

Holland Exhibit: Notes From the Juror

Lee Ann Frame

First round: I received the submitted works online, was a bit overwhelmed at the strength of the submissions and the amount of works. Congratulations to all who took the initiative to enter. Some of you entered with confidence. Others may have been a little hesitant, and others held their breath.

After looking at each work over three days, I finally was able to make the selections. If your work was not selected, please keep the faith and hope to continue your art career. If your work was not selected, it may have been composition, values, skill in the handling of



Juror Lee Ann Frame

materials, or development of concept. As artists we all strive to become better.

What I first look for is a strong composition. How is the piece put together? Do the fundamental elements of line, color, image, focal point, shapes, directional forces, and implied textures work in this piece? Is there unity and variety? Works of art can be abstract or photorealistic, even nonrepresentational. The most important consideration is that the painting, drawing, print, photograph, even sculpture with its many working parts, is unified as a whole.

Then there is the message or content. What is the artist presenting to the viewer? How successful does it read and does it captivate my imagination? Does the noise around me fall silent as I am taken in by the art-



Sri McCarthy, 1st place for *Urban Cartography - Midi*

work before me? Does the mood of the work conjure something familiar, bring me to a new space, or help me to see something familiar in a new way? This is always refreshing. The more I study art, read, and travel, the more open my views become, resulting in my willingness to sit longer with challenging art. There is much to be learned, and art is a teacher, teaching contextually how to fully experience life.

As you, the artist, move from concept to completion of a work of art, you go through a gauntlet of required stages to manifest your idea. Having experience, familiarity with the materials, a willingness to learn, and inspiration from other artists' works culminates in a successful work. Even with stages of doubt, the artist who believes continues to problem solve and gains confidence in execution. Finally, allowing the freedom to explore fosters growth. We make art for different reasons, and these can change over time, but whatever it is that ignites that flame in you matters greatly, it is inextinguishable. Don't forget to float, hover, fly with the creative moment—you will know it when it happens. It will run with you.

Making art is hard work. Being an artist is the best life, the most rewarding and challenging life. Being



Joanne Swann's *Cherry Trees in Spring, Summer, Fall and Winter*

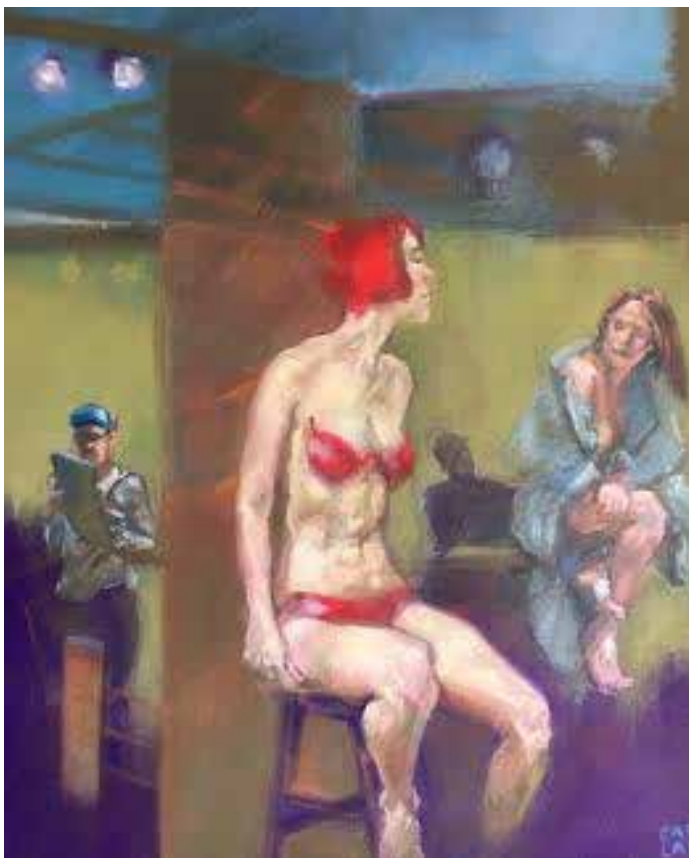
an artist goes beyond the studio, as your eyes see the world with possibility. GVA is an amazing group of talented artists that reaches out to the community and supports each other. Thank you for allowing me to visit each of you through your art. It was a joy. I am privileged and deeply honored for this opportunity.

