



League of Milwaukee Artists

Open Carnivals

Winter 2008

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Happy New Year One and All!

By Kathleen Flaherty

We all say it, it's universal...this year has flown by! As a league we have set and met challenges, hung wonderful exhibits, increased our knowledge of technology, and celebrated each others' successes or commiserated with each others' disappointments. That is what this organization is mostly about... support for one another. Your responses to the questionnaire strongly ring out this reason for our being. (See page 3 for results of the survey.)

I thank you for your replies and I do hope others will continue to fill the questionnaire out and send it in. We will continue to learn from each other.

Many suggestions will be discussed in board meetings, then be brought to general membership for a vote. Three topics leap out from the questionnaire:

- give members more time to interact
- continue to find inspiring artist/speakers to share their journey with us
- keep the meetings short and sweet.

New Year's resolutions that we can all strive for. Here's to a successful 2008 for one and all, however you may define success!

Pickup of WAB Artwork *Joyce Eesley*

Artwork that is being exhibited at Wisconsin Arts Board will be available for pickup at 8:45am before the January 12th meeting at the small northeast parking lot by the coffee shop off of 92nd street. Please be prompt so we can take the artwork out and hand it to you without having to rearrange and dig to find your art among all the boxes.

Enter the large parking lot and look for the small parking lot to the right where I will park my red Ford pickup truck. You will be able to go to the meeting right from the coffee shop entrance. If you are unable to pick up your art, please make arrangements for a friend to pick it up for you. I will not be responsible for storing your art.

Membership Dues

Pay membership dues of \$35 by January 15th. Please return survey with check to:
Dagmara Costello
5935 Oriole Ave.
Greendale, WI 53129

Opportunity – Gallery Night

The Grand Wisconsin on 720 Old World Third Street has invited the league to participate in gallery night **Friday January 18th, 5:00 PM-9:00 PM and Saturday, January 19th, Noon to 4:00 PM.** There is no cost to the artist for this event.

Artists will set up on Friday from noon to 4:00 PM. You can enter through the parking garage next to elevators for set up. In the main lobby, there will be tables to display on. The tables are round and seat eight people. The tables will have table linens on them. This area is for those artists who do not have grids. In the Blackamoor Room and the Wisconsin Lounge we will be allowed to set up grids and bins. Each artist will be allowed 10 square feet of grids with paintings hung on both sides.

Arrangements are being made to be included on the Art Museum Bus route. Extra security guards have been added. There are security cameras to ensure the safety of the artwork during and after hours.

There are 2 parking structures adjacent to the Grand. The basement garage is for drop off only. It is for resident parking only. There are currently 108 occupied luxury apartments and penthouses in this Milwaukee historical building which was Milwaukee's first skyscraper.

Please e-mail Judith or David to sign up. Also, you can call us or sign up at the next meeting.

David Klein: 920-533-8689

Newsletter Info

The next deadline is February 12th.

Send articles to Chris Sommerfelt at csommerfelt@wi.rr.com. Use the title LMA News or Open Canvas somewhere in your subject line to avoid accidental deletions. No verbal requests accepted. Email is preferred. In lieu of email, fax articles to 414-259-9233 or mail them to Chris Sommerfelt, 3214 N. 105th St. Wauwatosa 53222.

Joyce Eesley is editor in charge of proofing and mailing the newsletter. All address or email changes should be sent to her at joyce_eesley@msn.com. **If you wish to receive your newsletter via email, let Joyce know via email or call 414-321-7651.**

Website Info

See what's new at www.leagueofmilwaukeeartists.com
Remember to submit member news to Patrice Herbst, patrice@patriceherbst.com for posting on the web **and** to Chris Sommerfelt to post in the newsletter."

Member News

CURRENT:

Sonya Lyster-Baime will be presenting transparent watercolor paintings with a floral theme in a solo exhibition at New Visions Gallery, Marshfield, WI January 13, 2008 through March 8, 2008. This past spring Sonya had three paintings selected for "Art Alfresco," a group show, at Katie Gingrass Gallery, Milwaukee, WI.

LMA members represented at Watercolor Wisconsin 2007 include **Carolyn Kenny Carter, William Davis, Joyce Eesley, Elizabeth Falter Minz, Julia McMurray, Millie Minessale, Judith Gahn Murphy, Janet Roberts, Kitty Sturrock, Pat Zandron.** **Alice Rossman** received the third award. **George Ronsholdt** received the Mary Frances & William Gerler Award and a merchandise award. The exhibition runs through April 12, 2008 at the Charles A. Wustum Museum of Fine Arts, 2519 Northwestern Avenue, Racine, Wisconsin.

