



LOWELL ARTS has opened their new gallery on Main Street in Lowell with a bang! The West Michigan Art Competition reception was held on March 9th. This year, because of the newly expanded gallery, the competition was open to residents from twenty-five west Michigan counties. From the many entries that came in, 182 pieces were accepted from 143 different artists. GVA was well represented in the show, with twenty one of our members having pieces included.

William Chardon, Beibei Chen, Mariana Heule, Jim Johnson, Katherine Kreutziger, Darla-Jo LeBaron, Diann Lemmen, Jim Markle, Jan McKinnon, Kathy Mohl, Bonnie Osborne, Stone Peng, Gene Sampson, Joanne Swann, Barbara Van Noord, Ruth VanderMeulen, and Yiwang Wang each had one piece chosen. Nona Bushman, Douglas Klemm, Debra Van Deusen, and Kristi Visser each had two entries chosen for the show. Douglas Klemm's beautiful painting "Blueberries in Autumn" won a Fourth Place Award! This show will be hanging until April 15th at LOWELL ARTS, 223 W. Main Street, Lowell, MI. Don't miss it!

Workshops on Color and Perspective at GVA

A series on the fundamentals of art begins with Larry Blovits' workshop on color theory and application. The workshop will be held from 2 p.m. until 5 p.m. on April 1st and April 8th at the GVA studio. Cost is \$50.00 for the first session and \$90.00 for both sessions. As the program begins April 1, please contact Larry ASAP to see if there is still room in the class by calling him at 616-677-1765 (home) or 616-666-0838 (cell).

The second series on the fundamentals of art is with Jim Markle giving a workshop on Perspective. The workshop will be held on Saturday afternoon from 1pm until 3ish p.m., May 6, at the GVA studio on 1345 Monroe, Suite 140. Cost for the workshop is \$35.00. This is a great opportunity for anyone struggling to overcome perspective problems with their paintings or drawings. Jim breaks it down in a concise way that is easy to understand. Join us by signing up with Jim at jimcmarkle@earthlink.net.

News from Collin Fry!



Collin Fry's painting "Desert Sentinel II" won Best of Show at the Phoenix and Tucson pastel societies combined show at the Desert Museum in Tucson, Arizona. Congratulations, Collin, from all of your friends here at GVA! You are missed.



JUNE 24 & JUNE 25, 2017
GRAND HAVEN, MICHIGAN

The Grand Haven Art Festival is held the last full weekend in June and transforms Washington Avenue into a chic outdoor art gallery. The goal of the Grand Haven Art Festival is to provide the communities and visitors with a unique opportunity to purchase one-of-a-kind art directly from the artist while upholding the community valued tradition of the Grand Haven Art Festival. Learn more here: <http://grandhavenchamber.org/grand-haven-art-festival>.



JULY 1 & 2
10 a.m.–5 p.m.
LUDINGTON, MICHIGAN

The 2017 West Shore Art Fair takes place July 1st and 2nd at Rotary Park (formerly known as City Park) in the beautiful Lake Michigan resort community of Ludington, Michigan. Features 110+ jury-selected fine artists across a variety of media, including clay, fiber, glass, jewelry, painting, photography, sculpture, and much more!

2017 Krasl Art Fair on the Bluff

Call for Artists! The 56th annual Krasl Art Fair on the Bluff in St. Joseph, MI, takes place on July 8 and 9. With an estimated 50,000 attendees, the Krasl Art Fair on the Bluff is one of the most prestigious and well-attended events in Southwest Michigan. A source of pride for the community, the Krasl Art Fair provides attendees with tremendous exposure to high-quality art. The Art Fair is consistently ranked as one of the top art fairs in the country and has specifically been chosen as one of the Top 20 Art Fairs by Sunshine Artist Magazine for 5 years running. Applications are now being taken via their website: <http://www.krasl.org>.

The 43rd Annual



SATURDAY, AUGUST 5, 2017
9 a.m.–4 p.m.
LAKE ODESSA, MICHIGAN

Sign up today for the best chance at your preferred booth location! The Lake Odessa Area Arts Commission invites you to apply to our annual one-day fine arts and crafts festival.

