

NEWSLETTER

Art a Loan is Big in Jackson

Over 300 attend the student reception at the Ella Sharp Museum



Imagine a 'standing room only' crowd of over 300 in the Grand Room at the Ella. Fifty-seven students are called to the stage to receive awards for their art work as parents take photos on their cell phones. Then imagine the crowd moving up the hall and into the Gallery. The room is abuzz. There, proud students stand by their art and smile as parents, friends and art teachers congratulate them, and take more pictures. This was the scene at the Thursday, Nov. 13 awards reception for student art participating in the Art a Loan Program.

***"It was a joy to see the students art work.
This is a real labor of love by the JCAA.
What a boost to our student's creativity!"
Joan Larson***

It all began in the Spring when over 350 students submitted art to be juried for award.

Fifty-seven works were selected through a juried process representing a cross section of schools and grades. These works were professionally framed and hung in the large gallery at the Ella Sharp Museum. An awards ceremony and reception was held for the students. After the ceremony the art works were distributed to 40 "renters", businesses and agencies that made a donation to underwrite the cost of the program. The art will be displayed in these businesses for a year, and then returned to the student artists.

The program is a joint effort between the JCAA and the Ella Sharp Museum. It is within a few dollars of total self-sufficiency. And, there are only winners associated with the program. The program offers recognition to the JCAA and Ella Sharp Museum, the supporting businesses, and most importantly, to the students and their art.

ED THAYER DEMONSTRATES THE AIRBRUSH

At the age of 12 he purchased an air brush. By age 16 he was customizing motorcycles. He worked in automotive painting and customizing for 30 years, then walked away from the business to produce art. On Tuesday, Nov. 18 Ed Thayer, a.k.a Steampunk Eddie, did an air brush demonstration using black canvas and acrylic paint at the JCAA meeting.

“You’re better than you think you are,” he said to those in the audience who might be thinking about giving the airbrush a try. The trick is to keep the air brush clean. He recommends new air brushers buy a brush in the \$100-\$150 range. Avoid the inexpensive ones, and to start, don’t buy the real expensive ones, they’re too complicated for those new to the airbrush. The best way to learn? Just do it. Practice. Make mistakes. Don’t get discouraged, just keep doing it.

Mr. Thayer, a “sculpturist”, also does what he calls Steampunk Art, mechanical art with gears - clocks,

lamps, or simply mechanical art that just looks good. Steampunk, as he describes it on his website at www.steampunkeddie.com, is “the kind of art that is as if the future happened in the past.”

At the conclusion of his demonstration he offered JCAA members a chance to try the airbrush. Several did. It was an enticing and unique experience.



Photo by Fred Bruey

Ed Thayer demonstrates the air brush.

ART CASTING FIELD TRIP



Roger Smith of Michigan Art Castings discusses casting with JCAA members Sylvia Wymer, Candice Murphy, Lori Sten, and Gary Willcock.

On Thursday, Nov. 20, a small group of JCAA members responded to an invitation to view a pouring at a local artist foundry. The group travelled to Leslie to Michigan Art Castings, a company owned by by Roger Smith that does art castings. Mr. Smith, and his assistant, the Rev. Chris Bigg, demonstrated the bronze casting

of sculptures, pouring molten bronze into plaster molds.

While Rev. Bigg watched over the melting of the bronze in an oven, Roger discussed the process. Beginning with the original sculpture, a silicon rubber mold is prepared. Hot wax is poured into the rubber mold. When the wax cools and solidifies, it is covered in plaster. When the plaster mold dries the mold is heated, the wax melts and is vaporized leaving a mold into which the molten bronze may be poured.

The oven is heated with natural gas. Bronze ingots, and chunks of bronze salvaged

from previous castings, are added to a containment vessel in the oven to melt. When the temperature reaches 2130 degrees fahrenheit, the vessel is removed from the oven, and the bronze is poured into the plaster molds which have been heated in a kiln. When the mold cools, the plaster may be removed.



Roger Smith and Assistant Rev. Chris Bigg remove and pour bronze into casts. Click on photo above to view movie.



Craig Cossey's *Midwest Artifact* in acrylic won Best of Show.



The *Kalahari King and His chosen Queen*, acrylic, by Pauline Pierce took First Place.



Honorable Mention was awarded to Mike Palmer for his mixed media painting, *On Thin Ice*.

Happy Holidays!

Ella Sharp Museum Fine Art Competition

There is a whole lot of creativity on display in one place at the Hurst gallery at the Ella. The **Statewide Fine Art Competition** exhibition is up and will run until Tuesday, January 27, 2015. Don't miss it! Fifty-Seven works of art, including paintings and sculpture from 45 artists, are in the gallery.