Susan Hale has an exhibit at Gallery 110 in Plymouth from January 18th – February 24th. along with Claudette Lee titled "Barns, Bales & Bovines."

Joyce Eesley will be exhibiting 5 miniature watercolors in "The Little Show: Miniature Art Exhibit" called "You Gotta Have Art" at the Cedarburg Cultural Center from January 26 - March 9, 2008. Opening reception is January 27th from 1:00 to 3:00pm.

USBank in Bayside (500 E. Brown Deer Rd.) is displaying limited edition photography in their lobby by **J.J. Joyce.**

WP&S Exhibit at the Ruess Building, includes LMA members **Tom Pscheid, Joyce Eesley** and **J.J. Joyce** from December 15th to January 18th.

Artwork submitted by **Judith Reidy** to the Percent for Art Direct Purchase Program has been selected by the prescreening panel for consideration by state agencies. There were over 860 artworks submitted from over 180 artists, from which the panel selected nearly 300 works. Judith was also one of the recent artists selected to be included in the Portal Wisconsin online gallery.

RECENT:

Elizabeth F. Strehlow exhibited two watercolor paintings at Martha Merrills Book Store Art Exhibit and one oil color painting at Museum of Wisconsin Art, West Bend this past fall.

Reimbursement of Gas/Mileage for LMA Members

By Kathleen Flaherty

At our September board meeting it was decided that LMA members (as well as board members) could submit gas/mileage receipts for any long distance driving (20 miles or over) that was above and beyond what is expected for volunteers to be responsible for. The minutes of this board meeting were read aloud at the September general meeting, causing quite a stir. I want to dispel any misunderstandings. Our board members are very concerned with how money is spent and would not wish to “break the bank” with gas receipts. All board members understand that regular mileage to and from local meetings and local exhibits, or anything personal are not covered under this plan. (i.e. delivering your own work to a distant venue is not covered.) However, when LMA has a venue in Madison, Plymouth or any other long distance venue, the league needs to show appreciation to those members who go “above and beyond” for the greater good of the LMA membership. These volunteers are picking up and loading paintings onto vans or trucks, delivering LMA members’ paintings to the venue and also hanging the exhibit. I further believe that those who spend four or more hours loading paintings on a truck or van, driving to the venue site, and returning volunteers safely home again, should be treated to one meal, courtesy of the League of Milwaukee Artists. The food perk has not been voted on, or even brought up, at a board meeting, but I will do so at the next one. Imagine, those members who drove paintings to Madison and returned again, nine hours later, did so without a bite to eat...Ok, they did share a health food bar! My thanks go out to Joyce Eesley, Marie Myler, and Judith Reidy. Job well done!

I urge members to approach board members when any future questions occur. We will be glad to share information with you or get an answer if we do not have one. You may also call me at home, I’d welcome the opportunity to talk with you.

WARNING – SCAM

Be wary of email requests for sales of your artwork. They come with many names and circumstances, but basically the perpetrator states that they are moving from the states to somewhere in Africa. They say that they are interested in a specific painting. This is a scam. They send a check for well over the amount of the sale. The artist may cash

that check, (which later bounces). In the meantime, the artist is asked to send a personal check for the overage to the perpetrator, who then takes your money and runs. Worse yet, the artists may also send the artwork.

If you receive this type of email, please email it to fnfic@internetmci.com. They are an internet watch group.

LMA Display Grids

By Kathleen Flaherty

At one of our last board meetings this topic came up. Occasionally one of our members would like to use the grids for a personal exhibit. The grids are there to be used, but board members were concerned about wear and tear. It was voted on, and decided, that an LMA member may use the grids for personal use **if there is no LMA event that may conflict**. The fee for renting the grids would be \$25 per use. Pick up and delivery would be up to the artist on a first come, first serve basis. J. J. Joyce houses them at her garage so please call in advance to make a reservation and determine convenience for pick-up or delivery.

If there is an LMA exhibition in which the grids are used by membership the grids will be divided up equally between members who register in advance for the event. It will be expected that members will help with pick-up and delivery to the event location. J.J. is happy to store the grids for us, but we will not expect her to do the lifting and transporting for all LMA exhibitions.

