



League of Milwaukee Artists

Open Canvas

September 2009

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The President's Corner

From the desk of Kathleen Flaherty

The question of raising the membership cap from 150 to 175 or 200 was brought up from the floor at our last meeting in May. This question has been raised many times over the past ten years. The pros and cons regarding the cap increase were discussed. It was quite a long, lively discussion. If we raise the membership we could attract artists willing to assume volunteer duties. So many of our members have already put in their time on the board and are reluctant to do so again. More members would mean LMA could exhibit an even broader variety of work. David Klein has mentioned that he often has to remind artists to enter work when exhibit dates are nearing. He has had times when he felt uneasy when the number of submitted paintings for a venue were low. Raising our cap could also mean an increase in attendance at regular monthly meetings. An additional pro is, of course, the increased revenue for the ever increasing operational costs.

As for the cons, it was mentioned there may be crowding of an already limited gallery space and increased competition when being juried into an exhibit. David reminds us that one venue a year is open to all LMA members and is not juried. A member brought up the danger of jurying in artists just to meet the raised cap even though their artistic accomplishments were not in accord with the present high caliber of LMA. The consensus was that the jurying body must be guided by integrity, adherence to the principles and elements of professional art, and not by personal

opinion or just because we now have numerous openings in membership.

A motion was made that the quorum issue, relative to the cap rise question be deleted. Seconded and carried. JJ Joyce's motion to raise the cap from 150 to 175 was negated. A second motion to raise the cap to 200 was made by JJ Joyce and seconded by Marcia Hero and carried. There was concern that we were outside the constitutional requirements when amending our constitution. The concerns were justified. Our LMA constitution requires that all members must be given ample notification of the date and place before the vote may be taken. **All members of LMA will take note that on October 10, 2009, at Mount Mary College, a vote will be taken regarding raising the membership of LMA from 150 to 200.** If you would like your vote to count I urge you to join us at this meeting. We will have a meeting on September 12, but due to the conflict with our Plein Air Milwaukee Experience, we chose October as the date for the membership vote so more members could attend.

Before May's meeting ended more conversation ensued regarding creating more opportunities for artists to apply for membership throughout the year versus only in April. This will be discussed further at future meetings. Thank you, Suzanne, for keeping thorough minutes during our LMA meetings so that we have good records to fall back on when questions develop.

League of Milwaukee Artists 2009 Exhibition at the Anderson Arts Center

Awards:

Best of show

“The Final Inventory” by Janet Roberts

Excellence awards

“Trumpet Vine” by Nora Boedecker

“Iris” by Ginger Frederick

“The Scholar” by Joan Mary Schneider

Honorable mentions

“Landmark II / Morning Light”

by William K. Davis

“Pandora’s Box” by Dagmara Costello

“Somewhere Else” by Gerlinde Gelina

Yolanda Kurek, August 4, 2009:

Juror’s Comments:

I went to the Anderson to see the exhibit space. In a word it is gorgeous. How fortunate the League has the opportunity to show there.

Although there is no stated theme for this juried exhibition, I am impressed by the creative self-expression and technical skill evident in this body of work. I selected award winners based on originality, execution, presentation and meaning.

Janet Robert’s “The Final Inventory” is Best in Show for its professional execution, uniqueness, and edge. Many figures in the scene visually engage the viewer. Many a viewer will take inventory of their own life.

Excellence Awards: “Trumpet Vine” by Nora Boedecker has elegance and simple composition; “Iris” by Ginger Frederick is painted with lively strokes and confidence; Joan Mary Schneider’s “The Scholar” is original, complex and filled with ideas.

Honorable Mentions: William K. Davis’s cityscape watercolor “Landmark II / Morning Light” is professionally presented; “Pandora’s Box” by Dagmara Costello and “Somewhere Else” by Gerlinde Gelina made me long for more abstracts.

