



www.grandvalleyartists.com

Highlights

December 2017

Grand Valley Artists Holiday Party!

Submitted by Steve Scarborough

This year, at our annual holiday party, we have an early present. A brand new gallery, studio and meeting place. Join us Thursday, December 14th, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. to unwrap it!

Our new location at 1695 Service Road NE is not far from our old place. Saying 'old place' feels strange after so many good years at our facility on Monroe Ave, but also it feels promising. The new space is absolutely amazing! Words don't do it justice, so you will just have to see it for yourselves. Many members contributed lots of elbow grease over the past few months, completely remodeling, beginning with the well-designed floor plan by our own Todd Darling. Every inch of the place has been painted, a new mounting system is ready for our works, and even the floor is brand-spankin'-new! The studio is brighter, with floor-to-ceiling windows along two sides, and its larger dimensions will better accommodate our growing membership. The gallery is clean, spacious, and a proper showcase to display our works of art in the years to come. Critique will be a joy with no columns blocking our view. More than one restroom is an added bonus!

Please bring desserts and yourselves to our party/reveal on December 14th! Our December Holiday Competition exhibit will be on display in the new gallery, and winners will be announced that evening.

See Map on Page 12

CALL FOR ARTISTS

Grand Valley Artists Exhibition

January 6th–February 10th 2018

Submissions for this show at LowellArts are being accepted now through December 15th. Each artist may submit up to four entries. Show will be juried by Fred Bivins. Mr. Bivins is well known in the Art Community for his work as the long-time chairman of the Festival of the Arts Regional Competition. For more information, go to grandvalleyartists.com. Send your entry information to GVAsubmissions@gmail.com. For questions contact Doug Klemm: dougeklemm@hotmail.com or Carol Lurn: carollurn@yahoo.com. If you do not have access to the internet, contact Doug at 616-481-6121.



Photo

Group

Submitted by Randy Nyhof

The GVA Photo Group will meet with our usual critique on the

first Tuesday this month on December 5. Because of the Holiday busyness this month it will be our only meeting in December. One omission of the photo group from last month was that Linda Greer also had one work in the Muskegon Regional Show which sold.

No Program in December

In place of the regular program for December, GVA will have its Annual Winter Art Reception and Party on December 14.

For January, Larry Blovits will present a slide program on his recent ten day trip to Moscow and St. Petersburg, Russia covering the highlights from Museums, Art Galleries, palaces, churches, art schools, and private art studios. You'll not want to miss the incredible quality of the 19th and early 20th century artwork.



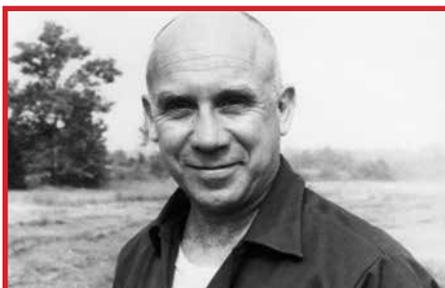
"You don't take
a photograph,
you make it"
- Ansel Adams

Thank You Larry and Nancy Goff

Submitted by Carol Laurn

Our GVA organization is indebted to our members who have worked tirelessly to make Service Road a spectacular space for our organization. In addition, we are grateful to Larry and Nancy Goff, who have contributed to our new location by purchasing a large electrical sign to designate our building. For those of you who do not know Larry, he's the man you will find sitting in a director's chair most sketch sessions drawing his passion, the human figure—particularly the portrait. Larry has also been instrumental in scheduling the model, replenishing supplies, making the coffee and greeting artists as they walk through the sketch room door. Larry has served on our board, including as co-president of GVA, and throughout the years he has volunteered innumerable hours to help strengthen our organization.

Larry and Nancy, we are so fortunate to have you as part of our membership throughout the years and we cherish your love for our art organization.



“Art enables us to find ourselves
and lose ourselves at the same time.”
- Thomas Merton

“Lies!”

Submitted by Steve Scarborough

“Lies, all lies!” Jim Markle said as he stood up.

November’s tribute to Jim had just concluded. Several people had given accounts of how Jim’s friendship and/or guidance had helped them through the years. Some of the stories surely made him uncomfortable (knowing he’s a very modest man) so after everyone finished, Jim wanted to clarify a few things.

“There was only one thing said here that was the truth,” Jim said. “And that was when Jim Johnson said that I was very lucky.”

He then went on to tell the story of beginning his career fresh out of college and landing his first major job, which he had to postpone to serve his country. He was promised his job back when his tour of duty was over, and when he returned to work, a new face greeted him—the face of Arnold Varga. That was Jim’s stroke of good luck he had talked about.