When It Snows... It's a Blizzard!

(sister to... When It Rains It Pours)

By Kathleen Flaherty

How fortunate for the League of Milwaukee Artists that due to David Klein's efforts **we were offered two wonderful venues for Gallery Night and Day, January 18th and 19th!** In order to share the opportunity, David asked WP&S to display their work at the Milwaukee Public Market and LMA will exhibit at The Grand Wisconsin, 720 Old World Third Street. Hopefully, we will team up again for future gallery nights. Please see David's article for more information.

Results of Member Questionnaire

COLLECTED AND COMPILED FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK
 There have been 39 responses to the LMA Questionnaire and I wanted to share the results with you. Here's what some of our members are thinking.

1. I became a member of LMA:

To enter my work with other artists of professional quality.18
 To hear monthly programs and speakers.7
 To be a part of a serious professional art group, prestige.5
 To learn how to promote art, make art and sell art.1
 To get together with fellow artists.22
 To get rich.1
 To become current in the art world.3
 To build my resumé.....2
 To receive challenge and stimulation.1
 Because my mom was a member.1
 Because it was "cool".1
 Because an artist/friend asked me.3

2. Has our organization met your needs as an artist?

Yes 30 No 3 Yes and No 4 No Response 2

If no, why not?

- Would like more informative meetings.
- Would like a sense of fraternity, more social time to share ideas, give advice, give out awards.
- Security at some venues is lax or non-existing.
- Not comfortable having exhibits juried using digital images.
- When a professional artist is striving to build their portfolio in order to submit to serious art galleries and museums, nursing homes and store front windows would not be considered a professional arena on the resumé.

3. What do you like best about LMA?

Speakers11
 Visiting with other member artists, networking.....21
 Exhibition opportunities21
 Idea sharing3
 Working together to bring the awareness of visual artists in Milwaukee to the public 1
 The Board3
 Getting help in how to market work2
 Expanding experience with variety of media2
 Informative monthly meetings7
 Vibrant, active organization.....1
 Openness and lack of pressure (but I see that changing)..... 1

4. What would you like to change about LMA?

More concise information re: exhibition opportunities 1
 Put information re: exhibition ops in print (at meeting)..... 1
 Some policies be settled by board, then brought before membership for simple yes/no vote.....1
 2006 and 20071
 More stimulating meetings/lectures by artists.3
 The meetings, keep them short, 30-40 minutes.....5
 Have only two exhibits at good venues per year.....1
 I see a few using this group to promote themselves.....1
 I was very troubled with the move to ask older members to become inactive. Let's raise membership instead.....2
 The process of entering exhibits.1
 More participation by membership.4

Less time between jurying and hanging of exhibit1
 Location...I liked Charles Allis.1
 Nothing.....3
 More exhibits centrally located to Milwaukee.....2
 More community events.1
 More people to volunteer.1
 More impressive jurors.....1

5. Do you attend meetings?

Most questionnaires were filled out at the meeting so answers were yes, but some said it varies, depending on the speaker.

6. What do you like about the meetings?

If brief meeting, great!.....3
 Critiques4
 Guest Artists' presentations20
 Talk with fellow artists, networking.....16
 Marketing ideas.....1
 Announcements of events.....5
 Community service in the arts.....1
 Not much.....2
 Opportunities to see members' work.....1

Suggestions for guest speakers

Artist demos.....5
 Dan Gerhartz, David Lenz and Charles Peterson
 Tax information.....2
 All speakers relate to 2-D art.....1
 Gallery owners.2
 Curators.1
 Keep meetings art related, less technology.....1
 More critiques.4
 How to write an artist statement.1

7. What would you like to change about the meetings?

Need better sound system.1
 Make it fun and enjoyable again. 1
 Seriously consider oj, cocoa/coffee, and doughnuts at every meeting, extending social camaraderie to 9:45.....2
 Ask members for news.2
 A more dependable schedule, too many changes..... 2
 Longer break, more social time.1
 Display artist's work at meeting.1
 More critiques.2
 Less time spent on business. Shorten speeches.....4
 Digital requirements are a burden to members, need training information and time to learn it.....1

