and around the world. Not every community has an art museum.

You can also give someone an art class, an art book or some art supplies or you can make a donation to an arts organization.

There are so many ways to give art for the Holidays - just use your imagination. Why, you could buy an ad in a regional arts newspaper for an artist or art group.

Buying Art - From December 2016

Most art will not need batteries. Most art will not wear out from over-viewing. The recipient will get to enjoy your gift year after year, and year after year they will think about how wonderful a gift you have given them. And, best of all, most art comes with no assembly necessary.

OK, art can be a little pricey as a gift, but just like the economic status of our readers, good art comes in all sizes. For the price conscious, fine art crafts can offer the most bang for the buck. Reproduction prints of original works of art also come in a wide range of prices, but don't forget that fine art prints that have been hand-pulled by the artist and come in smaller editions can be had for about the same price as some reproduction prints. Myself, I'd always rather have an image that only a handful of people share with me vs. thousands, and having an original is even better.

Now, if you're in the category of having to find that special gift for a special person - maybe even yourself, I've got a secret I'm willing to let out of the bag. Some artists and galleries will let you make payments on artworks with a weightier price tag. It doesn't hurt to ask.

For those of you who fit into the category of, "price is no consideration", what better way to make an incredible impression than with a monster piece of art - something that can give the folks at DeBeers a run for their money. Believe me, you will make an impression on the recipient and the artist. You could become an art patron overnight.

No matter what your price range, there is art out there which can fit any taste and any price range. And, you're lucky to be in the Carolinas, as there are plenty of talented artists out there working for you.

And, one last thought - if you can make your special purchase from one of the advertisers found in this publication - it would be a lot better for me and you. After all, they have been paying for this for years. Show them your appreciation.

But, whatever you do - buy local art.

The E-mail You Don't Want To Receive

Last March 16, 2021, I got an e-mail from Patz Fowle, the famous clay artist of the Pee Dee area of SC, about another exhibit of works from students from the Governor's School for Science + Mathematics' (GSSM), their annual *Student*



"Whimsical Tour" by Patz Fowle

Art Exhibit at the Hartsville Museum in Hartsville, SC. That's not unusual, Fowle kept us well informed about any of the shows of works by GSSM students while she has been an art instructor at the GSSM in Hartsville since 1999.

But what got my attention was a short notice at the end of the e-mail which stated, "BTW, I'm part of the 'C' club again, stage 3 pancreas." There was that "C" word - cancer. That was an instant downer for the day. I've done a dance with the "C" word myself and no one wants a second dance. Being just four years out from hearing that word said to me by a doctor, you don't want your membership in that club renewed. That can't be a good thing. The problem is, once you've had cancer, even if you beat it, you can have it again - chances are that you will have it again. There's also a chance that you won't, which is what I'm hoping will be my case, but the thought is always with you. For Patz Fowle, this was a bad sign.



"Old School Cat" by Patz Fowle

At the end of September this year, I received an invitation to attend the dedication of a newly named visual arts studio and celebration luncheon for The Patz Fowle Visual Arts Studio at the GSSM facility in Hartsville. That raised concerns, but I didn't have the opportunity to attend that event and as usual, I got involved with work and family and seemed to forget about that event. After our launch of the November 2021 issue of *Carolina Arts*, I started working on our gallery listings and found that invitation in the usual stack of papers that accumulates on my desk. I needed to find some info about The Patz Fowle Visual Arts Studio to include it and did a Google search and found an article about that Oct. 13 dedication event.



"Adventure" by Patz Fowle

I started reading it and after the first paragraph about the event, the second paragraph announced Patz Fowle's passing on the next day Oct. 14. I was stunned. It took a while to get through that article.

I was surprised that I hadn't seen any
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"Van Gogh" by Patz Fowle

notice or mention of Fowle's passing - anywhere, but the COVID-19 Pandemic has really been a black out for everything else that's going on in the world - big world or small world. So, I've pulled some info together and some photos of works created by Patz and a few of the works that she and her husband Mike Fowle have created together.



"Boot Scoot" by Patz Fowle

When it comes to the Pee Dee area of South Carolina, Patz Fowle is the artist I've had the most contact with through exhibits. And, whenever I've attended any events in the Pee Dee, I usually ran into Patz and Mike. Her work really stands out, for its skill and humor. But her biggest impact during the last 20 years has

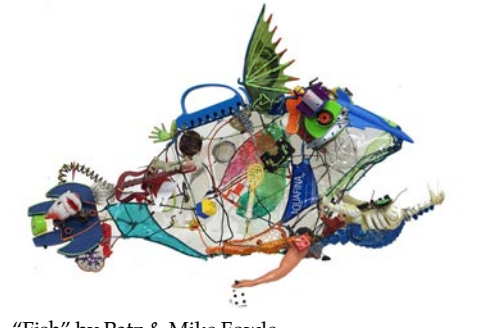


"Armor-dillo" by Patz & Mike Fowle

probably come through teaching art to students attending the Governor's School for Science + Mathematics.

Some say exposure to the arts helps with science and math, but many of these gifted science and math students showed a lot of ability for art. I guess it can go both ways.

Patz Fowle and her work will be missed by many.



"Fish" by Patz & Mike Fowle

You can read an article about the dedication of the The Patz Fowle Visual Arts Studio in the Florence Morning News by Ardie Arvidson, which ran on Oct. 20, 2021, at this link (https://scnow.com/messenger/news/patz-fowle-honored-for-her-contributions-to-gssm-and-the-arts/article_ba92dac4-304f-11ec-831b-17-efd03a1c5f.html).

You can read her obituary at (<https://www.bpafuneralhome.com/obituaries/Patricia-A-Patz-Fowle/?fbclid=IwAR1S63wWosivi9WZa9oUJMXLXAcRGFi7rFD33vPal-0Q32jCjappOZjK08#!/Obituary>).

I'm never surprised that I'm the last to hear about some things, but I can't read everything or see everything and get my day job done. And, I hope this is not the first time many in our visual art community are hearing this.

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