

GVA



Highlights

MARCH 2016

The Monthly Publication of Grand Valley Artists

☆☆☆☆☆☆ Member News ☆☆☆☆☆☆

Celebration of the Arts

Grand Valley Artists was well represented in the First United Methodist Church's 43rd Celebration of the Arts competition held from February 12 through February 24th. Those artists who had one piece selected were Sr. Laurena Alflen, Larry Blovits, Bill Chardon, Jim Johnson, Patrick Kaiser, Kathleen Kalinowski, Scott Kenyon, Wilma Knoll, Carol Lourn, Nancy Liszewski, Dennis O'Mara, Janice Paulson, Gene Sampson and Joanne Swann. Robyn Bomhof, Nona Bushman, and Randy Nyhof each had two pieces selected. Congratulations to all! A special congratulations goes to Dennis O'Mara, whose piece, "Searching," was awarded an Honorable Mention.

It is always wonderful to see a large number of GVA artists' work represented in this show. Our participation in this show reflects both the excellent quality and productivity of our members.

Larry Blovits

Our own Larry Blovits won the Great Lakes Dental Award at the 19th Annual Juried 2016 Winter Arts Festival Exhibit at Gallery Uptown in Grand Haven for "Trickle Down Effect."



Larry Blovits, Trickle Down Effect

In the gallery... Who's up next?

In March

Sallie Zigterman will be having a one-woman show through the month of March.

Area Art News

Bus Trip to Chicago

The Rivertown Artists is sponsoring a bus trip to Chicago to see the Van Gogh exhibit. They have a 48-seat bus to fill, and they've invited us to join in. To learn more and get the form to participate, visit the GVA website.

Arts in Ada

The Ada Arts Council is pleased to announce that, with the completion of Phase 1 of the downtown redevelopment project, the Arts in Ada street festival will be held on May 14, 2016. Please visit their website at adaarts.org for more information.

Upcoming Exhibitions at LowellArts!

West Michigan Regional Art Competition will be on exhibit from March 4 until April 16. The 30th Annual West Michigan Regional Art Competition highlights outstanding artwork by Lower West Michigan artists. This year's distinguished juror is Caitlín Doherty, Curator and Deputy Director of Curatorial Affairs at the Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum MSU. Pieces are selected in all visual art media by artists 18 yrs. and older who reside in a 15-county region.

The LowellArts! Gallery

149 S. Hudson St.

Lowell, Michigan

Gallery Hours: Tuesday-Friday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Saturday 1-4 p.m.

Bruce & Mary Leep Gallery

Forty-one pieces of Randy Nyhof's fine art photography are showing in a one-person show at the Bruce & Mary Leep Gallery located in the Postma Conference Center at Pine Rest Hospital until April 5, 2016. The center is located at 300 68th Street SE, Grand Rapids, Mich. The Leep Art Gallery is open Monday through Friday 9 a.m.–4 p.m. and is free and open to the public.

Marywood Dominican Center Art Gallery

Lars and Doris Larson will be sharing their work from March 1 till April 30. The reception will be Sunday April 10 from 1 p.m. until 4 p.m. Lars does wood turning, and Doris will share her paintings, fabrics and collages. The gallery is located at 2025 E. Fulton, Grand Rapids, MI 49503.

Franciscan Life Process Center Program Lineup

You can learn more about the exciting lineup of workshops at The Franciscan Life Process Center by visiting the GVA website home page, where a complete listing of upcoming events is available.

Cascade Library

From February 4 until mid-March, featured artists will be Debbie Walker, Wilma Knoll, and Joanne Swann. If you are interested in showing your work at the library, contact Larry Goff at 616-949-1247.

Terryberry Gallery

The March Show will be our own Valentina Grigorieva and Kristen Thornton. Please come and support them at the Opening Reception on Friday, March 4 from 5:30 p.m.–7:30 p.m. Kristen's works endeavor to capture the color and the beautiful landscapes in and around west Michigan. The bright colors and shapes of the landscapes inspire her to bring to them life in her paintings. She is particularly interested in trees, as each one seems to have its own personality with its individual shapes and colors. She feels influenced by the ever changing light, sky, and water to capture a single moment in time. She then tries to bring forth a message that she believes the scene is trying to convey with the palette she chooses. Each scene has a message of its own. Bringing to the painting additional line work and colors similar to the style of other artists famous for their landscapes enhances the message of glory and beauty.

