

Editorial COMMENTARY

by Tom Starland, Editor and Publisher

Listen Up

From now on - if you send us a press release about an exhibit without a beginning and ending date or send images of art work that you do not identify who the artist is - you're not going to be included in *Carolina Arts*.

We will continue to work to get all the info we need from our supporting advertisers - and the folks who know how to send a proper press release - thank you.

To those other folks, who will never see this - you're not reading our publication anyway and you have no business being included.

Why say this anyway? Well, they can't say I never warned them. It's official now.

Annual North Charleston Arts Fest Takes Place May 3-7, 2017

The annual North Charleston Arts Fest will open on May 3 and conclude on May 7, throughout North Charleston, SC. The celebration of arts and culture highlights the talents of national, regional, and local artists and performers in the areas of dance, music, theatre, visual arts, and literature. Performances, activities, and exhibits are scheduled to take place in a variety of venues throughout the city of North Charleston, including libraries, community centers, businesses, and parks. Many of the offerings are free, and those that are ticketed are moderately priced.

Now in its 35th year, the North Charleston Arts Fest is considered to be one of the most comprehensive arts festivals in the state. The City of North Charleston Cultural Arts Department, which organizes and presents the event, is excited to introduce revisions to this year's festival schedule, focusing on quality of programming and the patron experience. "From humble beginnings as a one-day community celebration at Park Circle, the festival has developed into one of our most anticipated annual City events," says North Charleston Mayor, Keith Summey. "The Cultural Arts staff and their partners have worked hard to produce a festival that uses performing, visual, and literary arts to expose, engage, and inspire residents and visitors from all walks of life."

Arts Fest offerings include concerts ranging from classical to contemporary, theatre presentations, children's programs, workshops and demonstrations, lectures, exhibitions, receptions, public art installations, and more. The revamped North Charleston Farmers Market kicks off its 2017 season at the Felix Davis Community Center in Park Circle as part of this year's festival.

Just around the corner in the Olde Village area on East Montague Avenue Page 4 - Carolina Arts, May 2017



Scene from a previous Arts Fest Art Walk and Arts Fest Street Dance, which will now be called the Arty Block Party. Photo by Elizabeth Courtenay.

the Arts Fest will host the inaugural Arty Block Party, an outdoor street celebration that combines events previously known as the Art Walk and the Street Dance. Visual art highlights during the festival include the *12th annual National Outdoor Sculpture Exhibition*; the *11th Annual African American Fiber Art Exhibition: Move On Up and Reach the Higher Ground*; and solo exhibitions by Philadelphia, PA, based artist Jasmine Alleger, local painter and sculptor Fletcher Williams III, and the City's current artist-in-residence Caroline Self.

This year, the Arts Fest Expo at the Charleston Area Convention Center is presented as the culmination of the week's festivities on Saturday and Sunday, May 6 & 7, from 11am-5pm each day. The Expo is considered the festival's flagship event and features free admission and parking to more than 40 performances on four stages, judged fine art and photography shows, the *16th Annual South Carolina Palmetto Hands Juried Fine Craft Exhibit*, a gem & mineral show, children's activities, art/craft/antique vendors, and a food courtyard.

The following is about the visual art offerings during the 2017 North Charleston Arts Fest, taking place throughout

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North Charleston, SC:

The *SC Palmetto Hands Fine Craft Competition & Exhibition* will take place at the Charleston Area Convention Center, Exhibit Hall A, located at 5001 Coliseum Drive, on view from May 3 - 7, 2017. A reception and awards announcement will be held on May 3, from 6-8pm. There will be free admission and parking.

Fine craft artists and artisans from across South Carolina will participate in this annual *South Carolina Palmetto Hands Fine Craft Competition & Exhibition*, working in clay, fiber, glass, metal, wood, and 3-D mixed media. As the state's only fine craft competition and exhibition, objects juried into the exhibit compete for cash prizes totaling up to \$6,500. Artists also have the option of offering their work for consideration to tour the state through the South Carolina State Museum's Traveling Exhibitions Program following the close of the exhibition.

The juror for this exhibition is Michael W. Haga, Associate Dean at the College of Charleston School of the Arts in Charleston, SC. As associate dean he is responsible for the School's administrative activities as well as projects related to donor cultivation and stewardship and educational/cultural programming. Haga received a Bachelor of Business Administration degree from Roanoke College and a Master of Arts and Liberal Studies degree from Hollins College (now Hollins University).

Haga taught Art History 101 at the College for twenty years and was named Outstanding Adjunct Faculty in Art History in 1999, 2005, 2006, 2007 and 2008. He also taught Introduction to Arts Management in the Spring 1998 semester. He has been involved with several organizations during his time at the College, serving on the boards of the Lowcountry Arts and Cultural Council, Print Studio South, and the South Carolina Artisans Center. He also has served on the Charleston County Magnet School of the Arts' School Governance Council as a community representative and as Program Coordinator for the South Carolina Society of the Archaeological In-

stitute of America. Haga currently serves on the boards of the South Carolina Arts Alliance and the International Council of Fine Arts Deans and on the advisory board of Fine Craft Shows Charleston, LLC.

Haga has written exhibition reviews for *The New Art Examiner*, *Art Papers*, *Carolina Arts*, and the *Charleston City Paper*. He has served as a slide juror for the Piccolo Spoleto Craft Exhibition for several years and has judged exhibitions in the southeastern United States. Haga has been a grant panelist for many organizations, including the South Carolina Arts Commission, the Coastal Community Foundation of South Carolina, and the Oregon Arts Commission.

The *Judged Fine Art & Photography Competitions & Exhibitions* will also take place at the Charleston Area Convention Center, located at 5001 Coliseum Drive, on view from May 3 - 7, 2017. A reception and award announcement will be held on May 3, from 6-8pm. There will be free admission and parking.



View from a previous "Judged Fine Art Competition & Exhibition"

Fine artists will participate in the annual *North Charleston Arts Fest Judged Fine Art Competition & Exhibition* and compete for cash awards in five categories totaling up to \$6,000. Categories include acrylic, oil, drawing/pastel, watercolor, and 2-D mixed media. Awards will be at the sole discretion of the judge, Veronica Kessenich, an Atlanta, GA, native.

Kessenich has been working in the arts for more than 15 years, and was hired as Executive Director of Atlanta Contemporary in July 2015 after serving for two

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