



Thoughts from a Model:

Recently, I was summoned to the inquisitionists' chairs. Not the seats of a final execution (unless the death of any misplaced vanity), but my witness to your energy, creativity and good willed skill and yours to my unremarkable expression. For 20 minutes, I held a posture and gaze for renditions of my old skull, my eyes fixed on a nail in the header above the doors held closed with an extension cord, (artists are nothing if not creative about using accessible supplies); my ears listening to the conversations, witticisms and laughter as you settled into your work. Muscles relaxed, eyes and ears acutely aware, I softly awaited the break chime.

At the break, I walked around to see the perspectives. Although I've done this a few times before, I find it interesting and humorously alarming to see the prominence in other's testimony to my nose, the shape of my jaw, the wrinkles in my face and neck and the whiteness of my hair. I know next to nothing about graphic art, but nonetheless could appreciate the strategic approaches and pace put on paper. Battle lines had been drawn. The game was on. Shame to those who tarry.

In the second twenty minutes, more relaxed than before, I took in a wider perspective. My ears focused more on the tender, earthly sounds of Etta James; and my eyes started picking up all sorts of peripheral, unfocused "space junk"; artists walking around, stepping back from their work, taking pictures, putting a thumb line between their eyes and the object of grabbing a cup of coffee. Despite that activity, there was a palpable sense of most artists...quieter now... honing in on their rendition, giving it color, shadow, depth and character. So, your mind's eye was focused on the object while mine lazily wandered a panorama.

My next walking around found masks where there had been outlines, faces where there had been masks, developed character where only before perhaps a comic sketch. Intriguing. Exciting. Confirming. Questioning. Wow, this is wonderful fascinating stuff!

My third twenty minutes was much like my second, but with a greater sense of anticipation. Etta continued to murmur or croon standards in her west coast bluesy way, and brushes and pencils touched paper with soft notes not unlike a percussionist's gentle rendering on a cymbal. As you would expect, my walking around this time found more developed character and in some cases, completed projects: not all of them flattering, but all of them true. So, like any good conversation, we were coming to closure.

The fourth twenty minutes was more of the same. Whether out of boredom or impatience, I eventually stepped inward this time, not hearing so much the external world as I gazed at that nail. Instead, I imagined being Georgina Cavendish posing for Thomas Gainsborough or, better yet, Corporal Klinger posing for Colonel Potter. I had to stifle my smile.

Now it is done. Some fifteen of you have gathered to express your talents and share yourselves. Each of you has given me - the object of your representation - a prism through which to view; and collectively, at least momentarily, a narrative to play with. Regardless of the qualities, whether the richness of the graphic works or my struggling words, it produced outcomes far more important than what I've been paying attention to recently: the sophistry of our politicians, the banality of the press or the mind-numbing character of most popular entertainments. And though you have individually and uniquely expressed yourselves, you were also a kind of Greek Chorus for me in this experience.

So here's to the creative juices and the Art's importance. I enjoyed it all. I hope you did as well.

Pete Proli

The 47th Annual Reed's Lake Art Festival is June 16, 2012

Look for the many volunteer opportunities to support this main source of funding for our fabulous club! A list will be posted and circulated at club activities soon. It's a great way to have fun with your fellow artists and feel good about doing your part!

Many thanks,
Lisa Geren and Bob Kraai

GVA Membership Tent at Reed's Lake

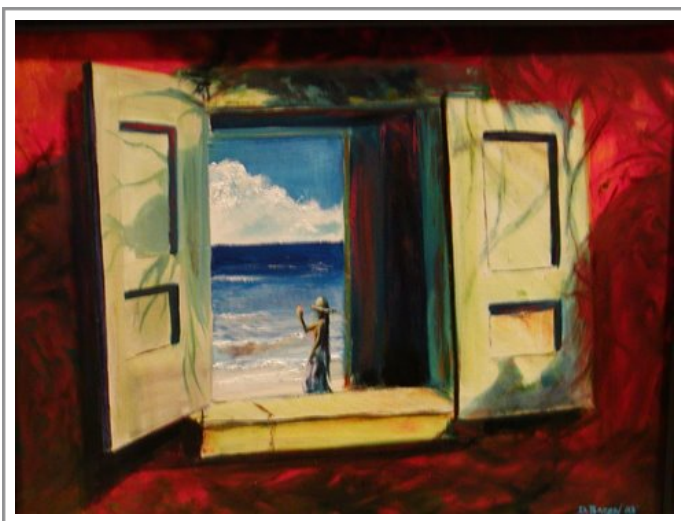
As in the past, GVA will have a tent where members can rent a screen and offer their work for sale. The screens measure 3 ft. wide by approximately 5 1/2 ft. tall.