Valentina's paintings are personal reflections of her broad interests in subject matter ranging from cityscapes and landscapes, to flora and fauna. Although portraits of people are a favorite mode of expression, Valentina has a special love for abstract art. She works with a variety of different special techniques and archival quality media, but watercolor is her favorite because "it's free and unpredictable, yet it is the most difficult medium to work with."

Printmaking Workshop Coming

2-day workshop, Saturday and Sunday, March 19th and 20th from 10 a.m.–4 p.m. Visit the GVA website or email Joanne (joswann@sbcglobal.net) to learn more.

ICCF

The featured artist at ICCF in March will be Charles LaRue. Charles was the speaker for our Program in February. His work is brilliant! The ICCF building (the big, beautiful brick building with the huge pillars just west of the Green Well) is open from 8 a.m.–5 p.m. 920 Cherry St SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49506.

Kubiak Fund: We Want to Include You!

If you would like to be a member of GVA, but funds are tight for you right now, please consider applying for the Kubiak Fund. The fund has been created to assist with membership dues for the year. To apply, contact Carol Lurn, our president. You will remain anonymous to the rest of the membership. Carol's information is available in the contact list below.

**Welcome
New and Returning
Members**

William Andrus
Jeff Condon
Mindy Harris
Jacquelyn Melin
Joy Prusak
Tracy Tetzlaff
Judith Tummino
Patricia Flaherty
Carol Cline

BOARD NEWS



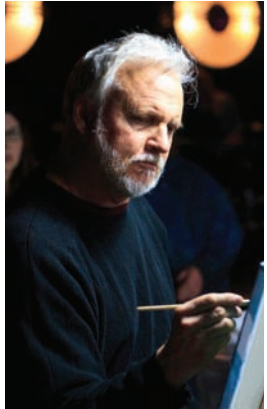
The board welcomes Steve Scarborough, who has agreed to take up the new position of Publicity Chairperson. Thanks for stepping up, Steve!

Randy Nyhof, one of our illustrious GVA photographers, shot this photo at our February meeting. We want our membership to recognize members of the board. (As we just added Steve to the board, he didn't make the photo this time around, but you can learn more about him below.)

Should you have any comments, questions, or suggestions, in regards to our organization, please feel comfortable approaching any board member. We want to keep our membership happy and contented.

New Publicity Chairman, Steve Scarborough

I would like to introduce myself to everyone here at GVA. Some of you might know me from portrait or still life drawing sessions, or from the photography group meetings, all of which I've been a part of for the last six months. Becoming a board member and agreeing to chair the publicity committee is something even more recent. So let me give you a few facts, or tell a few stories, whatever will help me bridge the gap and bring me into the fold.



Having called Grand Ledge and Lansing home for most of my life, I began working in community theater in the 80s, designing sound for most of the groups in the area. I served as vice-president and president of the Lansing Civic Players, and began taking photographs for shows and helping plan ads. I also found that if you send in an article complete with photos, the local papers would be glad to consider it for publication, so I occasionally did this for local bands, artists, and the theater. I also submitted human interest stories, which became my favorite articles to get published.

Another side job I got evolved in was producing a web cast (pretty much a radio show that plays on the internet) for Party 934, all about art in mid-Michigan. Writing and doing the voice work for an hour show each week for a year was pretty intense at times, much like being a board member of an artists group, I'm sure.

These experiences, along with my time spent in the music scene in Lansing (recording, performing, and producing) hopefully will serve me as I take on the tasks needed here at GVA.

My e-mail address is stevescarb1@yahoo.com, and my number is (517) 881-5634, for all those hot tips on events that need to be covered. Please contact me as soon as possible on these, so I can get an article and photographs into the appropriate media outlets. **Thanks!**

Constitution Vote on March 3!

Please take the time to read through the draft of our new constitution (if you didn't receive one via email, pick up a copy at GVA) and be prepared to vote to approve it on Thursday, March 3, during Critique.

Abstract Art

By Margaret Kriegbaum

So...what do you think about all the abstract paintings in the GVA Gallery?! What a surprise, considering GVA was founded as a haven for representational artists during the “post modern” or “contemporary” movements in the '60s.

Abstract art is not easy for everyone to appreciate. People say, “A child could do that!” But the truth is, good abstract artists have excellent drawing skills and compositions, among other things. What really makes people uncomfortable is the fact that they don't recognize the subject matter. But is that all that makes abstract or non-objective art so different?