8. All questionnaire participants plan on exhibiting work. Most who checked box said 2-3 exhibits a year.

9. Are there distance or submission challenges for you?

Date confusion re: Madison show kept me out.....1
 I am not digitally ready!.....6
 New person needed to receive digital submissions and send back confirmation of receipt3
 I just do not like to bring in actual work and pick it up 2x in the same day1
 If this is the League of Milwaukee Artists then I do think people driving long distance from Milwaukee have a legitimate complaint.1
 Would like exhibits to be closer and no slides or photos for submission.....1
 Pick up and delivery to Plymouth and similar areas distance to great for my potential customers..... 1
 Security needs to be tightened at some venues.1
 When awards are determined jurors need to see original work...1

10. Which would you exhibit in?

Juried group exhibitions	39
Volunteer to help it succeed?.....	32
Plein air events.....	23
Volunteer to help it succeed?.....	15
Non-juried show.....	29
Volunteer to help it succeed.....	14
Gallery Nights in the 3rd Ward	27
Volunteer to help it succeed.....	14

Other ideas for exhibitions?

Anderson Gallery, Kenosha; Gallery 110, Plymouth; Sheboygan; Cardinal Stritch; Schlueter Gallery, Wisconsin Lutheran College, Wauwatosa

General Comments, Challenges, etc.

- Need more involvement with corporate sponsors.
- Sell work to businesses.
- Let's get back to the LMA Source...an organization which promotes the members as a whole.
- I've seen this group change radically in the past two years. Let's keep it to its original plans...for all!
- Be nice to see 3-6 paintings on easels of members work every meeting.
- Since the time I joined LMA the group has gotten better and better. We are as good as our skills, always room for expansion and improvement. Grateful for the officers, their dedication and expertise!

Reception at Museum of Wisconsin Art

The reception for the League of Milwaukee Artists Exhibit, "Gathering Before the Storm", will be held on Sunday, January 13th from 1:30 to 4:00 pm.

The exhibition dates are January 2 through March 2. Sneak peak on Friday, January 4th at 10:30 am.

The museum is located at 300 South 6th Avenue, West Bend, WI. Telephone: 262-334-9638

Hours of operation: Wednesday – Saturday from 10:00 am – 4:30 p.m., Sunday 1:00 pm – 4:30 p.m.

There will be an artists' listening session held at 3:00 pm with awards following.

Pickup: March 5-9, 2008, same hours as above at MWA.

Posted on MARN by photographer listed below: Another resource for members who do not wish to do their own digital photography of artwork. *LMA has no affiliation with this photographer nor are we familiar with his work.*

John Ruebartsch Photography
414 839-5285 • ruebartsch@yahoo.com

Award Winners at the Wisconsin Arts Board Exhibit

Joan Mary Schneider
Best of Show

Winter Solstice, watercolor/mixed media

Joyce Eesley
Award of Excellence
Card Party, watercolor

M. Joy Kasun
Award of Excellence
Winter Refrain, oil on canvas

Millie Minessale
Award of Excellence
All Hands on Deck, watercolor

Judith Beyer
Honorable Mention
Peek-A-Boo Geraniums, watercolor

Nora Boedeker
Honorable Mention
Plums, oil on masonite

Betty Hetzel
Honorable Mention
The Birches,
Monoprint on Yupo using Creatix water medium

David Klein
Honorable Mention
Helen's Varnamo, acrylic

Marie Myler
Honorable Mention
Grapes and Onions, pastel

Congratulations All!

January Meeting

There will be a membership meeting on January 12th, 2008. Coffee, tea, and doughnuts will be provided in our meeting room afterward for a New Year Social. Meeting will begin at 9:45. Agenda for the meeting will include: Plein Air 2008 planning session; discussion of the 2007 survey results; and whether or not artwork may be shown multiple times as long as the venue is changed and no award has been given said painting. Bring your copy of the survey results, which can be found in the LMA newsletter Winter 08 *Open Canvas* mailed or on the web.



League of Milwaukee Artists

8039 W. Waterford Ave.

Milwaukee, WI 53220

www.leagueofmilwaukeeartists.com



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Open Canvas

Winter 2008

MEETINGS: Dates & Places

JANUARY

Saturday, January 12th– 9:30am
Stiemke Hall, Mount Mary College
2900 Menomonee River Parkway

Business Meeting:

Main topic of business is to discuss the spring plein air event. Also, it's the date of pick-up for art that was exhibited at the Wisconsin Arts Board. (details page 4)

FEBRUARY

Saturday, February 9th– 9:30am
Stiemke Hall, Mount Mary College
2900 Menomonee River Parkway

Program:

Our annual critique, critic to be announced.
One or two pieces per member.