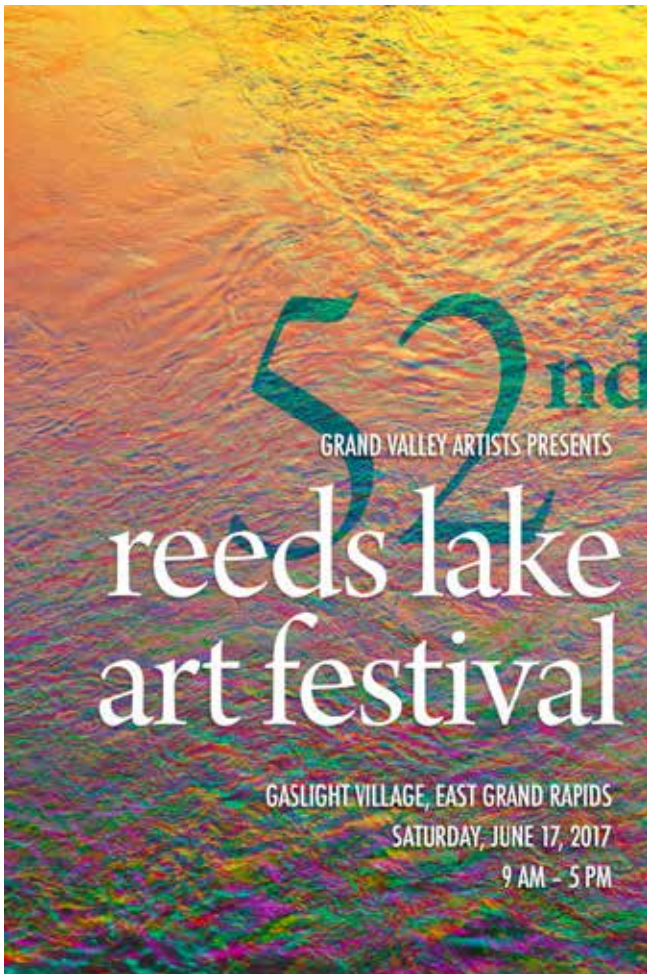


## Reeds Lake Poster Contest Winner

Joe Goedel was the winner by popular vote from the entire audience at November's Program, with runners up Evie Carrier, Randy Nyhof, and Mary Myszka. Congratulations to all! Several entries arrived too late for this year's competition and voting but may be entered in next year's contest.



Joe Goedel's winning entry



Evie's entry



Randy's entry



Mary's entry



Emily, by Dennis O'Mara



Tattooed Muse, by Dennis O'Mara

## Dennis O'Mara at Frauenthal Theater

Don't miss the beautiful exhibit of works by Dennis O'Mara at The Frauenthal Theater in Muskegon through January 28 each day from 10:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and some evenings, depending on events. Visit [www.frauenthal.org](http://www.frauenthal.org) for more information.

THE EASIEST WAY TO  
BE CREATIVE:

TRY SOMETHING  
DIFFERENT,  
EVEN IF YOU  
DON'T THINK  
IT WILL WORK.

## Print Workshop in February

Reduction print workshop with Joanne Swann. Saturday February 11th and Sunday February 12th, 9am to 4 pm. Inks, tools and blocks included in price. You purchase the paper you use. Email to sign up: [joswann@sbcglobal.net](mailto:joswann@sbcglobal.net) and for further information. \$75.00



# January in the Gallery

Submitted by Jim Johnson

We will welcome art that has the human figure as the main subject in the month of January. Figures can be nude or clothed. They can be presented against a neutral background or engaged in a narrative of some sort. 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.

Hang: Dec 31 / Saturday

Strike: Jan 30 / Monday



## January Program Night

January program will be the film “Banksy Does New York.” This is an 80 minute film about the elusive British street artist known as Banksy, who on October 1, 2013, launched a self-proclaimed month-long residency in New York City, posting one unique exhibit a day in an unannounced location, sparking a 31-day scavenger hunt both online and on the streets for Banksy’s artwork.

Capturing this month of madness, Banksy Does New York incorporates user-generated content, from YouTube videos to Instagram photos, from New Yorkers and Banksy hunters alike, whose responses became part of the work itself, for an exhilarating, detailed account of the uproar created by the mysterious artist.

**Art is  
freedom.**

**Being able to  
bend things  
most people  
see as a  
straight line.**

## Photo Group

Submitted by Randy Nyhof

The Photo Group will meet at the usual time on the usual evenings, the first and third Tuesday of the month (January 2 and January 16) 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.





## Is That a Bat?

NO! That's Bill Andrus, stepping up to the plate to tidy up at GVA recently.

GVA is a volunteer organization, which means that everybody gets a chance at bat...and there are plenty of ways to step up to the plate, from making coffee or cleaning the coffee pot to taking out the trash when it reaches overflowing. (There is a dumpster in the back of the parking lot.)