Anyone renting a screen will be responsible to work for a few hours at the festival. If you are interested in showing some of your work and possibly a sale or two, please send a check for \$25 made out to:

Grand Valley Artists
c/o Gene Sampson
6844 Forest Valley Dr. SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49546

If you have any questions, call Gene at 616-957-1382. Screens will be rented on a first come/first served basis.

The Reeds Lake Fine Arts Festival posters will be ready soon. Look for them on the common table at the studio and feel free to take a handful to put up at your favorite haunts.



Sea View by Dave Bazen

Members in the News



Jurists Jim Markle and Dennis O'Mara looking at the painting they selected as the Best of Show.

Jim Markle and Dennis O'Mara were invited by the Director of the Carnegie Center for the Arts in Three Rivers, Michigan, to juror their 2012 Regional Juried Arts Competition. They had 373 two and three dimensional entries submitted by artists from eight counties in Indiana and ten counties in Michigan. Approximately 140 pieces were selected to be exhibited. Eight awards were announced at the opening reception.

Jan McKinnon's painting "Solitude" has been accepted into the 26th annual West Michigan Regional Art Competition in Lowell, Michigan. The show runs through April 26, 2012.

Welcome New Members:

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|----------------|-----------------------|
| Michael Wilson | Helen Nelson |
| Debbie Bell | Noel Skiba |
| Debra Kochin | Mary J. Reusch |
| Carol Bodby | Margaret A. Kriegbaum |

Dominican Center: Marywood Gallery

April 1 - April 30

| | | |
|----------|---------------|-----------------|
| Artists: | Randall Nyhof | Photographs |
| | Jim Van Beek | Glass Sculpture |

Reception: Sunday, April 22 12 PM to 4:00 PM

| | | |
|----------------|---------------|-----------------|
| Gallery Hours: | Mon. - Thurs. | 7:30 AM to 9 PM |
| | Friday | 7:30 AM to 8 PM |
| | Sat. & Sun. | 8:00 AM to 6 PM |

Address: 2025 Fulton NE
Grand Rapids, MI 49503

One Trick Pony

Kathy Putnam April 2 - May 14

Wilma Knoll May 14 - June 25

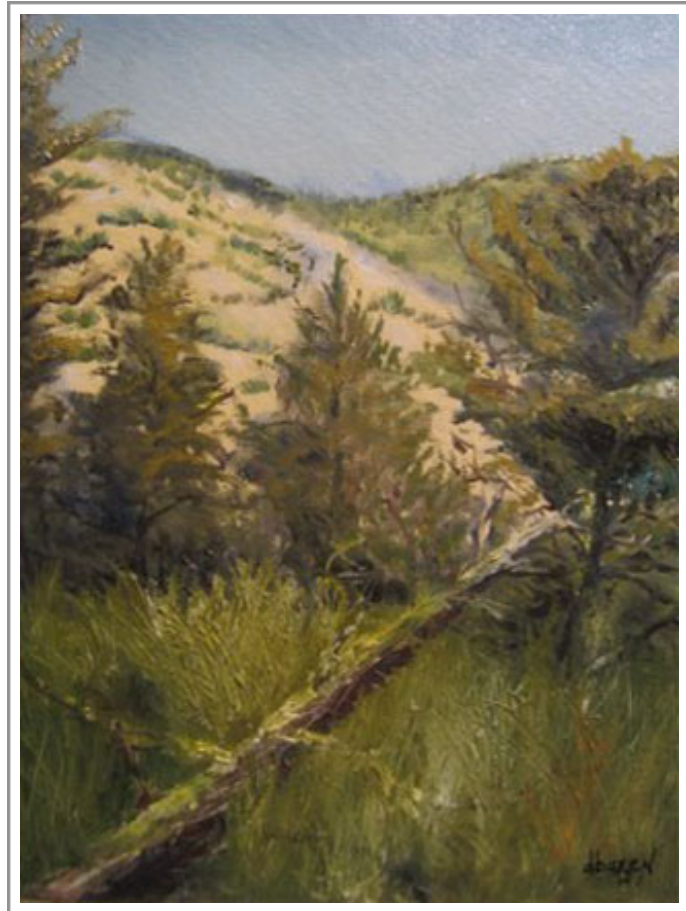
One Trick Pony is located at 136 Fulton St. SE.

