

CALENDAR FOR AUGUST AND BEYOND

By Tom Boyer

MEETINGS

Friday, August 7: JCAA Board meeting 1 to 3pm. All members welcome.

Tuesday, August 18: Ice cream social, and Kathryn Tisch Miller demo.*

Friday August 28: JCAA Board meeting 1 to 3pm. All members welcome.

Tuesday, September 15: Potluck and Garage sale.*

Tuesday, October 6: Tom Mills: Gaming environments.

Friday, October 9: JCAA Board meeting 1 to 3pm. All members welcome.

Tuesday, October 20: "Gourdeous" Night.

*denotes Artist-of-the-Month. Membership meetings start at 6:30pm; doors open at 6pm.

FOR FUN

Ella's Patio Parties can act as a bridge between work and weekend. Enjoy a beer, wine and more, and listen to good music each Thursday starting at 5:30 to 7pm. Members are free, guest fee is \$3. Remaining dates and musician(s) are: Aug 6: Jason Peek; Aug 13th: Scott Miller; Aug 20: Joel Jacob; Aug 27: Flashback; Sept 3: Tucker, Reed, and Holmes.

Saturday & Sunday, August 1&2. **How Bazaar**. In downtown Jackson. This is billed as a summer weekend street festival, combining an art fair, taste of Jackson, beer and wine tasting, with live entertainment. Don't miss the squirt gun fight!

ART FAIRS

First I must apologize to anyone who tried to attend the fair at South Haven on July 3 and 4. My entry should have listed the fair as open on July 4 and 5. I know one person who tried to go there on the third. I assure you I will check and recheck all dates in future.

Art fairs fall off quite a bit as the season winds down. As one who touted my houseportraits at many a fair, I picked up pointers on how to tell good from bad. To make the decision on whether a particular fair will suit you, seek information, be it through friends, the web, or calling chambers of commerce or organizers. First I would find out whether the show is juried. Has the fair just

started up, or is it celebrating its 30th year? What meaning can you get from the name of the fair? Other considerations include the number of booths, and recent attendee figures. Also, does the fair include your particular art interest, and how many booths are listed in that category? Will the attendees have other ways to spend money at the fair, such as on magic shows, pony rides, sports, or theater? At the ideal fair, the fairgoers will have fine art on their minds only. The patrons will not dawdle, and they will not meet friends likely to talk about old times in front of your booth. If the town has a homecoming on that weekend, expect much meeting and greeting.

I would not ignore a fair that bills itself as a craft fair. It is true that there may be much that does not appeal, but handwoven work is sometimes forced into the craft slot without thought. So too are wood pieces and leather work.

If you are thinking of trying to market work through art fairs, now is the time to do some sleuthing by visiting some shows. It's too late to apply to any fair of consequence this year, so talk to people at fairs that can help you with the process next year. It's a shame that much of the info about fairs is now guarded by companies that make money from your desire to know. The best fairs want your application, bio, photos, and jury fees early. You may have to send some applications off in January, when the last thing on your mind is sitting in a booth, sweltering on a hot day in June.

Here are some fairs that are not far away that struck me as interesting:

Friday, July 31, to Sunday, August 2. **Brighton Fine Arts & Acoustic Music Festival** on Main in downtown Brighton. The art fair part may not be open until Saturday. Hours are: 5-8pm Friday, 10am-8pm Saturday, and 10am-5pm Sunday. Juried. The fair is in its 32nd year, and stresses the quality of its artists and the gentleness of its music. The city has connected with local artists, especially plein air painters.

Saturday, August 1, 10am to 7pm, and Sunday, August 2, 10am to 6pm: **Downtown Monroe Fine Art Fair**. Juried. You can actually get a preview of the art on view by going to downtownmonroeartfair.com About 100 exhibitors.

Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, August 7, 10am-8pm, Aug. 8, 10am-7pm, & Aug. 9, 10am- 5pm: **Milford Memories Art in the Village**. Juried. 300 exhibitors! You can find the names of artists participating by clicking on to the website. It's their 23rd year, so they must be doing something right.

Saturday, September 19 (10am to 10pm) and Sunday, Sept. 20 (10am to 4pm). **Northville's Victorian Art Festival** in picturesque downtown Northville. Juried. 75 exhibitors. This is a well-run fair with much local help, and free spenders. Saturday would be a long day.

Support **JCAA artists' Art Show** on Sunday, August 9 from **noon to 4pm at 634!** Art, music, food, and fun!

