



League of Milwaukee Artists

# Open Canvas

March 2009

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## From the President's Corner

By Kathleen Flaherty

Painting is often an isolated activity, so it's no wonder that most of us seek out others to give us feedback or an objective "eye". However if we want to grow as artists, then we need someone to say a little more than simply "It's nice" or "Great" or "I don't think this painting works". We need information on what specifically is nice, great, or isn't working. Specific, constructive criticism will help not only the artist whose painting it is, but also other artists listening to the critique. Hopefully, these comments will also help us look at our own work with a fresh eye.

At our monthly meeting in February we had just that person with an objective eye, **Michael Foster**. Michael is a painter from Waukesha and a full-time teacher at Waukesha South High School. The following information is from [www.wilson-center.com/michaelfoster.htm](http://www.wilson-center.com/michaelfoster.htm). Michael:

- is a graduate of Cardinal Stritch University with a Masters in Art.
- has spent his career developing a teaching technique that empowers students to develop their own ideas and become their own insightful teachers.
- mainly works with the figure in a realistic style.
- received Best of Show in the 2006 Hidden River Art Festival.
- recently had a show at the Ploch Gallery in the Sharon Lynn Wilson Center.

Michael brought to our meeting a unique style of critiquing. First he

asked each artist to share their insights about their painting before offering his own. When viewing our paintings he frequently spoke of what was working in a painting:

- Mood
- Atmosphere
- Emotion
- Strong use of color
- Repetition of form
- Large and small forms that related well
- Catching our subject in a simple, fleeting moment
- Colorful grays
- Complementary color schemes... oranges and blues, or green shading for a red subject.

When an artist had a concern regarding being lost when trying to complete their painting, Michael would ask them what they were experiencing when the process of the paint strokes moved through them. He often spoke with analogies, "A hand is like the punctuation of a sentence". To another he would ask, "How much do you want to develop the background? The flowers are the supporting cast." When speaking of the woods in a painting he likened it to the circulatory system of nature branching out.

Any artist asking for a critique takes the risk that they may not like what a person has to say. It's a risk worth taking to develop as an artist and, as with any opinion or advice, we're free to accept or reject it. Thank you, Michael.



## Member News

**JILL VERBICK** will be teaching at the Peninsula School of Art in Fish Creek, May 28-30. The name of the class is "Painting Your Story".

Jill also has a new web site at [www.jverbick.com](http://www.jverbick.com). Be sure to check it out.

**WILLIAM DAVIS** had his piece "Pacific Cliffs II" juried into "Watercolor Wisconsin 2008".

**CHRIS SOMMERFELT's** exhibit of her watercolors titled "Color Emergence" will be at St. Mark's Episcopal Church Galley from March 7th through April of 2009. A reception will be held Saturday, March 14th from 1:30 until 4:00 pm. The reception will feature some work that will only be available that day for viewing and sales. St. Mark's is located at 2618 N. Hackett Ave, 1/2 block east of Downer Ave. on Milwaukee's East Side. Call the church office at 414-962-0500 for gallery hours.

**JOYCE EESLEY, JULIA McMURRAY, DEBBIE SOMMERS, and KITTY STURROCK** have artwork in the Cedarburg Cultural Center exhibit "You've Gotta Have Art" miniature exhibit. The exhibit runs until March 22nd. Cedarburg Cultural Center is located at W62 N546 Washington Avenue in Cedarburg.

**JOYCE EESLEY** also has twenty floral paintings at St. John's Uihlein Peters Gallery's "Petal Pushers" exhibit. The opening reception is February 28th 1-4pm and runs until April 11th. Gallery hours are Monday-Saturday, 10:00am - 5:00pm. St. John's is at 1840 North Prospect Avenue.

## Fifth Annual Milwaukee Artist Marketplace

The Milwaukee Art Museum will sponsor the Fifth Annual Milwaukee Artist Marketplace on Saturday, July 25th. The Artist Marketplace provides an opportunity for Milwaukee artists to display and sell their creative work on the grounds outside of the museum in a relaxed and informal setting.

Applications are available at the LMA website, [www.leagueofmilwaukeeartists.com](http://www.leagueofmilwaukeeartists.com). Artists may have their own 10" X 10" booth or share. (Artists are responsible for providing their own tent and display - limited grids are available).

The deadline for application is April 1st and should be sent to J.J. Joyce. Please call J.J. at 414-351-2618 if you have any questions.

## MAY MEETING

Our guest speaker for May will be **Dan Gerhartz**. Dan was born in Kewaskum, Wisconsin, where he now lives with his wife, Jennifer, and their young children. When visiting Dan's website I found that he has been inspired by the modern masters, John Singer Sargent, Alphonse Mucha, Nicolai Fechin, and Joaquin Sorolla. Carl von Marr, as well as a host of French and American impressionists, have inspired him as well. He has drawn upon his home and community in Wisconsin, including family and friends, when seeking subjects to paint.

He will show his paintings and explain his methods and materials through a PowerPoint presentation. If you'd like a sneak preview, Dan's paintings can be found on his own website [www.danielgerhartz.com](http://www.danielgerhartz.com), The Grapevine Gallery, Oklahoma City, [www.grapevinegalleryokc.com](http://www.grapevinegalleryokc.com), The Legacy Gallery, Scottsdale, [www.legacygallery.com/gallery\\_artists/daniel\\_gerhartz.html](http://www.legacygallery.com/gallery_artists/daniel_gerhartz.html), and Meyer Gallery, Santa Fe, [www.meyergalleries.com](http://www.meyergalleries.com).