Now in its 43rd year, Art in the Park takes place on the grounds of Lake Odessa's shady and picturesque Village Park. Our show features 70+ unique fine art and craft booths, food booths, a children's craft area, community art exhibit, door prize drawings, live musical entertainment, and the annual ParkPrize! Competition. Attendance is FREE. We promote our event on all regional and many state and national festival and visitor websites, advertise in local print publications, by direct mail, and social media. Learn more at <http://www.lakeodessaarts.com>.

“I never paint my own dreams or nightmares—I paint my own reality.”

—Frida Kahlo

In the Gallery

In April, we will see works by the students of Kathleen Kalinowski. Along with the landscapes and still lifes, each artist will have a short statement. The class has been meeting for four years from September to April and occasionally painting en plein air.

(If you have had a work on display during March, please pick it up on or before March 31.)

Heads UP! Coming in July: SELF PORTRAITS!



Photo Group Submitted by Randy Nyhof

The Photo Group will meet on the first and third Tuesday of the month (April 4 and 18) at 7:30 p.m. Photographers are all welcome, regardless of experience or expertise. For additional information, you can always check our website. We try to keep the membership informed regarding the topics that will be discussed, etc., so you can know what to expect.

“I paint self-portraits because I am so often alone, because I am the person I know best.”
—Frida Kahlo



Please stop in for a great salad at Bliss & Vinegar, where you will see Jim Johnson's watercolors. If you want to show your work at B&V, make sure to load some images to our website, as that is where the owners go to find art they would like to display. Marty Klar coordinates this opportunity for us. Thanks, Marty!

Upcoming Program Nights

Submitted by Randy Nyhof

In April I have scheduled Pamela DeTuncq, an artist from Sun Valley, Idaho. Pamela is a conceptual artist who addresses some of the more compelling zeitgeists of contemporary American culture. After years in the design industry, she now applies her skills to multi-layered sculptural installations addressing such disparate themes as teen alienation, gender stereotypes, and the vicissitudes of faith. Her most recent work addresses the subject of aging and the ephemeral nature of existence. She earned her MFA in Visual Arts from the Art Institute of Boston and BA in Graphic Design from the University of Maryland. Her work has been shown nationally, with the Denno Museum adding one of her fiber installations to their permanent collection this year. Pamela DeTuncq lives and works in Hailey, Idaho.

For May, I have scheduled fellow GVA member Jim Connelly. His program, “My Adventures as an Artist,” covers Jim's entire career from custom painting vans to fine art painting and illustrating book covers.

Jim Connelly Workshop

Mastering Light & Color is for beginner to intermediate level painters. The all inclusive (workshop, meals & lodging) price is \$375 on May 19 and 20.

Pine Trail Camp and Retreat Center will host. The camp sits on the banks of the Kalamazoo River between Downtown Saugatuck and the shores of Lake Michigan and Saugatuck Dunes State Park. To

sign up contact info@pinetrailcamp.org. For info on the workshop contact jim@jimconnellystudio.com or 616-457-1284.



More Area Art News

Forest Hills Fine Arts Center

Forest Hills Public Schools K-12 Student Exhibit
April 14-May 11, 2017. Reception: Thursday, April 20, 2017, 6 p.m.-7:30 p.m. in the lobby. Everyone is welcome!

ICCF

Current artists: Connie Kuhnle and Jim Johnson. See their beautiful collection of outstanding watercolor, pastel and oil paintings of what home looks like in many different places. This show will be up until June. The reception is Tuesday, April 11, from 6:00-8:00 p.m. with a panel discussion at 7:00 p.m. Show runs through the end of June.

Dominican Center

Heartside Ministries Artists will be sharing their works in a variety of mediums. Work will be available through May.

Lowell Arts

The 31st Annual West Michigan Art Competition is currently on display.

The LowellArts! Gallery

223 W. Main Street

Lowell, Michigan

Gallery Hours:

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

Bliss & Vinegar

Stop in to see the artwork of Jim Johnson, currently on display, and grab a delicious salad while you are at it! Marty Klar coordinates the displays at B&V. Please do not contact the restaurant directly. Contact Marty with Bliss-specific questions: (616) 813-7921.

Frauenthal Center

Our own Jim Markle's outstanding work will be at the Frauenthal Center in Muskegon during the month of April. Come and see this beautiful collection of pastels by one of GVA's favorite artists.

