

NEWSLETTER

“Discover Your Creativity and Share it”
Artist Thomas Mills Presents the Compassionate Side of Creativity



Artist, entrepreneur, mentor, graphic designer and gamer Thomas Mills advocates finding one’s passion and creativity and sharing it in the community. His favorite artist is Franz Klein, and his art work has been influenced by Mihaly Csikszentmihali. He does abstract art drawn from objects of everyday life viewed from unique and ambiguous perspectives. He produces table top gaming environments made from spoils and discards to enhance the gaming experience of players. He shares his craft in workshops and mentoring experiences.

Mr. Mills led the JCAA on a adventurous trek through what had to have been foreign territory for most of us, describing a micro-culture that enjoys competition and interaction in fantasy worlds. He designs and builds gaming environments with bits of metal, used styrofoam packaging, scrap plastic, and whatever else he can find to create vivid customized imaginary worlds. The formula? Mix equal parts creativity and rescued everyday cast-off materials, do it for the the likes of purist gamers and girl scouts.

Thomas advises artists to be open - open-minded to discovery, and open to sharing what has been learned to further art in the community.

Welcome New Members

Judith Bemis & Bonita Kothe

Quotation

“Try to be surprised by something every day.”

By Mihaly Csikszentmihali, known for his work in the study of happiness and creativity.

Coming Attractions at the JCAA

The Nov. 3 meeting of the JCAA will feature critiques of members art work by **Jill Wagner**. Ms. Wagner is skilled in watercolor, pastel, and oil painting. She is recognized nationally and is a prolific painter. She also maintains a blog in which she displays her art work and offers an explanation and shares tips on her recent painting efforts. Bring a piece of art and enjoy Jill’s critiques of it and the work of others.

On Nov. 17, Artist **Julia Garnett** will demonstrate pen and ink drawing. Ms. Garnett, a local artist, is also skilled in acrylic painting, and is an educator. Come and see her demonstrate and learn techniques for working with pen and ink.

The **Annual JCAA Holiday Party** will be held on Tuesday, Dec. 8 at the Country Club of Jackson. Details on the party will be available soon.

Beginning in January, 2016, the **Artist of the Month** program will become thematic. Topics will be established in advance and works submitted for the award will address the theme. Art up to three years old may be submitted, but members are encouraged to use the themed approach to do new art. January’s theme will be “Snow.”

**Artist of the Month -
Nancy McKay**



Nancy McKay, Artist of the Month for November, displays her silk painting, *Sinopab Crossing*. The painting is a scene which may be found at Two Medicine, Glacier National Park. Ms. McKay spends much of her summers painting at national parks. She has studied textiles extensively and often paints on silk, and has given workshops to the JCAA on the techniques on this unique medium.



In the photo above, taken by Fred Bruey, Betty Bigger displays the gourd she's painting at the the "Gourdeous" event at the JCAA meeting on Oct. 22.

Photo at right - Seated at a gourd-filled table, Terry Kamela-Cheney and Gerald Hill share a laugh as they apply paint to their gourds.

Commentary...
**The Meaning of the
Art a' Loan Program
for JCAA**

One of the more unique presentations to the JCAA was Thomas Mills's presentation on "Gaming Environments" last month. In addition his topic, which was new to many of us, he spoke of the importance of sharing in the community. Mr. Mills spoke of his mentoring experience, and in his literature he promotes Kalamazoo's Park Trades Center, and he features artists who work there.

The Art a' Loan Program, culminating with the student reception last month, was a huge success by any measure. An excited group of talented, K-12 students took pride in their work, work that was enhanced with quality framing and all the attention the reception provided.

The Art a' Loan program does not come about without the time and effort of caring people. Several JCAA members worked hard and long to make this year special. The impact of this program in our community goes far beyond what we can perceive. Please know that your efforts are appreciated and valued.

Charles Reisdorf



Calendar

Tues., November 3, 2015

JCAA Meeting, Critiques by Jill Wagner. Doors open at 6, meeting at 6:30 p.m.

Fri., November 6, 2015

JCAA Board Meeting at Ella Sharp Museum, 1 to 3 p.m.

Fri., November 6, 13, & 20

Figure Drawing at Ella Sharp Museum, 9 a.m. to noon. \$8, dry media only please.

Tues. Nov. 17, 2015

JCAA meeting. Julie Garnett, demo on Pen and Ink Drawing, " doors open at 6, meeting at 6:30 p.m. Artist of the Month for Dec. and Jan.

Fri. Nov. 20, 2015

Portrait Session at Ella Sharp Museum. 12:30 p.m. top 3:30 p.m. \$8. If using wet media bring drop-cloth.

Notice

The JCAA is cleaning out the storage room at the Ella. If you have art in the storage room, please remove it, or offer it for sale on the Wall of Art before the end of the year.

The Jackson Civic Art Association (JCAA) is a non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation which promotes the visual arts, and the skills of individual members in the greater Jackson, Michigan community through lectures, discussion, and mutual association. 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.

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