Jim shared that Mr. Varga was an illustrator as well as an art director, and one of the best in the country it turned out. Even though Arnold had flunked art classes in high school and his only formal training was a six month course at the Art Institute Of Pittsburgh, he worked his way up by working hard and developing a unique perspective on art and illustration. When asked in an interview once what his secret to success was, he replied that his work was “informative, honest and it doesn’t hurt the eye when you look at it.” A simple formula for a very interesting man.



Jim Markle told several stories of how much Arnold’s nurturing started him off on a lifelong successful career. It’s fitting then that Jim has also passed the mentoring he received on to his workshop students through the years and to many of us here at GVA.



Thanks very much, Jim, for continuing this tradition of transforming artists from hopeful students to masters of their craft through your patient instruction and never-ending encouragement. We strive to keep that in mind as we welcome new members who need to be encouraged and given the inspiration to reach their potential. You are one of the pillars of our organization, and we thank you.



Jim with son Brad, wife Eleanor, and granddaughter Catherine

Area Art News

Lowell Arts

Grand Valley Artists: In View at LowellArts

January 6–February 10

At LowellArts, 223 W Main St, Lowell, MI 49331

Grand Valley Artists is an art group based in Grand Rapids where artist members of all levels and media are welcome to meet, discuss, learn, and grow. Founded in 1957, GVA is one of the oldest art groups in the Midwest and the oldest in Michigan. On display at LowellArts this winter is an all-media juried exhibition of Grand Valley Artist members. The exhibition, juried by Fred Bivins, highlights the exceptional talent and professionalism of the Grand Valley Artists. Gallery hours: Tuesday–Friday 10 a.m.–6 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m.–5 p.m. Details at www.lowellartsmi.org.

Forest Hills Fine Arts Center

FHPS Staff & Community Exhibit. Any staff member can submit their artwork or anyone who took a community art class at the FAC can submit their art.

Show Dates: November 28th–December 15th

Reception: Thursday, December 7th, 6:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Guardian Gallery Lowell

The months of November through February host the beautiful watercolor paintings and watercolor batik paintings of Carole Nielsen. Carole has taught workshops for the Franciscan Life Process Center on Watercolor Batik methods. Her beautiful, colorful paintings are something that you don't want to miss. Treat yourself to a visual delight at the Franciscan Life Process Center, 11650 Downes St., Lowell, MI 49331. The Guardian Gallery Lowell is open during regular business hours.

Guardian Gallery Grand Rapids

November through February: The beautiful paintings of Sharon Snoeyink and Carol Cole. Guardian Gallery is open regular business hours. It's located on the third floor at St. Adalberts: 654 Davis Avenue NW, Grand Rapids, 49504.

Kristen Thornton at B&V

Please stop in for a great salad at Bliss & Vinegar, where you will see Kristen's beautiful work. 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 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.

Terryberry Gallery at St. Cecilia's

November 28 through January 31: Pastoral Landscapes by Marianna Heule and Lynn Anderson.

Reception: December 1 from 5:30 p.m.–7:30 p.m.

ICCF

Holly Sturges is the featured artist at ICCF until February

1. ICCF is located at 920 Cherry St. SE, Grand Rapids, MI.

Dominican Center at Marywood

November and December will feature the works of Valentina Grigorieva. Reception is December 10 from 1 until 4 p.m.

Cascade Library

Currently you can see the work of Steve and Linda Scarborough and Sandi Brogger at the Cascade Library. If you want to share your work at the library, contact Candice Chovanec at candicechovanec@yahoo.com.

LowellArts Holiday Artists Market

November 7 – December 23

At LowellArts, 223 W Main St, Lowell, MI 49331

The annual LowellArts Holiday Artists Market features artwork by over 50 area artists. Gallery hours: Tuesday - Saturday 10a a.m.–6 p.m. Details at www.lowellartsmi.org. LowellArts, 223 W Main St, Lowell, MI 49331.

Franciscan Life Process Center Workshops

To see the workshops that will be taking place in 2018, go to this link on our GVA website: <http://grandvalleyartists.com/sites/default/files/FLPC%20Workshop%20Lineup%202018.pdf>.



Jennifer McNamara, owner of B&V, with Kristen's work

GVA Exhibit and Reception – Clark Retirement Community

The Donna Chase Gallery, at the Clark Retirement Community, is currently exhibiting two-dimensional artworks by members of the Grand Valley Artists. Clark hosted a reception on Saturday, November 4th, and Pat Bergstrom, Arts Council Chair,



honored the talented artists and their beautiful works.



Morrison's Green provided acoustic original music and cover tunes – vocal harmonies intermingled with the melodic sounds of Max

Morrison's guitar and Emily Green's pennywhistle. An occasional Irish or Scottish tune brought back happy memories for residents at Clark, who joined in celebrating at the afternoon art reception.



Works are on display through December 3rd, and the gallery is open everyday, 8:00 AM to 8:00 PM. The Donna Chase Gallery is located at 1551 Franklin Street SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49506.