Franciscan Life Process Center

The Lowell Campus of the Franciscan Life Process Center is hosting the beautifully commissioned artworks of the Prodigal's Son by Larry and Mary Gerbens. Larry was so very moved by the Biblical story of forgiveness that he commissioned artists from different backgrounds and experience to do their interpretation of this story. Don't miss this show of beautifully designed artworks. The Franciscan Life Process Center is open during regular business hours. This show runs through the end of April.

Terryberry Gallery at St. Cecilia's

A group of artists meet at the Franciscan Life Process Center every Wednesday in an open studio format. You will get a chance to see the collected artworks of this outstanding group. Every medium and style will be included in this wonderful show that will be up the month of April. The reception for this show is Friday, April 7 from 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Guardian Gallery at St. Adalbert's

The featured artist is our own David Thinger. Come and see a beautiful collection of David's multi-media pieces. Guardian Gallery is at 671 Davis Avenue NW, Grand Rapids. It's the second brick building from the basilica. Go to the doorway with the arched covering over the top and you will find a box with three buttons on it. Push the button that has on it "Franciscan Life Process Center" and you will be buzzed in. This show will be up through May. The Guardian Gallery is open Tuesday-Friday, noon to 7:30 p.m.

Cascade Library

Randy Nyhof, Todd Darling, and Ron Shamery are currently showing their work. To show your work at the library, please contact Candice Chavonec at candicechavonec@yahoo.com.

Bob McDonald's Amazing Easel!

Bob McDonald has been doing a lot of behind the scenes work for GVA, like refinishing one of our work benches and actually making another one from scratch. He has been repairing our existing easels regularly, too. They need a lot of maintenance!

Now Bob has built a prototype easel and placed it in the studio for our use. He asks that we give the easel a good workout and that we write any comments and/or suggestions for improvement in the spiral bound notebook that accompanies it.

Thank you so much, Bob, for all that you do for GVA.



“Painting completed my life.”

—Frida Kahlo

Opportunities!

We have a few of volunteer opportunities that we hope will interest you.

One job that needs doing is that of **finding models** for our portrait session every Monday. Currently Mary Marin is doing that job and would like to turn it over to somebody else. Mary will continue to funnel models your way, but you'll need to find some, too. This is not a difficult task. It just requires a little time to contact models, put them on your calendar, and then remind them to show up.

Finally, it would be great if somebody would step up to **distribute the newsletter** each month. This means picking them up from the printer (the building just north of GVA), taking 10 copies to Service Reproduction, and addressing and mailing about 20 each month. The rest of the copies just go to GVA for members to pick up if they feel the need for a hard copy.

Also, we will be needing several volunteers to help Joann Swann with our participation at this year's **ArtPrize**.

If one of these opportunities sounds like something you would like to do for the greater good of GVA, please contact Mary Marin (models for Monday and newsletter distribution) or Joann Swann (ArtPrize).

Contact info for Mary: marymarin@comcast.net or 616-443-0362

Contact info for Joann: joswann@sbcglobal.net or 616-406-8648



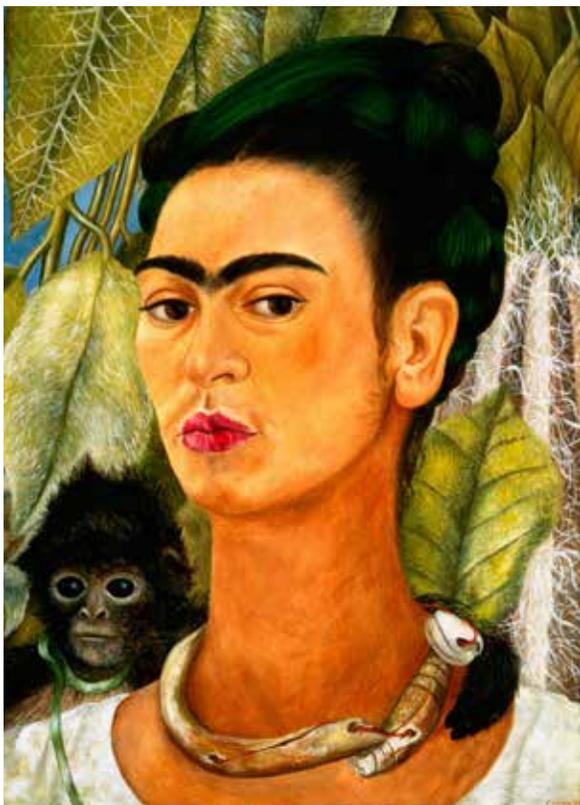
Frida Kahlo at the Dali Museum

My wife Linda and I had just picked up our rental car from the Tampa airport and were heading to Sarasota when Linda noticed a billboard on the highway.

