



GVA Highlights

www.grandvalleyartists.com

February 2018

In View at LowellArts

Submitted by Steve Scarborough

GVA's exhibit 'In View' at the LowellArt's Center opened January 6th with a reception Sunday, January 7th. The show runs until February 10th.

GVA displayed great art on the walls, but also something longer lasting. We displayed how camaraderie and support between members has benefited us all. Everyone in attendance felt the group effort that went into this successful exhibit, and we all shared in its sense of wonder, beauty, message, interest, and talent.

I saw several members who weren't in the show for one reason or another, but they were just as supportive of those who were. I've never experienced this before, and above all we do as a group—how we offer workshops, classes and exhibits, and informal social events and lunch meetings—this stands out: We are a community, and no matter who in our group finds success, it is shared by us all.

Many thanks to Fred Bivins for his long hours and expertise in jurying the show as well as selecting the winners.



First place went to Doug Klemm for his piece "Under an English Sky." Second place went to Larry Blovits for his pastel "A Pause to Remember." Third place went to Joanne Swann for her monoprint "Two Palms." Fourth place went to Marty Klar's photograph "Rose Parade."

More information can be found at info@lowellartsmi.org. (616) 897-8545. The gallery is located at 223 W Main Street, Lowell, MI.



Armand Merizon

Submitted by Muriel Zandstra

The book ARMAND MERIZON: His Life and Art, is now selling at the following venues:

E-Bay (mail orders)
Baker Book House
Calvin College
Meijer Gardens
Grand Rapids Art Museum
Mercury Head Gallery
Perceptions Gallery
Kendall School of Art & Design (very soon)
Merizon Studio

You are invited to attend Baker Book House on Thursday, March 8, at 12 noon for a 55-minute documentary ARMAND, Q& A and book signing Calvin College. The event will begin with a presentation by Dr. Scott Westhouse, Dr. Larry Gerbens and Muriel Zandstra (using Merizon's paintings to illustrate how Macular Degeneration changed Merizon's painting style).

Workshop: Promoting Your Art With Social Media

The workshop will teach you how to use Instagram, Twitter, and Facebook to promote your work and reach out to potential clients. We will review setting up accounts, linking them for easier use, and discussing when you should be using them to gain the most benefit.

The workshop will be held January 27 from 3 until 5 p.m. You will need a smart phone to participate in this workshop. It would be helpful if you have Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram downloaded to your phone already. The cost is \$20, due at the start of the workshop. Please email Candice Chovanec directly to sign up, and include 3 to 5 questions that you have about using social media. NO question is too introductory. Email: candicechovanec@yahoo.com

Workshop with Candice at Franciscan Life Process Center

Long pose figure painting

March 22, 23, 24, 9-3 p.m. \$325

This workshop will instruct students on painting the figure with dynamic color with a focus on creating vibrant paintings utilizing a colorful palette to create work. On the first day, students will be given an extended demonstration by Candice showing a painting from start to finish. On the second day, students will begin with a single-color underpainting where they can concentrate on proportion and value. From there, they will begin to paint in full color utilizing a painting technique that concentrates on warm and cool relationships and minimizes the use of white paint to create a vibrant and life-like figure painting. Learn more on the FLPC website: https://lifeprocesscenter.org/calendar/cat_ids~3/



GVA Gallery in February

Submitted by **Jim Johnson**

For February, the theme for our next GVA GALLERY exhibit is CHICKENS. I've talked to many of our GVA artists and they all seem to have a painting somewhere that involves a chicken. It may be a chicken in the street, or a toy rubber chicken or a chicken that's being served for dinner. We'll take whatever you got. All 2D and 3D art is eligible, including drawings, paintings, prints, sculpture, photography, digital works, mixed media, etc. This exhibit is not juried and the works do not have to be framed, only hangable. (2D art must have a wire in back.)

Hang: Jan 29 / Monday

Strike: February 26 / Monday

February Program

Submitted by **Randy Nyson**

For the January program Larry Blovits presented 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. Those that attended enjoyed it immensely and saw the incredible quality of the 19th and early 20th century artwork.

For the February program, new GVA member Wes DeVries will demonstrate his unique painting techniques.