JCAA artists exhibiting include **Craig Cossey, Natalie Halsey, Carol Hanna, Julie Highlen, Lu Huntley, Michael Palmer, Pauline Pierce, Millie Gift Smith, Sharon Sunday, Mary Hertler Tallman, and Ave Veneklassen**. Congratulations to all who participated.

Artist of the Month for December, 2014

At the Nov. 18 meeting of the JCAA, **Julie Highlen** was voted Artist of the Month for the month of December, 2014 for her painting, *Night Watch*. Well done, Julie!



President's Message

It must mean something when the newsletter grows from two to four pages and the President's Message finds its way back to Page 3. And it does. The JCAA has been busy lately with exhibitions, the Art a Loan Program, demonstrations, and all the other things we do. In addition, the newsletter has yet to be completely defined. What do we want to accomplish with the newsletter? How often should it be published? What should be in it? More photos, fewer words? Fact is, it is still a work in progress. So, if you have strong feelings about what you'd like it to be and what it should contain, send a message and let me know.

You may recall an invitation to submit prose, poetry, commentary, photos, cartoons...for publication in the newsletter. Well, two of you responded. I've placed what was submitted into what is called "The JCAA Annex," and it is included this month. The Annex was instituted to create yet another means for our members to share their creativity. Whether we have another edition depends on you. If there are submissions, if members voice their interests, we'll publish another issue. But regardless, we'll keep tinkering, exploring, and evaluating to provide a newsletter that meets the best interests of the JCAA and its members.

Charles Reisdorf

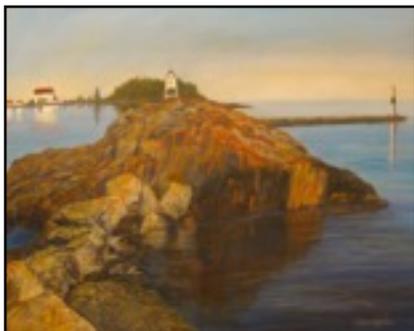
Landscape/Cityscape Exhibit Jackson College Potter Center Gallery

The Landscapes/Cityscapes exhibition in the Potter Center Gallery closed on Monday, Nov. 24, 2014. Eighteen artists displayed 27 paintings in the exhibition. Three works of art were selected for awards by popular vote of persons attending the artist's reception held on Saturday, Nov. 8, 2014.

Congratulations to artists **Julie Highlen, Lori Swope Sten,** and **Kaye Williams.**



Lori Swope Sten's painting, *Purple Sunset*, contains, imbedded in the lines of tree branches, the outlines of 14 faces.



Grand Marais Harbor, MN, a painting by Julie Highlen



Kaye Williams painted this scene in oil entitled, *Spring has Sprung*.

Thanks...

to **Sylvia Wymer** who gave so much of her time and effort to implement the Art a Loan Program. Her ceaseless determination, attention to detail, careful planning, and hard work resulted in the highly successful recognition and display of student art in the Jackson Community.

to **Gary Willcock** for his leadership contribution to the JCAA. Within the past month Gary has brokered demonstrations of art with Mike Palmer and Ed Thayer at JCAA meetings on Nov. 4 and 18, and organized a field trip to Michigan Art Castings for JCAA members on November 20.

Calendar

December 9, 2014

JCAA Holiday Party at The Country Club of Jackson, 3155 Horton Road, Jackson Social 6 p.m. Dinner 7 p.m.

January 20, 2015

JCAA Meeting, Movie Night, time and location TBA.

Now Through January 27, 2015

Statewide Fine Art Competition at Ella's Hurst Gallery.

Figure and Portrait Art Happenings

Figure drawing is offered at the Ella Sharp Museum on Friday mornings from 9:00 a.m. until noon. Sessions will be open on Dec. 5, 12, and 19. The fee is \$8. Dry media only, please.

Portraiture sessions will resume in January. Watch for more information to be provided in the January 2015 Newsletter.

The Jackson Civic Art Association (JCAA) is a non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation which promotes art and artists in the greater Jackson, Michigan community. Membership is open to artists and those interested in art.

Opinions expressed are the views of the editor and do not necessarily reflect the views of the JCAA or its members

The JCAA may be contacted by mail at 3225 Fourth St. Jackson, MI 49203, or through our website at www.jacksoncivicart.org.

Dear JCAA Reader,

Welcome to the inaugural issue of the Jackson Civic Art Association Annex. The Annex offers space for member contributions of written and graphic material offered for the interest, amusement, consideration, and education of the JCAA membership. The views expressed are solely those of the contributor.