The following artists are exhibiting: Dave Bazen, James Bleeker, Joel Boland, Evie Carrier, James Johnson, Doug Klemm, Carol Lurn, Jim Markle, Jan McKinnon, Randy Nyhof, Dennis O'Mara, Gene Sampson, Linda Scarborough, Steve Scarborough, Joanne Swann, and Ruth VanderMeulen.

December 2017 GVA Holiday Art Competition

Members are invited to enter ONE original 2D or 3D artwork. Work must be sturdily framed, wired, and ready to hang. No exposed glass edges or saw tooth hangers.

ENTRY DELIVERY: Entries may be delivered to the GVA facility at 1345 Monroe NW on either Thursday, December 7 between 7:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. or Saturday, December 9 between 10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. Attach this form and \$10 fee to your entry in an envelope on the back of the work.

ENTRY FEE: Registration is \$10. All entries will be accepted into the show.

GVA'S HOLIDAY PARTY/RECEPTION: Thursday December 14 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at our NEW location. Please bring a snack or holiday treat for the banquet table.

LIABILITY/POLICY: Entries will be handled and transported to our new location with all possible care. However, GVA or any member of GVA is not responsible for any loss or damage to work. For publicity purposes, the artist will consent to allow GVA to photograph artwork. Submitting a work of art to this exhibition implies agreement on the part of the artist with all stated conditions.

Please tape an envelope containing this form along with your payment to the back of your entry.

ENTRY AND NOTIFICATION FORM – GVA HOLIDAY COMPETITION 2017

PRINT NAME _____

e-mail _____ PHONE _____

ARTIST'S SIGNATURE _____

ENTRY TITLE _____

MEDIUM _____

PRICE (or NFS) _____

Cash or check for \$10 enclosed (Checks should be payable to Grand Valley Artists)

Classifieds

The frames are mostly new with some slightly used ones. The Drafting Drawing Board is like new. Any interested parties can contact Randy Nyhof at r.nyhof@comcast.net



8 Essential Painting Tips

Perhaps you'll find these eight essential art painting tips from artist William Cather Hook, whose landscapes are some of the most well-favored in contemporary art, helpful.

1. Sketch carefully and solve compositional problems first so that when you are painting, no drawing issues crop up.
2. Paint the middle ground first when learning how to paint. From there you can better assess where your center of focus should be.
3. Resist the temptation to vertically expand a scene, especially if you are painting a landscape. You'll lose the effect of a vast area if you do.
4. Use a big brush so that you can't obsess and niggle with unnecessary details.
5. Consistency in your treatment of the light source is key to creating a convincing painting.
6. Paint negative space late in the process and use this time to define and alter previous brushstrokes.
7. Triangulate spot colors in a painting; that is, place a high-chroma accent color in three places to create a sense of balance.
8. Simplify, but also vary, your brushwork.

Dues are Over Due!

If you haven't paid your membership dues, please do so now.



I'VE GOT TO LET GO!

Submitted by Marty Klar

During a recent sketch session Carol asked me if I was OK and soon after, Bob McDonald said I looked tired. Later, during that same session, Carol caught me staring somewhat wistfully around the studio. That night it hit me. I'm really going to miss this place.

Midyear 2012 I discovered I possessed some ability to paint and draw. Once the shock wore off for DeLaine, and with her encouragement, I joined her as a member of GVA. For many of you, 1345 Monroe is the second, third or more home of GVA. For me it has been the first, and more importantly, it has been, and will always be, the home of so many wonderful firsts.

Attending portrait I was first struck by the incredible talent I was now privileged to witness. Before long, another first. A bench brawl between Jim Johnson and Dave Tulos. It wasn't over a difference in politics or team rivalries, it was over a bench! More firsts soon followed, including a Jim and Larry Goff cane duel, Chicken Fridays entering into the GVA lexicon, and innocent carrots getting nailed to foam core, for arts sake.

Many in GVA have been friends for years, and their stories get told and retold, embellished, repackaged and told again, but this time with me in earshot range. Some of these stories, one liners, and jabs were truly hilarious and some thought—because I had been a copywriter—that I was there taking notes and secretly writing a movie, or more likely, a sitcom. I assured them I was not.



I was there because sixty years ago a bunch of artists thought ahead. I was there to discover the limits of my new-found ability. I was there with like-minded people. And I was there with artists all on their own paths of discovery. Maybe that's the tie that binds GVA members. Or maybe it's just the free coffee!

I have loved and learned every minute in the studio. I've learned what works and doesn't at Critique. I learned what to do on a windy day attempting a plein-air painting. And I've learned that artists never stop stretching, striving and learning. No doubt there will be laughs and learning on Service Road, but the best memories for me will remain at 1345 Monroe. Sad as it is, it's time to let go.