Congratulations to **Ruth VanderMuelen** for winning the annual Reeds Lake Poster Competition. Thanks to all who entered.



“Painting is easy
when you don't know how,
but very difficult
when you do”
- Edgar Degas

West Michigan Art Competition Call for Entries

Deadline January 29. Competition highlights outstanding artwork by West Michigan artists who reside in a 25 county region. Artwork in any visual art media can be submitted by artists 18 yrs. and older. This year's distinguished juror is Ryan Kaltenbach, Exhibits Director at the Northville Art House near Detroit. Artists may submit one piece. All entries must be submitted digitally. The fee for entry is \$35. Cash awards totaling \$2500 are awarded to 1st - 5th place.



Learn more here: www.lowellartsmi.org/2018-west-mich-art-competit

Your Opportunity to Lend a Hand

Candice Chovanec, our member who has been organizing GVA artwork at Cascade Library, must hand over Cascade Library art display responsibilities to another GVA member. She has started her teaching experience as an instructor at Lansing College, and with her other GVA volunteer work no longer has the time to devote to this activity. Candice has the next two shows arranged with artist's work. She is letting us know soon enough so that whoever volunteers can be with her to learn what this activity entails. Please let Candice know if you are interested. The exhibit is changed every three months so you will not be overwhelmed with work. candicechovanec@yahoo.com

“Break It Down | Make It Better”

“Break it Down | Make it Better” is a series of events aimed at producing educational programming, discussions and professional development opportunities for artists, curators and venue coordinators in the West Michigan community and region. Learn more at <http://grandvalleyartists.com/sites/default/files/Break%20It%20Down.docx>.

GVA on WZZM

Lauren Stanton stopped by GVA's studio Monday morning to have a look at our new facilities. She was very impressed by our talented members, and will air the episode on Wednesday January 24 at 9 a.m. on channel WZZM - 13 ABC 'My West Michigan' hosted by Lauren Stanton.



Preparing for an Art Show in the Digital World

Submitted by Steve Scarborough

Fred Bivins was the juror for our exhibit at LowellArts. One of the things he told us afterwards was that he had trouble at times because he couldn't tell what the artwork really looked like based on the digital file sent in. He hated to reject a work of art based on a poor photograph of an artist's work, and at times had to use his imagination to determine what the artwork really looked like. He prefers to judge a piece of art in person, rather than digitally, but realizes it's not always practical to jury a show this way, mainly because of time constraints.

Doing publicity for our group, getting quality digital files of artwork to accompany a press release or making a good looking slide show is a huge challenge. The Reeds Lake Art show is a good example of this. Probably over half the files submitted by vendors couldn't be used for publicity do to poor quality.

Randy Nyhof organized an evening last year where he invited members to bring in their artwork to be photographed at GVA. He used an easel, proper lighting and a professional camera. He will probably do this for our members again this coming year for a nominal fee.

Here are a couple tips to follow in order to represent your art work properly.

The file size should be about 1440 pixels on the longer edge. This is for best for viewing using an HD monitor and for reprinting by the press. Any smaller than that, it's hard to see details.

Don't take photographs of your artwork under glass. Take it out of the frame. There are scanning services who can shoot photos under glass, however.

If you do take a photograph of your work in its frame, it's best to crop out the frame.

Take the time to color correct your work after it's photographed. Check the original piece against the monitor or print.

Label your artwork files that you send in with your name and the title of your artwork. This is absolutely necessary. It's common for the digital file to be separated from the application, so it must be properly identified.

As more art shows demand we submit by e-mail, we have lot's to learn. Thankfully, through GVA, you have lots of help to navigate these new waters!

Photo Group Submitted by Randy Nyhof



The GVA Photo Group met with our usual critique on the first Tuesday this month on January 2. We had good attendance and I also gave out information on up and coming shows plus info on new photo products. On Tuesday January 30, I will be giving a powerpoint presentation on tips for improving your landscape photos.

The GVA Photo Group will meet with our usual critique on the first Tuesday of the month on February 6. Second meeting of the month to be determined yet.