Second round: Viewing all the works in person. I was in the gallery for nearly 2 hours taking in the works. First letting them speak to me, I remained open to discovering the works revisiting each of them several times. While I was in the gallery making my selections, a couple from Chicago came in. We struck up a conversation, and they were so happy to come upon this gem of a show!!

Awards

1st Place: *Urban Cartography-Midi* by Sri Soekarmoen McCarthy

Helen Frankenthaler (1928-2011), an abstract expressionist, and Jackson Pollack (1912-1956) walk by, meeting in this piece, "Urban Cartography-Midi." Hints of aerial city views and the bold and varied color palette pulled me in immediately. The structure of shapes and color that dominate while the white fluid line dances on the surface creates a dynamic painting. Hans Hofmann (1880-1966) states, "Any color shade within one color scale can become, at any moment, the bridge to any other color scale. Interwoven communion of color



Carol Lurn's *"In the Studio"*

scales cover the entire picture surface.” This painting has staying power. I kept coming back to it, making new discoveries. It plays with my sense of depth. It moves.

2nd Place: *Cherry Tree Spring, Cherry Tree Summer, Cherry Tree Fall, Cherry Tree Winter* by **Joanne Swann** Blanche Lazell (1878-1956) and Gustave Baumann (1881-1971) come to mind when viewing these amazing prints. Baumann said, “It is not often that the state of mind, the sharpness of tools, and the unusual interest in a problem combine to create a mood whereby the tool needs little guidance. When that particular combination is established, the tool seems to enter and come out of the wood neither too late nor too soon.” Lazell states, “Originality, Simplicity, Freedom of Expression, and above all Sincerity, with a clean cut block are characteristics of a good wood block print.” I could not say this better than Blanche Lazell, who is known for her white line wood block prints. Joanne’s four woodblocks are stellar in their execution, composition and simplicity. Her prints are studies in relationships of shapes and colors. She is a very gifted printmaker.

3rd Place: *In the Studio* by **Carol Laurn**

I am reminded of Alice Neel (1900-1984), who called herself a “collector of souls” and was a superb expressionist portrait painter. Her portraits captured the personality, the vulnerability and inadequacies, and the mortality, in short, the humanity of her sitters. They have an emotional intensity as does this work. I find “In the Studio” highly captivating. The model wears screaming red hair and skimpy, brightly colored coverings; her head turns away from the viewer. It is a little unsettling. She is there to be observed by the working artist, her choices of color demand your attention, yet she turns away. The material, pastel, is handled very skillfully. The nearly centered model gets the viewer’s eye immediately, but with her head turned we want to follow her line of vision. We move then to the next model in the background then to the young man drawing on the left. The implied path keeps us moving around the work. Mature color palette. Well done.

4th Place: *River Rain* by **Henry Droski**

This beautiful photograph by Henry Droski, “River Rain,” is soft, gentle and powerful. Droski has captured a powerful image. The development of photog-



Henry Droski’s “*River Rain*”

raphy has an interesting history, but most importantly is how revolutionary it was, changing how we viewed the world. Of course Ansel Adams (1902-1984), a naturalist, comes to mind. Many believe it is Alfred Stieglitz (1864-1946), an American photographer and a promoter for modern art, made photography as art what it is today. But most importantly was that Stieglitz pointed out that photographers are artists themselves.

River Rain delivers a fleeting or ephemeral moment. It has strong values, textures and movement. Light hits the water as it flows down natural terraces creating rhythmic patterns. The mid-values where I get lost are filled with subtle textures to discover. Listen, breathe, be present in this private and hallowed ground that instigates contemplation. Nature is welcoming you, inviting you to enjoy her intimate performance.

PASTATHON 2019



Special Thanks to Joanne Swann and those who assisted with the set-up and clean-up.





PHOTO GROUP RECEPTION 2019



Holland: Outstanding Opening!

Submitted by Steve Scarborough

Opening night at GVA's show in Holland on May 17th was a huge success in so many ways.

It wasn't just the quality of the art, or the diversity, colors, mix of styles, techniques and mediums. It was glimpses here and there of how we are learning from each other, finding new ways to approach problems and to tell a familiar story in a different way.

Personally, I was inspired to show my first painting, moving from my typical photographs, and in doing that, I have drawn upon so many other members for help in getting to a new place in my art. I used more color (Doug Klemm inspired), worked harder on balance and composition (thanks Larry Blovits), and tackled something I just wouldn't have tried before (Mary Marin, who isn't afraid of anything!). The list goes on and on as far as what I've learned from artists around me at GVA.