“Look – Frida is at the Dali Museum!” She said, not believing our luck. Even though we were in Florida to soak up some sunshine, we quickly decided to make time to go to the Dali museum. So, the following Saturday, we made the hour drive to St. Pete. After paying \$10 to park at the museum, we made our way to the ticket booth inside. Another \$48 to get in. Well, we expected it to be pricey, but \$58? I entered the museum still fretting how much I paid just to park. We wondered why we saw so many people walking to the museum from across the street – no doubt the parking was free or at least much cheaper a little farther away.

After entering this very unusual looking museum, we climbed the stairs to the top floor of the museum and entered the Frida exhibit. Everyone in the room was thoughtfully staring at the images hanging on the walls. This was no ordinary show; it was filled with the most painfully honest images I had ever seen. If you stand back and look at the observers, you can see in everyone's faces how affected they are by Frida's art.

Well, not quite everyone. A guy who was standing next to my wife Linda muttered something about Frida's nudity in her paintings in a very creepy way. Sometimes nudity in art can cause uncomfortable reactions, but I've never heard anyone be just plain creepy.



Anyway, I was having my own moment of discomfort as I looked over the art on display. After a bit, I began to relax and enjoy the exhibit, not focusing so much on the terrible journey the artist had to create the art. Frida turned all her misfortunes into life lessons; her failures became successes through her paintbrush.

A little background on Frida. She was born in 1907 and died in 1954, just 47 years old.

At age 18 Frida had an accident that shaped her life—and her art. The bus on which she was riding collided with a street car and a metal handrail went through her pelvis. Other pieces of the wreckage went through her back and leg. An ordinary person would have spent the rest of their life addicted to pain pills and not push themselves to continue learning, nevermind starting an illustrious career, but Frida was never accused of being ordinary. She had an easel constructed so she could paint while in bed. In the years that followed, she had to endure many operations, but she never gave up. One thing she couldn't overcome though—the accident left her unable to have a child.



But there were obstacles even before the accident. She contracted polio when she was six years old, leaving her left leg and foot quite affected. Kids bullied her, and she became isolated. Frida had a lifetime of struggles with her body. Maybe that's why she felt so free revealing it in her paintings. As I observed though, her struggles were overcome, at least on the canvas.

Frida's father taught her photography, as he was a professional photographer in Mexico. A friend of the family then taught her painting. Against odds, Frida was admitted to the elite National Preparatory School at a time when they had just started letting females in. She was outnumbered almost six to one by the male students. This disadvantage, like so many other things in her life, only made her more determined to succeed.

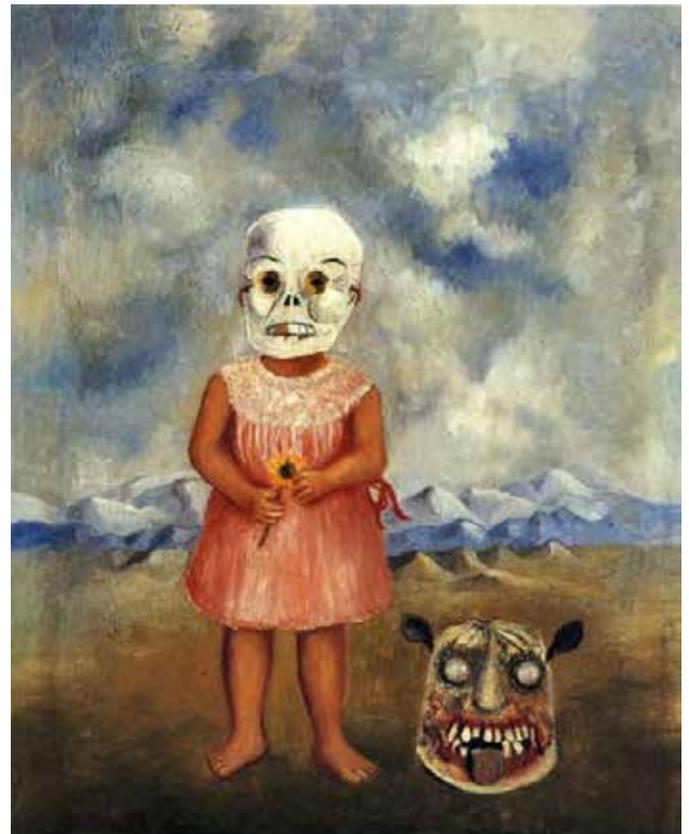
As her training progressed, Frida filled notebooks with her sketches and drawings. You can buy a copy of her diary, which is quite beautiful, even if you don't read Spanish. She combines many styles, twisting them into her own special brand.