Thank you so much to all of the silent heroes...the people who keep our coffee and paper towels in stock, replace lightbulbs, sweep/vacuum the floors, arrange the books in the library, prepare dishes for critique and program, hire models for sketch group, pay our bills and keep our books, maintain our good relationship with our landlord, make sure we have treats, volunteer for our Outreach Program, organize and "man" the Reeds Lake Art Festival, and so much more.

Dont be shy. It takes a village.

## Land Conservancy of West Michigan Project

Below is an invitation from Michigan/Idaho artist Susan Rose regarding a Land Conservancy of West Michigan project.

Please read, and if you're interested, contact Susan directly: [susanmrosefineart@gmail.com](mailto:susanmrosefineart@gmail.com)

Message from Susan:

We are in the initial stages of planning and are tweaking the artist application process. When that is finished I will be able to send out applications. I could use your help in identifying artists who might be interested in receiving an application to participate. We are looking for artists who fit the following criteria:

1. Must have an interest/passion in land conservation/preservation and ability to create works of art that reflect this.
2. Artists need to be willing to work on site and be willing to engage in meaningful dialogue with the public about LCWM's mission. Work would not necessarily need to be completed on site but the LCWM is looking for work that is inspired by and reflects their properties.
3. Create 3-5 pieces of work (the amount may change) that are of high quality and are exhibit ready.
4. Artists need to be willing to create work on the LCWM's properties (some are remote).

5. Artists will need to use various social media to actively promote the events and to be willing to write about their experiences to be shared on the LCWM website.

This is only a brief synopsis of the requirements and not an official LCWM document but thought it might be helpful to you in order to identify artists you know that might be interested. We are looking at sending out applications soon and would most likely have a mid March deadline. Artists that have a strong CV and exhibition record would be encouraged to apply. Chosen artists would then be invited out to LCWM properties and events through the months of April-September-ish. (Specific dates to be determined.) We hope to have two exhibits in late fall of 2017.

I was very pleased with the first attempt at this event in 2015 and at this point, the LCWM is interested in continuing this on an every other year basis. My original reason for bringing the LCWM this idea was to educate and raise awareness about the importance of land conservation/preservation while also raising funds. In light of that, I am hoping to incorporate more opportunities to educate the general public

Susan M. Rose  
[susanmrosefineart@gmail.com](mailto:susanmrosefineart@gmail.com)

# Area Art News

## Forest Hills Fine Arts Center

Kelsea Wierenga will be exhibiting her work January 6–27, 2017. Reception is Thursday, January 12, from 6 p.m. till 7 p.m.

## ICCF

Evie Carrier and Randy Nyhoff's work will be at ICCF through February. Beautifully manipulated photographs of landscapes, people and things sure to interest everyone. Stop by and see our own members' outstanding work. ICCF is open during regular business hours.

920 Cherry Street SE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49506

## St. Cecilia's Terryberry Gallery

Paintings and drawings by Grand Rapids husband and wife team, Sharon Sandberg Kerr and Don Kerr, will be exhibited through January.

## Franciscan Life Process Center

Please check out the workshops at [http://lifeprocess-center.org/calendar/cat\\_ids~3/](http://lifeprocess-center.org/calendar/cat_ids~3/).

## Marywood Dominican Center

Reyna Garcia's work, "Ayotzi, Inspiration and Revolution," will remain on exhibit at the Dominican Center at Marywood through January.

## Cascade Library

Mary Marin, Sallie Zigterman, Debbie Walker and Jeannette Stewart are currently showing their work. If you wish to show your work at the library, contact Larry Goff at 616-949-1247.

## Lowell Arts

You can learn about LowellArts! at <http://www.lowellartsmi.org>.

### The LowellArts! Gallery

149 S. Hudson St.  
Lowell, Michigan  
Gallery Hours:

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

## Frauenthal Center

Dennis O'Mara's work is at the Reception Gallery through the end of January. He has a collection of beautiful pastels and oil bar paintings, as well as his beautifully crafted paneled doors that he had up for ArtPrize. Don't miss this opportunity to see our own Dennis O'Mara's work in one place. The Reception Gallery is open during regular business hours.

## Guardian Gallery

Jon McDonald's "Human Series" is a collection of portraits of different kinds of people, pointing out that we are ALL humans. This is an exhibit worth seeing. This will be up through the end of February. The Guardian Gallery, located at 671 Davis NW, Grand Rapids at the St. Adalbert's campus, is open Tuesday–Friday, noon to 7:30 p.m.

## Terryberry Gallery at St. Cecilia's

Sharon Sandberg and Don Kerr's work is up through the end of January. Some of it is a retrospective of drawings and beautiful, large paintings of people, landscapes and still lifes. This is an outstanding exhibit that you won't want to miss. Terryberry Gallery is open during regular business hours.

## Bliss & Vinegar

Stop in to see the artwork of Mary Marin, on display beginning in January, and grab a delicious salad while you are at it!