It truly is an inspiring exhibit, and I hope all our members have a chance to see it. Thanks to all the members who worked so hard to get us there and make it such a successful show, including Evie Carrier, Carol Lurn, Doug Klemm, Joanne Swann, Jim Johnson, and so many others.

One of the highlights of opening night was being there as the jurist, Lee Ann Frame, described in detail how and why she chose the pieces she did. (See page 1.) It benefits even the most seasoned professionals in our group to get detailed feedback.

It is worth mentioning that there are many good works that weren't singled out, and I would guess that everyone will find their own favorites in this exhibit, pieces that seem to speak to us as individuals. An example of this is that there was a sale during the opening reception (congratulations, Dana Donnell) and the buyer was thrilled to own something she wanted to hang in her home. Selling a work is a huge compliment for any artist.

We have more group shows in the works, so there will be more opportunities for everyone to get their work in future exhibits.

Our show at the Holland Area Arts Council at 150 E. 8th Street in Holland runs until July 6th.





Area Art News

Lowell Arts

“Living Is Easy,” a collection of colorful paintings and drawings by six Michigan artists, will make up a summer-time exhibition at LowellArts until August 17. Gallery Hours: Tuesday–Friday 10 a.m.–6 p.m. and Saturday 10 a.m.–5 p.m.

Forest Hills Fine Arts Center

Donna Lutz Vanderplas’ work will be on display in June. Exhibit Hours: 9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m. Mon.–Fri. All exhibits are free to the public.

Guardian Gallery Lowell

The artist through June 28 is GVA member **Dennis O’Mara**. The Guardian Gallery is located at the Franciscan Life Process Center, 11650 Downes St., Lowell, MI 49331, (616) 897-7842. This show is open during regular business hours.

Frauenthal Reception Gallery in Muskegon

The artist for May at the Reception Gallery will be Charles LaRue. This show begins on April 30 and ends on July 1. The Gallery of the Frauenthal Center is open during regular business hours.

Guardian Gallery Grand Rapids

Richard Schaf’s work will be on display until June 28, Monday–Thursday 12–6, at 654 Davis St., Grand Rapids, MI 49504. The gallery is the building that is the farthest north. Go to the handicapped entrance and about 10 feet back from the door there is a box on the half wall. Buzz the Franciscan Life Process Center button and someone will let you in. Take the elevator up to the third floor and the work will be on the hall walls.

TerryBerry Gallery at St. Cecilia’s

Pastelists Bonnie Osborne and Jan McKinnon, friends and fellow members of Grand Valley Artists, paint landscapes and shorelines, with Bonnie also capturing landscapes west of the Mississippi River. In addition, Jan paints still life subjects ranging from garden vegetables to floral arrangements. This show runs from May 28 to June 28. The reception for this show is on June 14 from 5 to 7 p.m. Parking is free next to St. Cecilia’s.

Dominican Center at Marywood

Jim Johnson’s work is on display during the months of May and June. The reception will be on June 9 from 1 to 4. Father Joachim Lally will be showing his work during July and August. The reception for that show will be August 11. The gallery is located at 2025 E. Fulton Street, Grand

Rapids, MI 49503, and is open Monday–Thursday: 8:00 a.m.–9:00 p.m., Friday: 8:00 a.m.–8:00 p.m., Saturday and Sunday: 8:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m.

Bliss & Vinegar

Stop in to B&V to see **Dana Donnell**’s work. If you want to show your work at B&V, load some images to our website, as that is where the owners go to find artists whose work they would like to display. Marty Klar coordinates this opportunity for us. Please do not contact the restaurant directly. Questions? Call Marty at 616-813-7921.

Trinity United Methodist Church

Debbie Bell’s work is now gracing the walls at Trinity, located at 1100 Lake Drive SE. The church is open during business hours on Monday through Thursday. Her work will remain through the month of May. To show your work at Trinity, contact marymarin1285@gmail.com.



Jim Johnson at the Dominican Center.

June Program

Submitted by Randy Nyhof

For our May Program on Thursday May 9, we had our 2nd annual PASTATHON Dinner. Afterward, we watched a 60-minute BBC episode on The Power of Art about Vincent van Gogh.

Our program for Thursday June 13 will be a presentation by Jim Johnson on Plein Air Painting.



Workshops at GVA

Grand Valley Artists is frequently the site of extraordinary workshops conducted by our own members and visiting artists. Most recently, our own Margaret Kriegbaum (above) conducted two informative sessions, one on composition, and one on color.