I have to mention this —it's the elephant in the room. Frida had a unibrow. I'm sure she knew that it could be removed easily with a pair of tweezers, but she chose not to. In fact, it was thicker and more noticeable in her self portraits than in photographs of her. Her unibrow almost looked like a dove on her face. Perhaps that's why she emphasized it.

The other noticeable thing about Frida was her fashion choices. She always wore very traditional Mexican skirts and blouses. An explosion of color and textures, even down to the flowers in her hair. This made her a very striking person, but it had another purpose—the clothes hid the braces and her unfortunate left leg and foot from the accident and early bout with polio.

Rivera Diego was older, and already Mexico's most famous painter when Frida met him. Instantly drawn to each other, they created a very odd couple. A volatile relationship, they married, divorced, and married again. They learned from each other, supported each other, but also cheated on and hurt each other.

Linda and I enjoyed the exhibit and how much we learned. It wasn't all serious stuff though: Quite unexpectedly, there were quite a few women showing up dressed just like Frida and at first we thought it was just coincidence, but after we saw our third woman dressed like Frida, we knew it was planned. We enjoyed seeing so many people getting in the spirit of things to that degree, and it also made us realize how Frida's influence continues to be felt by many women around the world.



3 Session Long Pose Workshop

Learn how to paint the model and surrounding scene in oil in a 12-hour pose from life. (Same model, same pose, three separate 4-hour sessions.) The cost is \$200 plus model's fee*.

*Model fee depends on the number of people who sign up

Three Thursdays from 10–2 p.m., May 25th, June 1st, and June 8th.

There will be a materials review Monday, May 15th at 12:15 p.m. A materials list will also be emailed a week before the workshop starts.

Where: Grand Valley Artists: 1345 Monroe Ave NW, Suite 140 Grand Rapids, MI, 49505
Instructor: candicechovanec@yahoo.com

Candice Chovanec is a professional painter from Los Angeles, California. Her portraiture has been nationally recognized by the Portrait Society of America and the Art Renewal Center. View all her work at www.candicechovanec.com

Cascade Library

Be sure to check out the works of Randy Nyhof, Todd Darling and Ron Shamery, now on display at the Cascade Library. The Library is a beautiful venue that provides a great deal of exposure to GVA artists. In addition, library personnel are promoting GVA on their Facebook page.

Special thanks to our new GVA member, Candace Chovanec, for stepping up to the task of managing this venue. If you want to share your work at the library, contact Candice. candicechovanec@yahoo.com

ARTPRIZE® 2017!

We are pleased to announce Grand Valley Artists Inc. has been authorized to become a venue for ArtPrize® 2017. At this time, you should know that artist's registration for ArtPrize is scheduled from April 17 to June 8. Connections between artist and venue are arranged between April 24 and June 22. This is our opportunity to share with our community the impressive artwork of our members as well as the great programs offered to our membership. Stay tuned for more info via our website: www.grandvalleyartists.com.

Island Time II!

WATERCOLOR WORKSHOP on beautiful Mackinac Island for beginner to intermediate students, with Victoria Marnich-Reynolds being held on May 15-18, 2017.

Workshop Ideas?

Do you have ideas for Saturday afternoon workshops you'd like GVA to sponsor? Or do you have a workshop you'd like to put on? If so, contact Joanne Swann at joswann@sbcglobal.net.



“Feet, what do I need you for when I can fly?”

—Frida Kahlo



Recycle!

Notice to all GVA members: I'm not a BIG recycler, but I do think we should be doing our part. So, I've placed a bin in the kitchen area for: PAPER,

CARDBOARD, CLEAN PLASTIC CONTAINERS & PLASTIC CUPS (NO PLASTIC BAGS). This is also to be used for studio and office recycling. I will be responsible for taking the recycling home as the bin fills. If you have any questions, please contact me at 616-656-9210 or mcperfitt@me.com. Thank you for doing your part!

