



League of Milwaukee Artists

Open Carnivals

January 2010

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From the President's Corner

by Kathleen Flaherty

I can't think of any place I would rather have been on that cold, blustery morning than in front of Michael Foster's easel at Mount Mary College. Michael was energetically sketching in his figure with charcoal as he kept a running conversation with his audience. As he was drawing he shared his secrets:

- Look to see how things relate to the middle.
- Look for large masses, the face, the hat (reference-photo of woman).
- Look for negative spaces.
- Relate what is unknown to what is known. Face (known) in relation to shoulder (unknown).
- Cut things in 1/2's and 1/3's. Ask yourself...is it above middle? Check proportion.
- Hat to face, 1:1 2/3, using brush handle to "eye" measurements.
- Eye width same as width of nose.
- See the parts, sensing the relationship to the whole.
- How does width of arm relate to the face.
- Step back...no detail yet, just want large shapes.

Mike quickly squeezed paints right onto his 4' by 4' laminated board. His palette consisted of cad yellow, purple, quinaquidone rose, cerulean blue, a yellow/green and

a large mass of white titanium. He urged us to mix our colors right on the board or canvas, not on our palette. First he blocked in his lights, yellow and white, on right side of face. With purple he blocked in the hair, beret, and left side of face. He waited to lay in his background, eventually playing off colors along edge of portrait.



His third value, pink, simplified shapes, and modified flesh tones. He worked wet into wet, conscious of the directionality of the brush strokes, conscious of the energy flow. Glazing

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would come at the end after painting is allowed to dry. He set in the muscles around cheeks and chin before placing the mouth. As he stepped back, he saw what was popping out too much. Off yellow cut the white shapes of eyes. Michael carved the shapes versus painted the shapes.

Michael's quotes...

- "Better to be certain and incorrect than to be correct and not confident."
- "I never wipe out what's incorrect...I just paint next to it."
- "It's all about relationship."

As Michael moved around the painting he snatched wet paint from the hair (purple) and brought it to her face. He created a green along the shadowed side of her cheek, growing deeper in shade down the neck. He tossed green into the eye for good measure. Michael shared his secret recipe for green, mixing yellow ochre with 10% black. He painted pure yellow ochre into the wet purple of the beret, creating a rich brown. Other colors joined the yellow ochre, pinks, whites, rose and green at the top. When searching for his background color, Mike used all his palette colors blending them together. "Yes," Michael says, "It's the gene pool!"



If you would like to enjoy more of Michael's work you may visit Sprizzo's Restaurant, the centerpiece of Historic Downtown Waukesha. Mike is an art teacher at Waukesha South High School and paints in his spare time.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Membership dues of \$35 for art year 2010 are due December 31, 2009. Please make your check payable to LMA and send to Dagmara Costello, 5935 Oriole Ave., Greendale, WI 53129.

LMA Board Update

The board has been working hard to keep expenses down, so that we don't need to increase membership dues.

In an effort to cut our costs, the following changes will take effect as of January:

- **Open Canvas will no longer be mailed directly to members. It will be sent via e-mail and will be available at the LMA website.** Copies will be available at each meeting for members who do not have access to e-mail. This will be a large savings for the LMA.
- We will have only one social a year where coffee and juice are provided. That will be the meeting where our artwork is critiqued. This year that will be the January meeting.
- We will not be sending art cards for exhibitions to membership. We will be mailing out cards to people on sign in books from our show and exhibitions and other potential buyers. We invite you to add the names of your potential buyers to our mailing. We will be trying to increase our visibility to the public. Also, cards will be available at the meeting preceding the exhibit for you distribute.

The board is working for you and always invite your input at any meeting.

Two officers will not be returning next year. Joyce Eesley will vacate the office of Editor/Mailing for Open Canvas and Suzanne Eli-Germaine will vacate the office of Recording Secretary in May 2010. In addition, J.J. Joyce will vacate the office of Treasurer in January 2010 and the office will be assumed by Julia McMurray. Thank you JJ for all your help.

Anyone interested in helping out the League by stepping into these roles, please contact any officer and they can help you.

HAPPY NEW YEAR

MEMBER NEWS

► **Colette Ody Smith** traveled to Albuquerque, NM in November to judge the Pastel Society of New Mexico's annual national juried show. Her duties included offering her three-day pastel landscape painting workshop for them.

In January, she will be one of the judges for MAM's Scholastic Art Exhibit as well. Locally, she had a painting included in the "50 Women" show curated by Sally Gauger Jensen at the Uihlein-Peters Gallery at St. John's on the Lake, and nationally, she had a painting juried into the Pastel Society of America's annual national juried show in New York.

► **Joyce Eesley** received 3rd Place Award for her "Breakfast Time" watercolor painting at Gallery 110's 15th Annual Holiday Membership Exhibit in Plymouth, WI. The exhibit runs until January 23, 2010. Her solo exhibit at the Unitarian Universalist Church West, 13001 W. North Avenue, Brookfield runs through January 10th.