Monday - Wednesday 11 am - 11pm

Thursday - Friday 11 am - 12 pm

Saturday 11 am - 12 pm

For artist information please contact Barb Wood at 942-0585.



Along the Dune Trail by Dave Bazen

Program

Thursday, April 12, 7:30pm

LADISLAV HANKA will talk about lithographs and his work: Visions of a Wandering Naturalist.

Thursday, May 10, 7:30 pm

CHRIS OVERVOORDE continues educating us about various types of print making. Feel free to bring your favorite prints (not reproductions) for a show and tell with Chris' help to identify the process used in making them.



My Favorite Car by Sallie Zigterman

Open Studio Sunday Afternoons

A few GVA members have been meeting at 2:30 pm for 2-3 hours to work on our own art projects. If you want to join us, please call Krista at 451-2143 to make sure we are meeting. We meet all year round, especially in the winter.

Jim Markle, PSA

2012 Workshops and Classes

- Livonia, MI - May 4 & 5
PASTEL LANDSCAPE WORKSHOP
Sponsored by Visual Arts Association of Livonia
Contact: Diana Jamrog 734-838-1204 or vaalart@yahoo.com
- Ada, MI - June 20 & 21
PLEIN AIR
Sponsored by Grand Gallery
Contact: Grand Gallery 616-676-4604
ada@grandgallery.com
- Glen Arbor, MI - July 30 & 31, Aug. 1 & 2
PLEIN AIR WORKSHOP
Sponsored by Glen Arbor Art Association
Contact: GAAA 231-334-6112 or info@glenarborart.org
- Manchester, VT - Aug. 21, 22, 23 & 24
PASTEL WORKSHOP
Sponsored by Southern Vermont Arts Center
Contact: Sarah Warren 802-362-1405 or swarren@svac.org

"If people knew how hard I worked to get my mastery, it wouldn't seem so wonderful at all." --Michelangelo



Spring Bouquet by Sallie Zigterman

Larry Blovits Workshops

- Fremont, MI - April 20, 21, 22
THREE DAY COLOR AND LIGHT APPLICATION TO THE LANDSCAPE
NCAA Artspace Gallery 13 E. Main Street, Fremont
Open to beginners through advance, oil & pastel
Contact: Lindsay Isenhart 231-924-4122 or isenhartl@live.com
- Grand Rapids, Michigan Larry Blovits Studio
1835 Luce St. SW, Grand Rapids, MI 49534
June 22, 23, 24
THREE DAY OIL AND PASTEL PORTRAIT WORKSHOP
9:00 to 12:00 and 1:00 to 4:00 daily
Open to beginners through advance
Contact: Larry Blovits 616-677-1765 or larryblovits@mac.com

Kathleen Kalinowski

- Grand Gallery, Ada, Michigan
April 26 & 27
10:00 am - 4:00 pm
AN ALLA PRIMA APPROACH USING OIL TO PAINT THE LANDSCAPE
Contact: Grand Gallery 616-676-4604

Area Art Happenings:

Lowell Arts

149 S. Hudson
Lowell, Michigan
616-897-8545

www.lowellartsmi.org

26th annual West Michigan Regional Art Competition

March 22 - April 26, 2012

Reception Sunday, March 25 2-4 pm

Muskegon Museum of Art

296 W. Webster Ave
Muskegon, MI 49440
231-720-2571

www.muskegonartmuseum.org

84th Regional Exhibition

Art Entry Drop off: May 10, 11, 12

Exhibition: May 31 - August 8

Great Lakes Pastel Society Convention

Crowne Plaza Hotel
5700 East 28th Street SE, Grand Rapids
May 18 - 20

For more information: www.glps.org

Grand Rapids Art Museum

101 Monroe Center
Grand Rapids, MI 49503
Rauschenberg: In Context, At Gemini, and Synapsis Shuffle
February 3 - May 20



Portrait of woman with hat by Jeremy Kuhn

GVA Website

We are adding things regularly and need people to provide input. If you have something to announce about workshops, upcoming events, etc. we want to hear about it and maybe even put it on the web.