## CALL FOR VENDORS

The Paine Art Center and Gardens, 1410 Algoma Blvd. in Oshkosh, WI 54901 invites you to participate in two outdoor fair events. Both events feature Original Art, Fine Crafts, and Garden Merchandise, Corner Flea Market Featuring Antiques, Imports, and Farmer's Market

FESTIVAL OF SPRING - Saturday, May 16, 2009 - 8 am to 4 pm

FAIRE ON THE GREEN - Sunday, July 12, 2009 - 9 am to 4 pm

### The Paine's Outdoor Fairs

The Paine's two outdoor fair events have grown dramatically over the past several years, with over 300 vendors and 13,000 visitors combined in 2008. Offering a unique and elegant setting, the Paine is located in Oshkosh and revered as "one of America's Castles." The Paine has positioned its nineteen seasonal display gardens to be a destination spot for Wisconsin gardeners, landscapers, art enthusiasts and tourists. Through its unique combination of art exhibitions, architecture and exquisite gardens, the Paine provides a one-of-a-kind backdrop for its exciting and growing outdoor festivals. The Paine is a non-profit organization and these festivals help fund the operating and maintenance of the Paine estate.

Festival of Spring is a free fair focused around the Paine's annual Spring Plant Sale of traditional and unusual plant varieties. It features up to 120 exhibitors of original art, fine crafts, plants and garden supplies. Faire on the Green is a free fair featuring the works of over 150 vendors of art and fine crafts. Both events will be complimented by a nearby "Corner Flea Market" with space for up to 40 additional vendors.

The Paine is seeking to attract an even larger and broader audience to the outdoor fair events. Both fair days will be complimented by a vendor area on Elmwood and Congress. This nearby area is called the "Corner Flea Market" and will include vendors of antiques, imported items, retail and flea

market goods as well as Farmer's Market vendors. Original art and fine craft vendors as well as plant and garden merchandise vendors will continue to be grouped together at the original location on the corner of Algoma and Congress.

The Paine is accepting vendors of original art and fine crafts, plant/garden items and food service for the Algoma/Congress Street site during each fair day. In addition, the Paine is accepting vendors of flea, retail, antique and farmer's market items for the nearby "Corner Flea Market" on the Elmwood/Congress Street site.

Each booth will be structured as a 10' x 10' space and will have two selling aisles. The fee for the art, fine craft, garden art and corner flea market vendors is \$60 and for plant, garden, landscaping and food vendors is \$100. There are more than 160 total booth spaces available for each event, and these will be distributed on a first come, first serve basis.

***FOR MORE INFORMATION,** a vendor application and temporary event form, please contact Doris Peitz at [info@thepaine.org](mailto:info@thepaine.org) or at (920) 235-6903 ext. 22 or download the files from their website: [www.thepaine.org/events/](http://www.thepaine.org/events/).*

### Newsletter Info

***The next deadline is April 12th.***

E-mail articles to Nancy Kolar at [nck1@sbcglobal.net](mailto:nck1@sbcglobal.net) using the title LMA News or Open Canvas in the subject line to avoid accidental deletion. Remember to send address or e-mail changes to Joyce Eesley at [joyce\\_eesley@msn.com](mailto:joyce_eesley@msn.com) and Dagmara Costello at [dagmaradagart@hotmail.com](mailto:dagmaradagart@hotmail.com). If you wish to receive your newsletter via e-mail, let Joyce know by e-mailing her or by calling her at 414-321-7651.

### Website Info

Remember to check the website [www.leagueofmilwaukee.artists.com](http://www.leagueofmilwaukee.artists.com) for information on current and upcoming events, meeting information and member news.



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

[www.leagueofmilwaukeeartists.com](http://www.leagueofmilwaukeeartists.com)



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# Open Canvases



March 2009

## *Meetings: Dates & Places*

### **MARCH**

Saturday, March 14th - 9:30 a.m.  
 Helfaer Hall, Mount Mary College  
 2900 Menomonee River Parkway

To Be Announced

### **APRIL**

Saturday, April 11th - 9:30 a.m.  
 Helfaer Hall, Mount Mary College  
 2900 Menomonee River Parkway

We will be hearing from League member and Professor at Wisconsin Lutheran College, Kristin Gjerdsset. She will share her experiences as a resident artist at some of our country's national parks and let us know how to get involved with these programs.

### **MAY**

Saturday, May 9th - 9:30 a.m.  
 Helfaer Hall, Mount Mary College  
 2900 Menomonee River Parkway

Dan Gerhartz will show his paintings and discuss methods and materials. Visit Dan's website at [www.danielgerhartz.com](http://www.danielgerhartz.com).

# 2009 EXHIBITION OPPORTUNITY

The first LMA Exhibition for 2009 is at the **Alfons Gallery**, 1501 South Layton Boulevard, Milwaukee, WI, phone 414-385-5273, March 29 – May 24, 2009. This show will be self-juried one piece only. The piece should be no larger than 36 x 36 and have been completed in the last three years. All works should be properly framed and ready to hang.

**EXHIBIT DATES: March 29, 2009 – May 24, 2009**

**Opening reception Sunday, March 29, 2009 from 1-4 pm**

**Delivery of work is Tuesday, March 24, 2009 from 9-2 pm. Pick up will be May 25, 2009 from 9-2 pm.**

**FORMS ARE DUE to Alfons Gallery by Monday, March 1, 2009**

## REGISTRATION CARD:

Please complete legibly. Cut on dotted lines and fill out one registration card for each entry.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Work \_\_\_\_\_ Medium \_\_\_\_\_

Sale Price \_\_\_\_\_ Value (if not for sale) \_\_\_\_\_

Size (H x W framed) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

## IDENTIFICATION LABEL: Cut and fasten securely to the back left upper corner of work.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Work \_\_\_\_\_ Medium \_\_\_\_\_

Size (H x W framed) \_\_\_\_\_ Sale Price \_\_\_\_\_

Ins. Value \_\_\_\_\_  
(if not for sale)