► **Ginger Frederick** was featured and quoted in the *American Art Collector* magazine for the November 2009 issue.

► **Janet Roberts** has two pieces in the annual Watercolor Wisconsin show at the Wustum Museum in Racine. The show runs from December 13 to April 24.

At the Winter Juried Exhibition in the Anderson Arts Center in Kenosha, Janet won the third place award for her piece, "Dreams on Hold". The show can be seen till January 3.

Janet had a painting accepted into Midwest Seasons Center for the Visual Arts in Wausau. Dates are January 15 through February 28.

The North Shore Presbyterian Church of Shorewood will have a one person show of Janet's work from January 10 to March 1.

West Bend Mutual Insurance Company purchased Janet's painting, "The Chaperone", which is exhibited in the members' show at the Museum of Wisconsin Art in West Bend.

► George Ronscholdt received an award for his painting "Terrorist Cellphone Bomb" at the Anderson Winter Show in Kenosha. He also received an award for his painting "Lobster Fest" at Watercolor Wisconsin 2009 in Racine.

► Artists **Debbie Sommer** and Allen Caucutt are exhibiting their works in a joint exhibit at the Cedarburg Cultural Center, W62 N546 Washington Ave. The exhibit is being held in the Columbia/St. Mary's Gallery and will run through Sunday, January 24th. Admission is free. For information concerning the exhibit, please call the Center at (262)-375-3676.

► **Carolyn Kenney-Carter** will have a one-person show of her watercolor paintings February 1-28, 2010 in the Ravenscroft Hall gallery at St. Francis in the Foothills United Methodist Church in Tucson, AZ. She also has work in the Racine Art Museum's "Watercolor Wisconsin 2009" show at their Wustum Museum location. The exhibition runs December 13, 2009 - April 24, 2010.

► **J.J. Joyce, Dagmara Costello, Susan Gay Hatfield and Tom Pscheid** will be opening a gallery along with six other artists. THE Fine Art Gallery will have a Grand Opening reception for friends, family, clients and of course you on Thursday, January 14th 5pm - 8pm. THE Fine Art Gallery will be open for Gallery Night and Day Friday 11am-9pm and Saturday 11am-4pm. The gallery will be open every Friday 11am-5pm and Saturday 11am-4pm and is located 207 E. Buffalo St. Ste 210, Milwaukee.



► **The League of Milwaukee Artists** is well represented at Watercolor Wisconsin 2009 exhibit at RAM's Charles A. Wustum Museum of Fine Arts in Racine.

Members with artwork in the exhibit and those receiving awards are: Judith Beyer, Linda Szik, Joyce Eesley (Award of Merit), Carolyn Kenney-Carter, Julia McMurray, Millie Minessale, Judith Gahn Murphy, Jan Roberts, George Ronsholdt (Merchandise Award), Alice Rossman (Third Award), Pat Siok, and Linda Tump (Merchandise Award). The exhibit runs from Dec. 13, 2009 - April 24, 2010. If you get a chance, stop off to see this exhibit that shows very diverse artworks of extremely talented Wisconsin watercolorists.

Exhibition Opportunity

Unitarian Universalist Church West Gallery is looking for artists to exhibit. If you are interested call Dennis Trinastic at 414-774-6251.



League of Milwaukee Artists
 8039 W. Waterford Avenue
 Milwaukee, WI 53220

www.leagueofmilwaukeeartists.com



League of Milwaukee Artists

Open Canvases

January 2010

Meeting Information

JANUARY

Happy New Year Social and fun for each of us to share 2 pieces of our work. Nancy Lamers, a professor at Alverno and past president of the SE region of the Wisconsin Visual Artists, will critique our work.

If anyone has suggestions for presentations please contact: Elizabeth Falter Minz.

Phone: 414-535-0053

Email: lizminz@gmail.com

FEBRUARY

Joanne Charlton, retired teacher of Art History at Mount Mary, will do a video presentation of "Artists and Their Interpretations of Self Portrait" through the centuries. She formerly trained docents at the Milwaukee Art Museum and has traveled to Europe more than 150 times to experience the art and artifacts she illustrates in her presentations.

All meetings are scheduled to begin at 9:30 a.m. and will be held in Helfaer Hall, Mount Mary College, 2900 Menomonee River Parkway.

January 9

February 13

March 13

April 10

May 8

2009 Milwaukee Plein Air - Financial Report

Joan Schneider, Planning Committee Co-Chair

Tom Pscheid, WVA Treasurer for the Milwaukee Plein Air, sent a copy of his entire bookkeeping record for the LMA/WVA 2009 Event - including a check for \$992.98 to cover the reimbursement of LMA's original \$700 contribution, plus an additional \$292.98 as profit from our sponsorship. WVA also received the same amount. Our check and a copy of Tom's report has been forwarded to treasurer J.J. Joyce. A second copy will be filed, along with other notes and related information on the 2009 Plein Air Event, to be used as a resource guide in planning the LMA/WVA Milwaukee Plein Air Event 2010.