<http://www.grandvalleyartists.com>



By Ruth VanderMeulen

GVA Gallery

Because our artist members have been commenting about the empty walls in our gallery, we are calling upon our membership to organize shows which will highlight their artistic endeavors. These gallery exhibits will be on display for a month. Randy Nyhof is our first artist to take advantage of this opportunity. Randy has on display 14 photographic works which you will thoroughly enjoy during the month of April. We hope we have additional members who want to fill the gallery with their work or we may have a group of people who would prefer to organize an exhibit. Please contact Carol Lurn at 616-669-3773 or carollurn@yahoo.com if you are interested in showing your work.

Contact Listings

| | | |
|----------------------------|--|----------|
| President: | Jeremy Kuhn | |
| | jeremy@jeremykuhn.com | |
| Vice President: | Carol Lurn | 669-3773 |
| | carollurn@yahoo.com | |
| Treasurer: | Evie Carrier | 646-6858 |
| | evie.carrier@gmail.com | |
| Secretary: | Stephanie Wiles | 558-2701 |
| | sephyw2001@hotmail.com | |
| One Trick Pony: | Barb Wood | 942-0585 |
| Membership: | Ruth VanderMeulen | 897-6099 |
| | ravanderm@comcast.com | |
| Photography: | Dave Tulos | |
| | dnmtulos@gmail.com | |
| Program: | Sarabeth Carr | 608-5588 |
| | sarabethcarr@gmail.com | |
| Publicity: | Bob Kraai | 956-7734 |
| | rkraai@ameritech.net | |
| Newsletter: | Mary Jo Hays | 676-2261 |
| | mj@maryjohays.com | |
| Reed's Lake: | Lisa Geren | 698-8655 |
| | lgeren@comcast.net | |
| Sketch Studio: | Larry Goff | 949-1247 |
| | Dave Bazen | 437-9854 |
| Hospitality: | Mary Jo Hays | 676-2261 |
| | mj@maryjohays.com | |
| Librarian & VSA Liaison | Susanne DeVries | 531-3631 |

A Reminder About Art Liability

If you bring artwork for critique, enter it in a show, or leave it in the GVA facility, it is at your own risk. While your artwork will be handled with all possible care, we are an organization of volunteers. At any time, an unintended accident may occur. Grand Valley Artists, Inc. and its members will not be responsible for any loss or damage to the art whatsoever.



Bosnian Street by Carole Hunnes-Nielse



1345 Monroe Ave. NW Suite 130
Grand Rapids, 49505-4609



Calendar

April

| | | | |
|----------|----------|----------|-----------------|
| Thursday | April 5 | 7:30 PM | Critique |
| Saturday | April 7 | 10:00 AM | Life Sketch |
| Monday | April 9 | 10:00 AM | Portrait Sketch |
| Tuesday | April 10 | 7:30 PM | Photo Group |
| Thursday | April 12 | 7:30 PM | Program |
| Saturday | April 14 | 10:00 AM | Life Sketch |
| Monday | April 16 | 10:00 AM | Portrait Sketch |
| Thursday | April 19 | 7:30 PM | Life Sketch |
| Saturday | April 21 | 10:00 AM | Life Sketch |
| Monday | April 23 | 10:00 AM | Portrait Sketch |
| Thursday | April 26 | 7:30 PM | Life Sketch |
| Saturday | April 28 | 10:00 AM | Life Sketch |
| Monday | April 30 | 10:00 AM | Portrait Sketch |

May

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|----------|--------|----------|----------------------|
| Thursday | May 3 | 6:00 PM | Board Meeting |
| Thursday | May 3 | 7:30 PM | Critique |
| Saturday | May 5 | 10:00 AM | Life Sketch |
| Monday | May 7 | 10:00 AM | Portrait Sketch |
| Tuesday | May 8 | 7:30 PM | Photo Group |
| Thursday | May 10 | 7:30 PM | Program |
| Saturday | May 12 | 10:00 AM | Life Sketch |
| Monday | May 14 | 10:00 AM | Portrait Sketch |
| Thursday | May 17 | 7:30 PM | Life Sketch |
| Saturday | May 19 | 10:00 AM | Life Sketch |
| Monday | May 21 | 10:00 AM | Portrait Sketch |
| Thursday | May 24 | 7:30 PM | Life Sketch |
| Saturday | May 26 | 10:00 AM | Life Sketch |
| Monday | May 28 | 10:00 AM | Portrait Sketch |
| Thursday | May 31 | 7:30 PM | Life Sketch |