Juror’s Bio: Yolanda Kurek was born in Sanok, Poland. She received a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from the University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee in studio art. She also studied at the University of Maryland in College Park and received her Master of Fine Arts degree in painting and drawing. She has taught courses in photography, watercolor and drawing in North Carolina at the State University Craft Center and Sertoma Arts Center in Raleigh, undergraduate and graduate courses in painting, design, and drawing at the University of Maryland - College Park, and courses in studio and painting at the Nicolet Recreation Center in Glendale WI. She lectures and holds workshops on creativity in the arts, acrylics, pastels, and watercolors. She especially enjoys working with individual artists to advance their skills. Her work has been exhibited in shows in Wisconsin, Texas, North Carolina, Virginia, Maryland, New York, the District of Columbia, and South Carolina and is in private collections in Italy, Maryland, North Carolina, Wisconsin and California. Her awards include the Maryland State Arts Council Individual Artist Award, Phi Kappa Phi Honors Society membership, and many exhibit awards.

M E M B E R N E W S

► *Joyce Eesley’s* graphite drawing “The Skateboarder” was accepted into Philadelphia Water Color Society’s 109th Anniversary International Exhibition of Works on Paper. The juror was M. Stephen Doherty who is Publisher and Editor-in-Chief of American Artist, Watercolor, Drawing and Workshop magazines and also has written dozens of magazine articles and several art books. He serves on the Advisory Board of the New York Academy of Art, The Florence Academy, and The Portrait Society of America. The exhibit runs from October 3 to December 18 at Philip and Muriel Berman Museum of Art at Ursinus College in Collegeville, PA. Joyce will be awarded a signature membership in PWCS at the Awards Reception on October 18th. Congratulations Joyce!

► Two upcoming exhibits in August will feature the work of Milwaukee artist, *Colette Ody Smith*.

“Out of the Suitcase III - Recent Recipients of the Mary L. Nohl Suitcase Awards” at MIAD’s Frederick Layton Gallery, 273 E. Erie Street in Historic Third Ward, Milwaukee, 414-276-7889. Aug. 25-Oct. 3, 2009 with a reception on Friday, Sept. 4th, 6-9 pm.

Each year, grants from this fund help approximately 15-20 Milwaukee-area artists take their art to venues around the world. Through this exhibition, Milwaukeeans can view work by artists

receiving grants over the last two years. Curated by Bruce Knackert, Director of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee’s INOVA gallery, and Mark Lawson, Gallery Director at the Milwaukee Institute of Art and Design.

“Layers of Beauty” Kelly Bresnahan and Colette Ody Smith at Woodwalk Gallery and Event Center, 6746 County Road G, 920-868-2912, located 3/4 mile off Highway 42 on County Road G, 2 miles north of Carlsville and 5 miles south of Egg Harbor in Door County. The Gallery is fully accessible. Aug. 20-Sept. 30, 2009 Reception: Sunday, Aug. 23, 4:30-7 pm

The exhibit features the work of master wood turner Kelly Bresnahan and award winning pastel/watercolor artist Colette Ody Smith. Each in their own way uncovers and reveals beauty in the depths of their subjects then gently tend to the edges and interfaces of solid and void, object and context, actual and imagined. Food and beverages will be plentiful in the Woodwalk Gallery tradition.

► *Sandra George* submitted a painting to The Interfaith Older Adult Program, for the Lifetime Art Competition in May 2009. She won an award for Best New Artist with her oil painting of Orvieto Street scene, a small hilltown in Tuscany.

A Visit from Dan Gerhartz

By Kathleen Flaherty

(Article is created from my notes as well as Wendie Thompson. Thanks Wendie.)

A visit, long awaited by many LMA members, materialized on May 9, 2009. Dan Gerhartz accepted our invitation and presented a spell-binding hour sharing slides of his work, a look into his artistic journey, and inspiration. As I listened to Dan I felt his passion for his work and the world itself! He says that as an artist he is not creating. He is simply reflecting that which has already been created. His job is to reveal what is before him. He recommends that we visit as many art museums as possible, as well as reading widely, the bible included.



Waiting For His Return by Dan Gerhartz

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Dan chooses universal themes which touch people on many levels. He referred to one of his oil paintings, “Waiting for His Return”, as the larger message being renewal of hope which all points back to Him. Dan’s goal for painting is to create something inviting, making it beautiful, and to make the viewer want to search or delve into it.

