Artsee magazine is the first publication devoted entirely to the arts in the Carolinas. The magazine was brave to launch during such unsettling times for the publishing industry. That artsee is thriving in its first year is very telling; our regional art scene is flourishing!

Since I moved here from Chicago seven years ago, new art institutions have transformed the cultural landscape. At the Nasher Museum, we celebrated our fifth anniversary this year, showcasing a growing collection of contemporary art that reflects our continued interest in the African diaspora. The North Carolina Museum of Art unveiled its beautiful new building last summer and the new Contemporary Art Museum in Raleigh has opened after years of anticipation. An old textile factory in Durham metamorphosed into Golden Belt, a lively mix of artist studios, lofts, galleries and shops. Farther west, in Charlotte, we welcomed the new Bechtler Museum of Modern Art and the new Mint Museum.

A true arts scene requires many ambitious institutions, just as our music scene succeeds because of many performance venues, record labels and bands in Durham, Raleigh and Chapel Hill. Of course this means we have a bit of healthy competition among art museums. We keep one another on our toes. But we are also one another's biggest fans. Rich collaborations among colleagues at the Nasher Museum, Ackland, Weatherspoon and North Carolina Central museums have created new exhibitions and programs, joint marketing efforts and traveling exhibitions, with more to come.

Artsee magazine is an exciting resource: excellent writing, beautiful images and unprecedented coverage of the visual arts. That resource will help all of our art museums to fulfill the common mission of sharing great art and reaching new audiences.

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