ART CHAT

What is Art Chat? Think the salons of old, maybe, those informal gatherings where artists toss around their thoughts on a variety of art-related topics. We sometimes talk about GVA and how we can be even more spectacular...all ideas are welcome! No preparation is needed...just show up and join in the fun! The next Art Chat will take place on Friday, June 14, at 1:00 p.m. in the GVA Gallery. Join us, won't you?



GVA Welcomes New and Returning Members

Sarah Jane Huizenga

Terra Tarango

Sandy Inman

Karen McMahon

Chantal Merizon Van

Heest

Wayne Van Heest

Paula Clark

Photo Group

News

Submitted by Randy Nyhof

The Photo Group met for their regular meeting on May 7 with their usual critique and announcements. Again very good attendance.

On Friday, May 10 the Photo Group had their reception for their annual show in the GVA Gallery. Good turnout.

Our next meeting will be June 4.





Festival of the Arts

Festival of the Arts is June 7-8-9, 2019, in downtown Grand Rapids and is celebrating 50 years in 2019!

Sallie Zigterman at Biggby Coffee

Congratulations to Sallie, whose work is on display at Biggby Coffee on Monroe. She will be switching out her work regularly and she will continue to display indefinitely.



JUNE CALENDAR

Board Meeting June 6 at 6:00 p.m.

EVERY WEEK

Sundays Closed

Mondays 10:00 a.m. until noon

Portrait Sketch*

Tuesdays Every Tuesday 7:00 p.m. until 9:30 p.m.
1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month 7:30 p.m.

Figure Sketch*
Photo Group

Wednesdays 10:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.

Open Studio or Plein Air
(check the weather!)

Thursdays 10 a.m. until 4 p.m.
First Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m.
Second Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m.

Long Pose**
Critique
Program

Fridays 10:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.
First Friday of the month at 1 p.m.

Still Life
Art Chat

Saturdays 10:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.

Figure Sketch*

*Member Model fee \$5, Non-Member \$10

**Model fee \$10, Non-Member \$15



Display Your Work at the Englehardt Public Library in Lowell

The Lowell Library is looking for artists to exhibit their work for a two month period. The beautiful and popular library promotes the artists on their website and at the front desk. Stop in to see the works of **Ruth VanderMuelen**, on display now.

If you are interested in showing your work at the library, contact Sandi Brogger at rsbrogger@gmail.com.

FRANCISCAN HOME & OCEAN SURF III

BY ARTIST JANICE PAULSON
GREAT LAKES PASTEL SOCIETY MEMBERS EXHIBIT

EXHIBIT DATES: JUNE 21 - SEPTEMBER 7, 2019
HOURS: TUESDAY-FRIDAY, 10 AM - 5 PM, SATURDAY 9 AM - NOON (ET)
CARNEGIE CENTER FOR THE ARTS | 107 N. MAIN ST. | THREE RIVERS, MI 49093
269.273.8892 | WWW.TRCARNEGIE.COM



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Position Open

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Show Your Work at Trinity United Methodist Church

Be sure to stop by any Monday through Thursday. You'll enjoy seeing works by **Debbie Bell** on display until the end of May. If you want to show your work at Trinity, located at 1100 Lake Drive SE, please let Mary Marin know: marymarin1285@gmail.com.

Grand Valley Artists

1695 Service Road NE, Suite 106

Grand Rapids, MI 49503

Volunteers Needed for Reeds Lake on June 15!

Please contact Bob Kraai to let him know how YOU can help (**616-956-7734** or **rkraai@ameritech.net**) as soon as possible. ALL HANDS ON DECK for the good of our wonderful organization!

Here's what we need:

Marking Vendor Spaces (Friday Aft.) 4 people
Check-in Vendors (5:30 to 8:30 a.m.) 2 people
Position Street Barricades/Signs: 2 people
Traffic Control (set-up 6 to 9 a.m.) 2 people
Traffic Control (closing 4:30 p.m.) 2 people
Transport Crew AM (Tents-Panels) 2 people
Transport Crew PM (Tents-Panels) 2 people
Set-Up Crew AM (Tents-Panels) 4 people
Take-down Crew PM (Tents etc.) 4 people
Host for GVA retail tent (2 hrs.) 4 people
Information & Relief Tent (4 shifts) 1 person per 2-hour shift
Closing Crew (4:30 to 6 p.m.) 2 people