Dan sets out to work each day, 8:30 am to 5:00pm, as painting is his family’s livelihood. He hires models in advance and sets the stage. Dan’s family and friends are other sources of inspiration as they are often posing as his models. Over the past twenty years he has collected a wardrobe of clothing that he keeps on hand for models to wear. For settings he leans toward romance, agelessness, and time filled with nostalgia. He will often read aloud to his model, setting the mood. A book choice might be “Hinds’ Feet on High Places” by Hannah Hurnard. Another day they may listen to “Matchmaker, Matchmaker” from Fiddler on the Roof or a piano concerto by Rachmaninoff. He poses the model, then asks him or her to start moving around naturally. As he’s photographing their movements a more natural pose emerges.

Dan feels it’s important to paint in different types of light which creates new problems, forcing an artist to pay closer attention. He recommends painting from life as often as you can as you see things in the shadows that a camera can never capture. He will often paint “plein air” even on a cold day in March, even if it’s for just fifteen minutes outdoors to pick up the tone. He will first tone down his canvas, then nail in his lightest lights and darkest darks. A visit to his website, www.danielgerhartz.com, reaffirms how important lighting is to the success of his paintings. Dan recommends we see the movie, “Girl with the Pearl Earring”, because of the beauty of the lighting effects that were used.

He also looks to create harmony of color, keeping it simple, perhaps green, violet, and orange. He finds inspiration in David Lenz’s work which he describes as stunning. David recommends moving color around a painting. If we take a painting and fold it in half with the sky still wet, then unfold it, the color of the sky would integrate into the foreground. Dan referred to his painting, “Lady with a Fan”, and pointed out the beautiful flow of light and dark. He wanted us to notice that when we squint our eyes the colors bleed. The line of color makes a connection throughout the painting. He mentioned that N.C. Wyeth and Pyle are good at this technique.

His wife, Jennifer, handles correspondence and will frequently think of titles for his paintings. In naming paintings they may borrow a song lyric or a section of a psalm from the Bible. Dan schedules shows out a year and a half in the future. He keeps his schedule tight, citing that deadlines are important. Dan says that the hard part is getting setting up. Once a model is in place...inspiring!

FOR SALE: Art Display Panels. Four aluminum mesh display panels, ideal for displaying two dimensional art. Both sides can be used for display, 44” x 72” each, complete with connectors. Contact Kitty Sturrock- 262-241-9241.



League of Milwaukee Artists
 8039 W. Waterford Avenue
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www.leagueofmilwaukeeartists.com

NEWSLETTER INFO

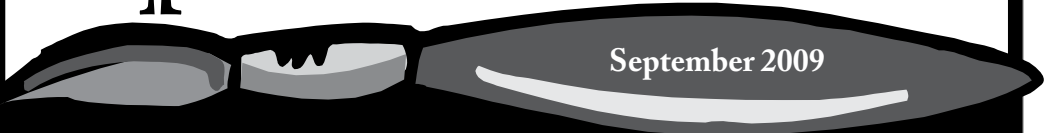
The next deadline is October 15th. Send articles to Nancy Kolar at nck1@sbcglobal.net. Use the title LMA News or OpenCanvas in your subject line. In lieu of email, mail your article to Nancy Kolar, 7441 S. Clement Ave., Oak Creek, WI 53154.

Joyce Eesley is editor in charge of proofing and mailing the newsletter. All address or email changes should be sent to joyce_eesley@msn.com and Dagmara Costello, membership, at dagmaradagart@hotmail.com. If you wish to receive your newsletter via email, let Joyce know via email.



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September 2009

Meetings: Dates & Places

September

Saturday, September 12th - 9:30 a.m.
 Helfaer Hall, Mount Mary College
 2900 Menomonee River Parkway

Program information will be posted at the website when it becomes available.

www.leagueofmilwaukeeartists.com

October

Saturday, October 10th - 9:30 a.m.
 Helfaer Hall, Mount Mary College
 2900 Menomonee River Parkway

PROGRAM: TBA

2009-2010 MEETINGS

(All meetings begin at 9:30 a.m.)

- Oct. 10 - Helfaer Hall
- Nov. 14 - Helfaer Hall
- Dec. 12 - Helfaer Hall
- Jan. 9 - Helfaer Hall
- Feb. 13 - Helfaer Hall