The Planning Committee will hold an "Event Rap-Up" Meeting - time and place to be announced - to go over

all aspects of the 2009 Event, including a discussion of problems encountered that could have been solved better in preparation for next year's Plein Air Event. Information will be passed on to our Membership as it becomes available. Please watch for any future reports and announcements at up-coming meetings and/or in our newsletter.

I thank everyone who worked so hard in planning and setting up this event. You are the ones responsible for any success we achieved. Words are not sufficient enough to express my appreciation for all your efforts. **Thank you so much!**

Request for Plein Air Leadership

by Alisyn Kay

Joan and Alisyn have both decided that they are not going to be co-chairing next year's Plein Air event. At this point, people from both organizations need to step up and volunteer to run the event. This is something that is going to need to happen rather soon if this event is going to happen again. Joan and Alisyn would like to have a meeting with anyone who is interested to go over what was done in depth, what worked and what didn't work.

One suggestion is that a team of seven chairs is created rather than two co-chairs. Each of these seven chairs would be in charge of an area. The categories would be **Registration, Publicity, Volunteers, Artist Relations, Finances, Judging/ Awards, and Space/ Exhibition**. Because this is a volunteer organization, we need to rely on the support of many of our members to make huge events like this work. We cannot expect one or two people to handle all the planning.

The responsibilities of each role are as follows:

- **Registration:** Create Registration forms. Mail out registration. Make sure registration forms are on the website. Coordinate with Volunteer Chair to find individuals to work the registration table during the event.
- **Publicity:** Send out save the date cards. Hand out at other Plein Air events. Write press releases and send out. Make sure all info is listed correctly on the website. Work with the Downtown Association. Create posters, post cards, signage. Write up summary of event to release to both organizations.
- **Volunteers:** Set up monthly meetings for Plein Air committee. Connect with other chairs before meetings to find out what needs to go on the agenda. Find individuals to work registration, putting together artist packets, show set up, take down, reception, sales, cleaning, etc. Create signup sheets for LMA and WVA meetings and encourage people sign up.

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- **Artist Relations:** Be the contact person listed on all artist documents and the website. Be the one to answer and handle any questions that artists might have. Put together artist packets. Coordinate Parking options with Downtown representatives. Pick up any coupons artists may need and put them in artist packets.
- **Finances:** Work with representatives from the Downtown Association to raise funds for awards. Handle all artwork sales. Work with treasurer from WVA to send out checks to artists. Document all expenses for the event.
- **Space / Exhibition:** Find the space. Work with company donating the space to coordinate access. Find items needed to run the event and get them to the space - tables, chairs, panels, lights, hammers, other tools, etc. Find volunteers to set up the show. Coordinate food and drinks and all items needed for the reception.
- **Judging/ Awards:** Work with Finance chair to determine award amounts. Send this info to publicity chair and registration chair. Find judges. Be the contact person with judges. Create award certificates to hand out. Announce awards at the exhibition. Send list of award winners to both organizations and list on website.

EXHIBITS

David Klein

DVDs displaying work of several LMA members are available from David Klein. This is a tool to be shared with gallery personnel in solicitation of a personal or joint exhibit. To avoid duplication, following is a listing of venues which have received the disc.

Alfons Gallery, Milwaukee
 Anderson Art Center, Kenosha
 Cedarburg Cultural Center
 Gallery 110 North, Plymouth Art Center
 Haggerty Museum of Art, Milwaukee
 John Michael Kohler Art Center, Sheboygan
 Madison Museum of Contemporary Art
 Marian Gallery, Mount Mary College

Museum of Wisconsin Art, West Bend
 Racine Art Museum
 Reuss Federal Building, Milwaukee
 Schauer Art Center, Hartford
 Sharon Lynn Wilson Center for the Arts,
 Ploch Gallery
 Uihlein Peters, St. John's on the Lake
 Wright Museum of Art, Beloit College

NEWSLETTER INFO

The next deadline is February 15th. Send articles to Nancy Kolar at nck1@sbcglobal.net. Use the title LMA News or Open Canvas in your subject line. In lieu of email, mail your article to Nancy Kolar, 7441 S. Clement Ave., Oak Creek, WI 53154.

Please make sure that Joyce Eesley has your current e-mail address to insure you receive the newsletter. All address or email changes should be sent to joyce_eesley@msn.com and and Dagmara Costello, Membership, at dagmaradagart@hotmail.com.

► **THE NEXT ISSUE OF OPEN CANVAS WILL BE SENT VIA E-MAIL AND NOT MAILED. YOU MAY PICK UP A PRINTED COPY AT THE NEXT MEETING. Open Canvas is also available at www.leagueofmilwaukeeartists.com.**