LEARN

Poem by Jerry Peters

So close, but so far
Away from "I know";
Almost, door ajar,
To the point called, "I show".

Like waves that roll, back
And forth, on wet sand,
Seem a rope gone slack
Right in your best hand.

But get close,
Throw it out again,
Ride the wave,

Crush it with your pen.

THE RETURN

Prose in 99 words by Tom Boyer

Snow flaked thickly onto Dad's old Fordson. Too rusty to move, Jim determined. He couldn't look at the house. He studied the barn instead. Still reddish, and the siding looked tight, he noted. He plodded to the front and got a shock. A hole gaped where the sliding door had been. Obviously, Farmright needed no barn. They moved crops to the processor hundreds of acres a day. A taste entered his mouth. Instantly, memories flickered

warm images of family dinners. He sighed deeply, surprising himself. He got onto 94 in the rental car, and wondered if he'd ever be back.

On Bob Ross

Opinion by Charles Reisdorf

On a couple occasions since I joined the JCAA Bob Ross's name has surfaced. "Surely I had heard of him", a member said, and "hadn't I watched his show?" I certainly have watched a painter on television at some time or another in my life, but I have no detailed recollection of the event or the artist. So as I perused the WKAR program guide a few months ago I came across a painting show and tuned in. Sure enough, there was Mr. Ross. I watched skeptically. Was he for real, this old guy with fuzzy hair, his strange mannerisms, the slapping of his paintbrush on the leg of his easel, his talk of trees needing little friends because "everybody needs a friend."

I found myself watching a few more episodes, rolling out of bed so I could catch is 6:30 a.m. show. I picked up on him right away, and mimicked him and his personality, had my wife in stitches.

And still, I watched. Quite amazing really, completing an oil painting in 25 minutes, right there before my eyes. Sure, his style is unmistakable, and the subject matter is quite limited, mountains, trees, and water with little rocks in it, but 25 minutes? Bob does a good job of talking while he paints, and if one listens, Bob

gives a lot of information and 'how to' help on art in general, and on a wide range of oil painting topics. And, he constantly reminds his audience that they can do whatever they want with their painting because it is their world.

But there is something much more to Bob than his set of two-inch and fan brushes. He cares about his audience. He is a kind man, and he presents art in a good way, with compassion. He is the Mr. Rogers of the art world, quietly encouraging artists and would be artists to create beauty in this wacky world we live in, and to do it just for the joy and pleasure of doing it. The art world is a better place because of Bob Ross.

I'M READY

Prose by Tom Boyer

I've heard a number of clichés from coaches during my long tenure as a lukewarm TV sports fan. But there was something arresting about the voice of this football/ hockey/ baseball/soccer coach (I didn't know which yet) that made me turn around to look. It was sincerity—in his voice, and now that I could see him, in his facial expression, and even in the way he stood before the camera. In his delivery, I heard words as if from Moses, but actually I'd heard those words from others in varyingly assorted jumbles many times before.

"In any game this team has the

(Continued on Page 2 of the Annex)

(Continued from Page 1 of the Annex)

determination, the strength, and the skills to defeat any team on any day, home or away, in this conference,” he said.

He paused to let this sink in. I felt it. Not since my high school principal’s “there are milestones” speech had words bored into me and lodged so deeply. He then lowered his voice a bit, and raised pre-game coach-speak to a new and higher level.

“There’s another side to this, of course,” he said matter-of-factly, but with a touch of sadness. “In any game, at home or away, on any given day, any team in this conference may have what it takes to take us down.”

Again, it was the sincerity with which this man had delivered the facts that had me ready to take up arms on his behalf, despite my age, and that annoying tendency I have to be overly polite on the field.

He was finished. I quickly grabbed a pen to write as many of his stirring words that I could. I noted the fact that he had appeared on Fox, and that the game was football, as I had suspected. Somehow the identities of the teams had escaped me. And worse, I had missed the name of the coach.

Now a week has gone by. I’ve Googled and YouTubed it, and I’ve made other searches, but all has been in vain.

Did his team win? Did the other team win? Was it a rare (but in this case a rather strangely appropriate) draw? Let me know, please!



Photo by Charles Reisdorf

Craig Cossey listens as Jerry Hill offers a critique of his art work on Nov. 4, 2014 at a JCAA Meeting.



Photo by Charles Reisdorf

Protective mask and foundry oven with owner Roger Smith (left) and assistant Rev. Chris Bigg at Michigan Art Castings in Leslie. Nov. 20, 2014.

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