

# Editorial COMMENTARY

by Tom Starland, Editor and Publisher

## On Our Cover This Month

On our cover this month is a work by the late Patz Fowle, part of the exhibition *Upward & Onward*, featuring works by Patz Fowle and her husband and art partner, Mike Fowle, on view at the Jones-Carter Gallery in Lake City, SC, through Aug. 27, 2022.

Patz Fowle passed away last year on Oct. 14, 2021, but her legacy will live on through her works for years, decades and maybe centuries to come. I talked about her passing, which was a surprise - out of the blue, in my commentary (<https://www.carolinaarts.com/1221/1221carolinaarts-pg4.pdf>) in our Dec. 2021 issue. It has some links to articles about her, the new Patz Fowle Visual Arts Studio, part of the Governor's School for Science + Mathematics' (GSSM), and her obituary. If this is news to you and I'm sure it will be to some, who just haven't heard yet, you might want to visit that link.

This is an exhibit that may just get me back to Lake City, a place I have avoided for years due to a disagreement between myself and ArtFields. That's another story which I won't waste time on again.

## Think It's Too Hot To Go Out?

Yes, it might be a little hot outside, but remember every art museum and commercial art gallery will be nice and cool - to protect all the artwork, so what better way to spend a few hours in the nice and cool environment during the Carolina Summer?

What's that you say, "Gas is too expensive to drive there." Turn your thermostat down while you're gone and save some money on your electric bill to make up for the cost of gas and do a few errands on the way to and from seeing that art. Use your

gas in a smart way. Many museums have "free" days or certain hours you can get in free - so give them a call and plan for maximum savings. Commercial galleries are free all the time - unless some ask for a donation during a special reception, but even most of those are free and open to the public - even to you. Why sit home waiting for a hurricane to come your way.

## We Don't Practice Censorship at Carolina Arts

That's right I just mentioned that it gets hot - very hot - in some places in the Carolinas during the Summer and that we sometimes get visited by hurricanes during the Summer and early Fall. Some folks don't want me to mention such things, as if people didn't know. Look, we all know that there are sharks and other deadly things in the ocean, snakes in the grass, and bears in the woods. And worse - crazy drivers on our roads, but those are no reasons for staying inside your home. That's life - it's a risky proposition. So get out there and do something and see something.

## 35 Years

It was 35 years ago in 1987, when we put out our first issue of an arts publication in July of that year, called *Charleston Arts*. We waited until after the Spoleto and Piccolo Festivals were over to avoid any competition with them. After that first issue people wondered what we could put in the next issue and the one after that. But we never had a lack of info we could put in every issue - and it was never the same. Now with two states to cover it's even easier to fill each issue. July is usually a month with little happening, as art guilds usually take

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## City of North Charleston, SC, Features Works by Jessie Renew and CJ Howard

The City of North Charleston's Cultural Arts Department is pleased to announce that concurrent solo exhibitions of mixed media works by Jessie Renew (North Charleston, SC) and oil paintings by CJ Howard (Wilmington, NC) will be on display at Park Circle Gallery, from July 6 -30, 2022. A free reception hosted by the artists will be held at the gallery on July 8, from 5-7pm. The public is invited to attend.

In the exhibit, *Retrofits*, local artist, designer, and illustrator, Jessie Renew presents a collection of interactive, mixed media compositions. To build these pieces, Renew begins by scouring thrift stores, trash piles, buy-nothing groups, sales, and store closings to collect clothing, household objects, toys, craft supplies, and various other objects at the last stop before their ultimate disposal. She then breaks down and rebuilds this "stuff" into colorful 3D collages.

The results are works of art that celebrate the visual and narrative interest of everyday items. By changing their context, these objects are freed of their former lives as practical or decorative. "These pieces are about resourcefulness, reusing, and do-it-yourself approaches - opposing consumerism, wastefulness, perfectionism, and snobbery," Renew explains. "In that same spirit, *Retrofits* are an invitation for the viewer to have whatever type of experience they choose - be it surrendering to the color and abstraction, following the clues to create a narrative, or recalling their own memories and associations."

Jessie Renew was born and raised in Johannesburg, South Africa, before immigrating to the United States in 1995. From an early age, her two great passions took form: art and nature. She began art instruction at age 7 and continued through college where she earned degrees in studio art and art history. Concurrently, she pursued outdoor programs and experiences, especially in sailing, kayaking, hiking, and camping.

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Work by CJ Howard

After college, Renew became a kayak instructor and evolved into a marketing professional in the outdoor industry. In 2016, she befriended a musician who would become her collaborator, and through this experience her passion for art was reignited. She began working freelance and doing art projects in addition to her job. These included chalk art, murals, graphic design, music videos, and illustration. A period of reevaluation led her to relocate to North Charleston and pursue art full time. Currently, she is working in her home studio on mixed-media paintings and sculpture.

In the exhibit, *Holy Humxns*, Wilmington, NC, based artist CJ Howard presents a series of life-size oil paintings that celebrate matriarchs who are artists. "These powerful and complex human beings are raising children, fighting for justice, working to pay

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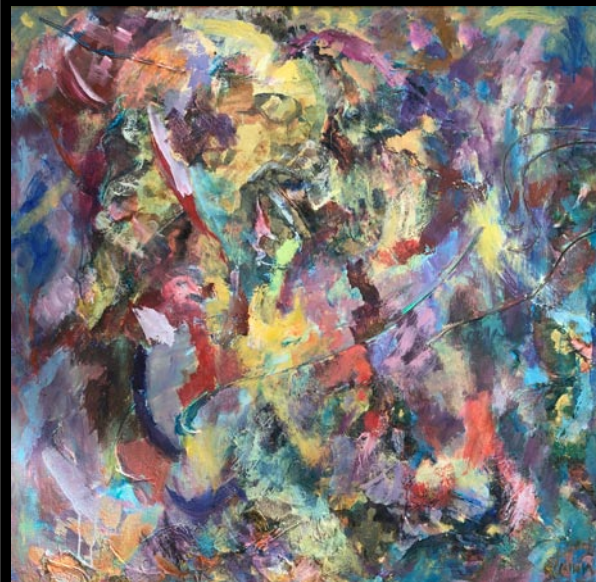
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## Halsey - McCallum Studio William Halsey & Corrie McCallum



Painting by Corrie McCallum

Paintings  
Graphics  
& Sculpture for  
the discerning  
collector

Both artists are recipients of the Elizabeth O'Neill Verner Award



Duo by William Halsey, oil on paper, 11 x 15 inches

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