Peg McKeown

Monuments Men

Sallie Zigterman reminds us that the movie *Monuments Men* can be found at the Kent District Library, along with many other art-related movies.

Did you know that one of the Monuments Men was Grand Rapids' own Dale V. Ford, who later became president of Kendall College?



Dale is pictured above on the left, along with his assistant Harry Ettlinger. They are inspecting a Rembrandt self-portrait in the Heilbrunn mine in Germany, 1946.

Classified Ads

Richeson aluminum pastel carrier. Holds 4 trays. \$25 or best offer. Contact Sarabeth Carr at 607-5588 or sarabethcarr@gmail.com



Gorilla Pochade Box, 9"x12" (large size), used only once or twice. This beautifully constructed box attaches to tripod, carries paint, brushes and medium beneath sliding palette. Holds panel for plein air painting. Paid \$200 new. Will sell for \$100 firm. Contact marymarin@comcast.net or call 616-443-0362.



French Easel. Full size and almost new. \$100. Contact Jim Markle at jimcmarkle@earthlink.net.



French Easel, full size, used but in decent shape. Contact marymarin@comcast.net or call 616-443-0362. \$30.

New Dulce Lyptus Wood H Frame easel by Jack Richeson. Bought in January 2017 and it is in new condition only used once or twice. \$100. It's sturdy. Contact Susan at susan-pragaspathy@gmail.com.



Do you have items to sell? Send an email to marymarin@comcast.net so we can publish your item/s here. Photos are helpful but not necessary.



**GVA welcomes
Stephanie Schlatter,
Bethany Waanders, and
Candice Lee Chovanec**

Contact Listings for Grand Valley Artists

President
Carol Laurin
616-437-9365
carollaurin@yahoo.com

Vice President
Emily Green
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Secretary
Dana Donnell
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Treasurer
Evie Carrier
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evie.carrier@gmail.com

Membership
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davidbechtel@sbcglobal.net

Photography
Lora Cecola
loracecola@mac.com

Program
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r.nyhof@comcast.net

Reeds Lake Art Festival
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Newsletter and Website
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Mary Marin
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GVA Library
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Facilities Coordinator
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Cascade Library
Candice Chavonec
candicechavonec@yahoo.com

CALENDAR



Board Meeting April 6 at 6:15 p.m.

EVERY WEEK

Sundays Closed

Mondays 10:00 a.m. until noon

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

Wednesdays 2:00 until 5:00 p.m. (check website for location)

Thursdays First Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m.
Second Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m.

(Note: Program in December is replaced by the Holiday Party from 6 till 8)

Remaining Thursdays at 7:30 p.m.

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

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

Model Sketch

Photo Group
Plein Air or
Still Life

Critique
Program
Model Sketch

Still Life

Model Sketch

Do You Have Suggestions?

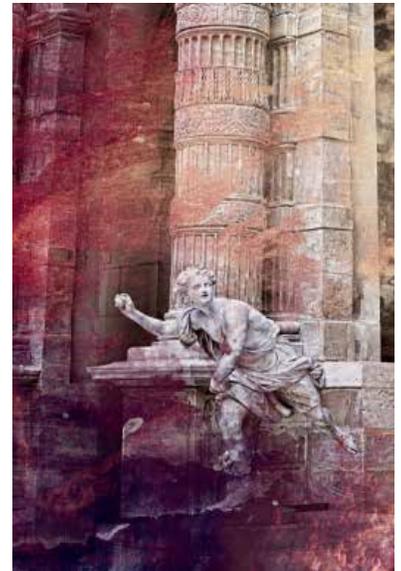
Our suggestion box welcomes your ideas. You can also drop information for the GVA newsletter in the box if you are unable to send it via email, although email is preferred (send to marymarin@comcast.net).

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.



Do you have something to say? Something of interest for our members' consideration or appreciation? We often have extra space, like right here on this page for example, where we would love to feature your article, photo, examples of your work, etc.



To kick this off, I'm going to post a few photos of work that you can find in the Gallery on our website. To find out who the artists are, you'll just have to go there! If you haven't yet joined the site to share your work with us, please consider doing so! We want to see what you are doing.

—Mary Marin



Our website: www.grandvalleyartists.com



Grand Valley Artists

1345 Monroe Ave. NW, Suite 140

Grand Rapids, MI 49505