Randy at Franciscan Life Process Center February 7

On Wednesday February 7, Randy Nyhof will be giving a powerpoint presentation on "My Journey in Fine Art Photography; From the 1970's to the Present" at the Franciscan Life Process Center at 10 a.m.



lowell **Arts**





Many thanks to Randy Nyhof for capturing so many of the special moments at our LowellArts reception. It was a beautiful and well-attended celebration of the wonderful artists of GVA.





Thank you, too, to our juror, Fred Bivins, seen at right talking with guests, for his willingness to jury the show and choose the winners. With so much excellent work to select from, he had a tough job!



Paint a Mural?

Submitted by Carol Lourn

To those of you who love to paint murals or have never experienced designing/painting a wall but would like to, do I have a deal for you. A cat rescue organization called Crash's Landing and Sid's Sanctuary is renovating some rooms at their site. They would love to have our GVA members paint a mural on one of the walls.

I volunteer at Crash's/Sids and have met many wonderful volunteers. I have volunteered at other cat rescues only to walk away feeling depressed. Not at Crash's/Sids. The volunteers are never too busy to pet, love, talk to these wonderful animals who have been thrown away by their owners. Big Sid's Sanctuary houses cats with FIV and/or FeLV, which is viewed as an automatic death sentence at the majority of shelter and humane societies. Not as Sid's.

Sara Youngman, a GVA member, needs your help with this project. She dedicates many hours of volunteer work at this cat rescue. Please call her at 616-3284749 to let her know you would love to paint. Why not get involved with this worthwhile project.

Best wishes,
Carol Lourn



Dave Bazen and Amy, the long pose model, at Critique last month. If you are looking for opportunities to paint the same model for a longer time, you'll want to participate in the long pose sessions. Long pose sessions will be posted on the website calendar.



Tell Us Your "Why"

Recently you may have received an email or seen this design on the door at the GVA studio. As part of our vision for the organization's future, the Board would like to hear your story.

Why did you join Grand Valley Artists? Why do you keep coming back? Please help us identify what makes Grand Valley Artists unique and help us meet your needs and clarify our mission. In a few words....Tell us your "why"!

You can send your comments to Mary Helmic, Mary-helmic@gmail.com or look for the display on the entry door at GVA studios and post your response there. Thanks!

Area Art News

Lowell Arts

Grand Valley Artists: In View at LowellArts will be featured through February 10. Up next: West Michigan Art Competition March 10–April 14, 2018. Gallery Hours: Tues-Fri 10am–6pm and Sat 10–5pm. www.lowellartsmi.org
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

Linda Walburn's award-winning fiber-art will be on display from February 8 - 27, 2018. Reception: Thursday, February 15, 2018, 6 p.m. - 7 p.m. in the lobby. Everyone is welcome!

Guardian Gallery Lowell

Through February you will see 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 Gallery 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.

Terryberry Gallery at St. Cecilia's

"Take a Deeper Look." Mary Reusch and Margaret Kriegbaum present their unique aesthetic vision from the representational to abstract, with a keen sense of color and composition. Elements from nature are basic to their artwork. This show goes from February 1 to March 1, and the reception is February 2 from 5:30–7:30 p.m. There is free parking available.

ICCF

The featured artist through February is Holly Sturges, and the name of the show is "Home At Last." ICCF is open during regular business hours.

Dominican Center at Marywood

January 1–February 28 we will display the work of two Native American artists, Alan Norberg Compo and David R. "Scribbles" Huerta. The artist reception will be Sunday, Feb. 11 from 1:00–4:00 p.m.

Frauenthal Gallery

Esan Sommersell's work will be on display during the month of February. The Center is located at 425 West Western Ave., Suite 200, Muskegon, MI 49440

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.

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>.

Bliss & Vinegar

Stop in to B&V to see the works of Judy Maggini. 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.



Judy Maggini at B&V.



GVA Welcomes
Mary Bradshaw
Amy Suzanne Hansen
Pamela Newbury

And Welcome Back
Susan Ledy

A note from new member Andrew Szczepanski:
 I am very excited to have an opportunity to grow and learn from such a talented group of people. Your showing at the Lowell art council is beautiful. Many very noteworthy pieces. I am looking forward to a great adventure!!



Board Meeting February 1 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
 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
 Open Studio

Critique
 Program
 Model Sketch

Still Life

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.

Contact Listings for GVA

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