

# NEWSLETTER

## Annual Meeting Action

*New Board, Officers take Office. Agreement with Ella*

**Jackson Civic Art Association  
2015-16 Board of Directors**

President	Charles Reisdorf
Vice-President	Julie Highlen
Secretary	Nyla Arvy
Treasurer	Sylvia Wymer
Director	Linda Alyea
Director	Terry Kamela Chaney
Director	Lori Swope Sten
Director	Gary Willcock
Director	Fordine Williams

The members present at the JCAA Annual Meeting elected officers and one additional director to fill all positions on the association Board of Directors.

The membership was offered the opportunity to nominate members from the floor for Board positions, but chose to elect those placed in nomination by the Nominating Committee.

The new board will begin it's work with the new fiscal year beginning June 1. In terms of composition, the net change in board membership included the addition of Fordine Williams to the Board for 2015-16.

Members were elected to their Board positions by unanimous voice vote.

Members present also voted unanimously to extend an agreement with the Ella Sharp Museum. The agreement, executed originally in 2005, committed \$50,000 in funds to the museum capital campaign in exchange for meeting space and the provision of a storage room for Association records and equipment.

The new agreement, enacted by a resolution, noted the mutually beneficial arrangement the agreement has afforded the association and the Ella Sharp Museum. The new agreement commits an annual donation of \$2500 to the museum through the year 2025. The Association will continue to meet and hold workshops at the museum.

Artist Profile...

### **Craig Cossey**

At the Still-Life Roundtable in March, he walked in with a little bucket of cleaning supplies - you know, spray bottles and cleansers and such. He sat a table on the side of the room and pulled out a pencil and a sketch pad. And then in his usual way, with confident and efficient pencil strokes, he did one of his usual great drawings...of that bucket of cleaning supplies.

He paints old stuff mainly, common everyday stuff, usually stuff that's been around a while, stuff most would overlook. One of his recent paintings included peeling paint so real that one was tempted to look down to see if flakes had fallen off onto the floor.

Not one, but two of his works were recently recognized by North Light Books' 2nd Annual Competition *Acrylic Works 2: Radical Breakthroughs*. Only 116 artists of a field of 1200 from 30 countries were recognized.

Most recently, his work was featured in *Artsy Shark*. Do yourself a favor and kick back when you have a minute and go to <http://www.artsyshark.com/2015/05/11/featured-artist-craig-cossey/> for a fascinating look at his work, and make sure you read his description of his work to get a glimpse of the artistic mind behind his wonderful art.

## Poems From Nancy McKay's Demonstration



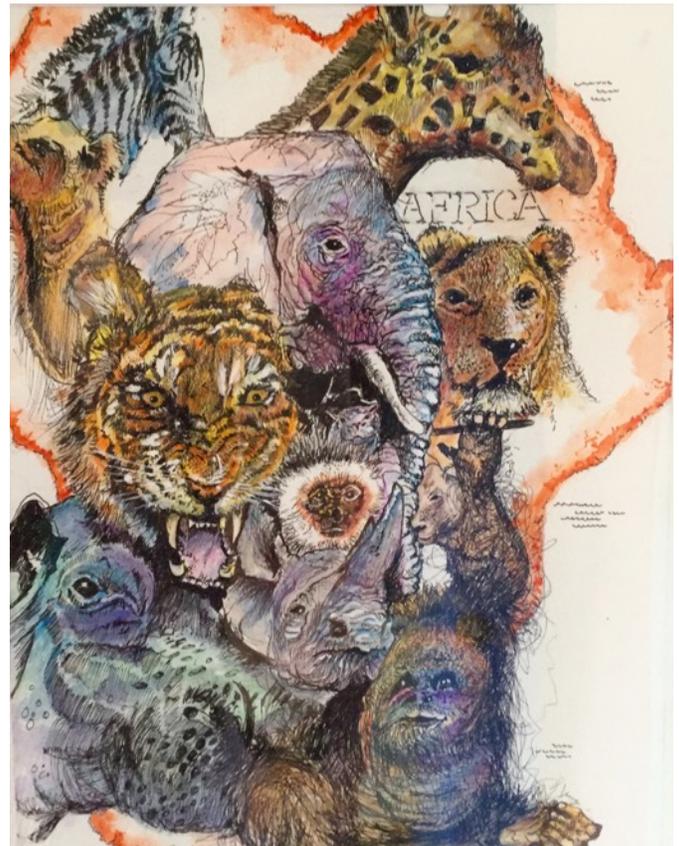
Group 1 selected Nancy McKay's image of corn stalks.