Pausing to Reflect

Submitted by Dana Donnell

At the close of each year, we are inclined to pause and reflect. 2017 will be recorded in my book as a year of camaraderie, support, and education through my membership in Grand Valley Artists. Fitting, since this was the vision of the association's founders 60 years ago. Today, as in 1957, Grand Valley Artists brings together makers, connoisseurs, patrons and friends to enrich and enliven our lives, to engage in impassioned conversation about the arts and to contribute to the vitality and the cultural capital of our community. If you share my belief that this organization is an incredible bargain, please consider an additional tax-deductible donation to Grand Valley Artists. Your dollars will help defray the costs of GVA's move to its beautiful new studio. To make a tax-deductible donation to GVA, you can either use the PayPal link on our website or mail your check to our treasurer: Evie Carrier, 1029 28th St. SE. Grand Rapids, MI 49508. You will receive an acknowledgement via email or regular mail. Link to PayPal: <https://www.paypal.me/GrandValleyArtists>

THANK YOU from Jim

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to all you folks that made Thursday evening such a fond memory for me. I can't begin to express fully how much those kind words mean to me. GVA has over the years become a source of great new friendships that I will deeply cherish and treasure for as long as I live. You folks are incredible! Thank you so much!

—Jim Markle

Congratulations to Evie!

St Luke's Lutheran Church has purchased her art entitled "The Gift of Grace" for their permanent collection!

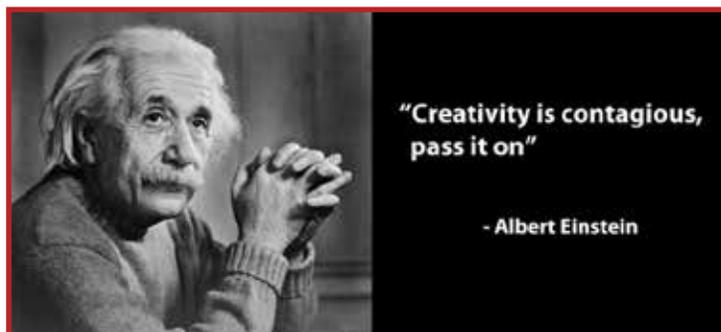


Reeds Lake Poster Contest Details

The poster can be original art or a digital file. A digital file image must measure 8" x 12" at 300 ppi (2400 x 3600 pixels). Submit to rkraai@ameritech.net no later than December 14th. An original piece of art must measure 12" x 18" and can be placed in the board room at GVA no later than December 14th. Images do not need to include the wording, which can be added electronically. If you wish to include wording describing the event, include the following:

Grand Valley Artists presents
The 53rd Reeds Lake Art Festival in Gaslight Village
East Grand Rapids
Saturday, June 16, 2018
9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Have questions? Call Bob Kraai at 616-956-7734.





GVA WELCOMES

Christine Martinez
 Devi Fongers
 Rolland Ashby
 Nancy Roddy
 Dani Ehlenfeldt
 Kristina Ehlenfeldt
 Kirk Parent
 Cat Jackson
 Maddie Jackson
 Elizabeth Dreitzler

Devi Fongers
 Rolland Ashby
 Syhming Vong
 Paul Knowles
 John Berstrom
 AND Welcome Back, Celia Said

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 johnheartist@hotmail.com

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Cascade Library
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 candicechovanec@yahoo.com



Board Meeting December 7 at 6:15 p.m.

EVERY WEEK

Sundays	Closed	
Mondays	10:00 a.m. until noon	Model Sketch
Tuesdays	1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month 7:30 p.m.	Photo Group
Wednesdays	2:00 until 5:00 p.m. (check website for location)	Plein Air or Still Life
Thursdays*	First Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m. Second Thursday of each month is usually Program at 7:30 p.m. BUT... Christmas Party December 14 from 6 till 8 at Service Rd. Remaining Thursdays at 7:30 p.m.	Critique Model Sketch
Fridays*	10:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.	Still Life
Saturdays	10:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.	Model Sketch

*Keep an eye on the newsletter and website for info on special long-pose sessions which will sometimes be offered on Thursdays and afternoon figure sketch on some Fridays.

Grand Valley Artists

1695 Service Road NE, Suite 106
Grand Rapids, MI 49505

Directions to 1695 Service Road NE

Drive south on Ball Ave. from Leonard. Ball eventually turns into Service Rd. by the jail. We are just around the bend on your left. You can also reach Service Rd from Plymouth Ave. Drive north of Michigan and you will find Service Rd. on the left immediately after you drive under the highway overpass. After you turn, stay on the left. Our building will be just ahead on the right, up a driveway.

We have the left side of the building, and have our own handicap ramp and entrance – and the new parking lot for us is to the left of our space, but you can park anywhere.