I feel there are three major differences between representational & abstract art. (1) Representational art revels in the “literary” content, whereas abstract art is sufficient unto itself. They are completely different aesthetic experiences. (2) The creative approach is also different. With traditional painting or design, typically a preparatory study is made. The overall process is deliberate and carefully planned. With abstract art, the design is usually a reaction to an inner impulse. (3) Finally, solutions to artistic problems are found by different means. The traditional artist finds answers externally, right within the subject. The abstract artist has no external reference point, so solutions are found instinctually through trial and error. Of course there are exceptions...some traditional artists begin without a sketch and some abstract artists have a preconceived notion of what they want to accomplish. However, one thing I am confident about is that both genres complement one another. For example, abstract art improves when the artist considers design elements (color, shape, texture, space and form, dominance, similarity/contrast) and principles (unity/harmony, balance, hierarchy, and scale/proportion). Representational art improves when the artist allows intuition, imagination, spontaneity, and interpretation to flow.

So, try your hand at both styles. See how different they feel and how different your artwork looks. And forget about “understanding” abstract art! Just take it in and enjoy the experience.

Newsletter Deadline Reminder

The 20th of the month is the cut off for any article, notice, calendar items, etc., you would like to see in the next newsletter. Submit information to Mary Marin at marymarin@comcast.net.

Contact Listings for Grand Valley Artists

President: Carol Lurn
616-437-9365
carollurn@yahoo.com

Vice President: Sarabeth Carr
616-608 5588
sarabethcarr@gmail.com

Secretary: Dana Donnell
danaBdonnell@gmail.com

Treasurer: Evie Carrier
616-648-6858
evie.carrier@gmail.com

Membership Chair: Dave Bechtel
616-818-9618
davidbechtel@sbcglobal.net

Photography: Lora Cecola
loracecola@mac.com

Program: Randy Nyhof
616-745-1486
r.nyhof@comcast.net

Reed's Lake Art Festival: Bob Kraai
616-956-7734
rkraai@ameritech.net

Newsletter and Website: Mary Marin
616-443-0362
marymarin@comcast.net

Newsletter Layout: Ross McCrory

GVA Gallery Shows: Jim Johnson
615-451-2211
johnsonheartist@hotmail.com

Publicity: Steve Scarborough
stevescarb1@yahoo.com

Sketch Coordinators:
Kathy Bechtel
616-540-5744
kathleen.bechteler@yahoo.com
Dave Bazen
dbazen@bazenelectric.com
Larry Goff
lawrencegoff@comcast.net
Jim Johnson
616-451-2211
johnsonheartist@hotmail.com

Hospitality: Sarabeth Carr
616-608-5588
sarabethcarr@gmail.com

Library: Jim Johnson
616-451-2211
johnsonheartist@hotmail.com

Giving Back to Bliss & Vinegar

Jan McKinnon's wonderful pastels have been gracing the wall at B&V. Barb Munro is scheduled after Jan's work comes down, followed by Karen S. Johnson.



Jan McKinnon at Bliss & Vinegar

If you are interested in having your work displayed at B&V, you must place your work on the Gallery in our ever-more-popular GVA website. The owners of B&V regularly check the GVA website to see our work. If they like what they see, they contact Marty Klar. He coordinates this venue. Please do not contact the restaurant directly. In general, B&V leans towards still lifes of fruits and vegetables, farmland, barns, farm animals, and rural landscapes. Their display wall can handle 6-7 framed and ready to hang moderately sized paintings/photographs.

Contact Mary Marin with GVA website specific questions: marymarin@comcast.net, (616) 443-0362.

Contact Marty with Bliss specific questions: martyklar@comcast.net, (616) 813-7921

Do You Have Any Suggestions?

Our suggestion box welcomes your ideas. You can also drop information for the GVA newsletter in the box if you are unable to send it via email, although email is preferred. (send to marymarin@comcast.net)



February's Presenter, Charles LaRue

March Program Night

Jonathan Russell will be our presenter for March. Jonathan has been a photography instructor for over 37 years and has incredible knowledge on the history of photography, its historical processes and how it relates to craft and art of photography.



Sundays

Closed

Mondays

10:00 am until noon

Sketch

Tuesday

First Tuesday of each month only, 7:30 pm

Photo

Wednesdays

2:00 pm until 5:00 pm

Still Life

Thursdays

First Thursday of each month at 7:30 pm
Second Thursday of each month at 7:30 pm
Remaining Thursdays at 7:30 pm

Critique
Program
Sketch

Fridays

10:00 am until 1:00 pm

Still Life

Saturdays

10:00 am until 1:00 pm

Sketch

Note: There will be a **Board Meeting** on March 3rd, at 6:00 pm

Grand Valley Artists

1345 Monroe Ave. NW Suite 130

Grand Rapids, MI 49505