Crunchy soldiers' toes in line  
 Rooted in their special place in time  
 Opossum toes standing in wait  
 But what do we wait for?  
 Sand paper ground porous and grey  
 The growing time has gone away  
 Withering leaves go to sleep  
 While the feet never sleep  
 Ochre leaves rest on sandy toes  
 Gritty, Crisp  
 Lonely time runs out  
 The season turns  
 The soldiers shed their crispy clothes and bow to winter's  
 winds



Group 2 chose an image of Point Imperial at the North Rim of the Grand Canyon, offered by Ms. McKay.

The rust in the ground is easily found  
 In the early morning without a sound  
 There is vastness and greatness all around  
 Leaving me in a safe place  
 The beauty of the earth brings life to my soul  
 My soul is screaming to share the beauty within  
 Endless forms of shapes that make a beautiful landscape



Group 3 chose Dick Stanton's winning artist of the month colored, pen-and-ink drawing of animals, entitled "Africa."

Beautiful eyes yet different intent  
 The thrill and terror combine in me  
 Open your eyes and reach for a giraffe and fly!  
 Because of the swiftness, time alone goes by!  
 Lists of lines and dots that form the beauty of the creatures  
 Lines and boundaries separate the species and sound  
 But working together we rejoice with God's grace around

**Editor's Note:** *In her demonstration at the April 7, 2015 JCAA Meeting, presenter and artist Nancy McKay divided participants into four groups which then participated at four workstations. One of these workstations involved the writing of a poem by each group. Three of the groups completed the assignment and their efforts are shown on this page.*

*Each of the groups selected an image as the subject of their poem. Each member of the group wrote a line or two. The resulting poems are works of poetic art in themselves, demonstrating the breath of artistic ability in the JCAA Community,*

**Steven Thurlow to Demo June 16**

During the discussion at our Annual Meeting, one of our members asked that we invite an artist who does modern art.

What a great segue for our June 16 JCAA meeting. Artist Steven Thurlow will be with us to do a demo on modern art. Mr. Thurlow works big. And, we'll need to place down a large drop cloth.

So plan now on attending and watch the paint fly as Steve works his splattering magic on the big canvas. Hope to see you then, Tuesday, June 16, 2015. As usual, the meeting will start at 6:30 p.m. And, don't forget, we'll elect an Artist of the Month that night.

**Quote...**

*"A picture is a poem, without the words."*

Horace

**Plan Ahead...**

Attend Gerald Hills AWOL (Acrylics, Watercolors, Oils Learning) workshop July 9-11, 2015. Registration forms are due by June 16, and may be submitted at the JCAA Meeting that evening.

The Art 634 Exhibition of JCAA artist's works will run from August 1 to August 31. Entry forms are now available.

The 25th Anniversary Juried Art Exhibition at the Potter Center will run from Sep 17 to Oct 13, 2015. Forms are now available.

**And, THANKS....**

**Lori Swope Sten** for arranging the workshop with Nancy McKay on April 28-29.

**Mary Hertler Tallman** for making arrangements to bring Nora Venturelli to the JCAA for a Plein workshop May 5-9.

**Linda Alyea, Julie Highlen, and Lori Swope Sten** for serving on the JCAA Nominating Committee and nominating a slate of board members and officers.

Friday **Figure Drawing models Nancy and Joe** for building and donating a model stand for the Figure Drawing sessions.

Thanks to all those members who have contributed in some way to our Association who, for whatever reason, have not been recognized for their contribution. Please know you have helped the JCAA.



Jean Weir, Lori Sten, Terry Cheney and Fordine Williams view Craig Cossey's drawing at the Still Life Session Mar 17.

**President's Message**

A story could have been written about the pot luck at the Annual Meeting. What a meal it was! So many wonderful dishes carefully prepared and served. A special thanks to all who participated.

But, the annual meeting is more than a great meal and a great chance to socialize with artist friends. It is a chance to assess the progress of our Association, and to ask where we go from here.

We conducted business, electing a board that is eager to get to work on the coming year's program. We renewed an agreement with the Ella Sharp Museum to continue our very successful partnership. And, we talked about our Association, what is is, and what it could be. At one point in our discussion, one of our newer members said she wanted our meetings to inspire her to become a better artist.

As an organization, and as an individuals, we can improve. We can grow. We can help to inspire. We can put out a better product. We simply need to apply ourselves.

So, give it some thought. Where would you like us to be in five years? Put your ideas in our suggestion box. Talk about your ideas with other members. Take action to move us forward for the good of the group, and for the good of you. And, whatever you do, keep doing art.

Let's do it. Lets make this year special. And while we're at it, lets have fun.

*Charlie Reisdorf*

## Artist of the Month



Photo by Fred Bruey

Artist of the Month, **Betty Bigger** stands beside her untitled painting of birch trees in autumn. Betty is one of the JCAA's newest members.



Sam Knecht gestures, offering criticism to Craig Cossey about Craig's acrylic painting featuring glass doorknobs.

## Knecht Critiques

Hillsdale College Professor Sam Knecht offered critiques to JCAA Members artwork at the May 5 meeting. Mr. Knecht has the ability to look at a work of art, assess where the artist is in ability, and offer advice on how to improve the art and move the artist to the next level. And, he does it with the perfect combination of frankness and sensitivity. Over the course of the evening he critiqued the work of more than 20 JCAA artists.



When **Dominic Pangborn** spoke at the April 21 meeting of the JCAA, he let his art speak for itself. One of his pieces, "Michigan in Motion," hangs in the lobby of the Ella Sharp Museum. Just an hour before the talk, he was honored at a reception held for him by the museum thanking him for the donation of the ArtPrize Third Place winner in the Three-Dimensional Public Vote Award. He wore two other pieces of his art, a tie and shoes, both products of his own fashion label, the Pangborn Design Collection.

Instead, Mr. Pangborn in his lecture entitled, "the Art of Creativity," focused on his life, and how it affected him as he grew and developed as an artist. He spoke of his childhood in war-torn Korea, about how he had to make-do with nothing but his imagination and creativity. He spoke of several occasions when, being short on resources but long on creativity and drive, he not only thrived, by flourished in the art world. He talked about the importance of understanding the needs and desires of those commissioning his work, and allowing this understanding to be the source of action. His message, in short, in terms of creativity in art...all that we need exists within us.

## JCAA Calendar, June 2015

**Tuesday, June 2** - Plein air at the Iris Farm, 9919 Sand Lake Hwy, Onsted, 9:30 a.m. to noon.

**Wednesdays, June 3, 10, 17, & 24** - Costumed Drawing at ART 634. 6 to 9 p.m. \$15, Or \$50 for five sessions.

**Friday, June 5** - No Figure Drawing.

**Friday, June 5** - JCAA Board Meeting at Gallery 119, Art 1 to 3 p.m.

**Tuesday, June 9** - Plein air at Cascades Park (meet at parking lot to right of falls) 9:30 to noon.

**Fridays, June 12, 19, & 26** - Figure Drawing at Ella. 9 to noon. \$8 Dry media only.

**Tuesdays, June 16, 23, and 30** - Plein air. Location TBA. 9:30 to noon.

**Tuesday, June 16** - JCAA Meeting with Steven Thurlow, Abstract painting demo. Doors open at 6, Meeting at 6:30 p.m.

**Friday, June 26** - Portrait Drawing at Ella, 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. \$8. Wet media permitted with drop cloth.

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 in this newsletter 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