If you are interested in showing your work at B&V, you must first place your work in the Gallery on our GVA website. Marty Klar coordinates the displays at B&V. Please do not contact the restaurant directly. Contact Marty with Bliss-specific questions: [martyklar@comcast.net](mailto:martyklar@comcast.net), (616) 813-7921.

# HOLIDAY PARTY MEMORIES

Thanks to Don Karel for these photos!





Special thanks to Peg McKeown, our hospitality chairperson, and her helpers for throwing a great party!



# Should we or shouldn't we? Will we or won't we?

Submitted by Carol Laurin

The morning of our scheduled December 8 Christmas party looked dismal. Extreme snow conditions and high winds were forecast. The major question on our minds became should we cancel our celebration or continue with our plans? We were looking forward to this party but did not want our members driving in hazardous conditions. I called Bob Kraai, Dave Bazen, Marty Klar and Kathy Bechtel to get their opinion. Cancel or not cancel??? The general consensus was to keep it scheduled for the 8th.

Around four o'clock, Kathy emailed our members and Mary Marin posted on our website the information that our Christmas party would not be canceled. We encouraged our members to use good judgment in regards to their own safety on the roads.

Despite the drama prior to the party, the evening festivities were wonderful. We had a full house, the food was beyond delicious, the comradery was awesome, and the art work exceptional. Some of our members need to be applauded for their help in organizing these festivities.

During the initial planning, Bob Kraai suggested our Christmas party focus on celebrating the friendships that have developed among our GVA members. Many of our members have nurtured strong friendships throughout their years at GVA. In addition we wanted to make new members welcome to our GVA family. So this party was all about you!

Randy Nyhof's slide presentation, which played throughout the evening, was evidence of our strong ties. The photos of all of you at our GVA picnic and at Carl Forslund's party were beautiful. Peg McKeown, our hostess extraordinaire, greeted our members, who brought food to her decorated tables.

A GVA Christmas tradition throughout the years has been a juried show of our members art work. Kathy Bechtel and Jim Johnson organized our impressive show. Contacting a juror, providing necessary entrance information for our members, and hanging the show requires quite a bit of work. We greatly appre-

ciate their contribution to making our party such a success. I believe everyone left the party with smiles on their faces but there were some people who went home really, really happy. These people were selected as our award winners: Bonnie Osborne was our first place award winner, Mary Marin, our second place winner and third place went to Larry Blovits. Honorable mentions were awarded to Sue Ellison and Ron Shamery. Congratulations to our award winners and all of those who entered their work in the show.

Best wishes to all of you and Happy Holidays!



“There are painters who transform the sun to a yellow spot, but there are others who with the help of their art and their intelligence, transform a yellow spot into sun”

—Artist Pablo Picasso



# A Hundred Years Later

by Steve Scarborough

I have this vague memory of a most disturbing picture that hung on a wall in my grandfather's cottage. It burned into my young mind and will never escape. You probably have a similar memory of where you first saw this very odd painting. The painting I'm referring to is titled "Dogs Playing Poker." and it features four large dogs playing cards. Two of them are smoking, and they're all drinking whiskey. What makes this painting work is that all the dogs are acting like it's perfectly natural for them to be doing these people-like things.

The painting was created by Cassius Marcellus Coolidge in 1894 and started a whole series of paintings featuring dogs playing cards, playing pool, being in court, drinking, and several other activities. They are all collectively known as "Dog's Playing Poker."

Cash, or Kash, as he was known to his friends, was from Philadelphia and New York. As a young man, he tried banking and the newspaper business before finding that cartoons and caricatures were his thing. I'm not sure where he got his ideas from, or what kind of epiphany he must have had which led him down this particular road, but it was no doubt a doozy. Apparently, when he showed his wife and daughter his 'Dogs,' they were not impressed; they simply couldn't imagine dogs doing these things. Plus they were cat lovers, which could also have had something to do with it.

Imagine what everyone would say if his original piece were to make its debut at GVA's critique one Thursday night. I'm sure it would raise a few eyebrows.

In 2015, the original painting in this series sold for \$658,000 at a Sotheby's in New York.

Another odd fact about this series of paintings - the set of the TV show "Rosanne" had a print hanging in the living room. The cartoon, "The Simpsons" also made reference to the paintings several times. In fact, there are countless times "Dogs" were shown or made reference to in movies, plays, or on TV. These appearances don't validate the works as terribly good pieces of art though. Making a great impact and actually being great are two different things.



But...Art is suppose to make an impact and reflect in some way the culture or feelings of the times, right? So in that sense, these work are highly successful. Confusing rules sometimes, I know.

So, when you are sitting around, trying to come up with the next big thing, an original style of art that will propel you and your work into the realm of the famous, nothing is out of bounds. Don't hold back trying something unusual or even odd, and certainly don't worry about what your friends or family (or even us at GVA) might think - try it, work hard at it and give it your best shot, you never know!

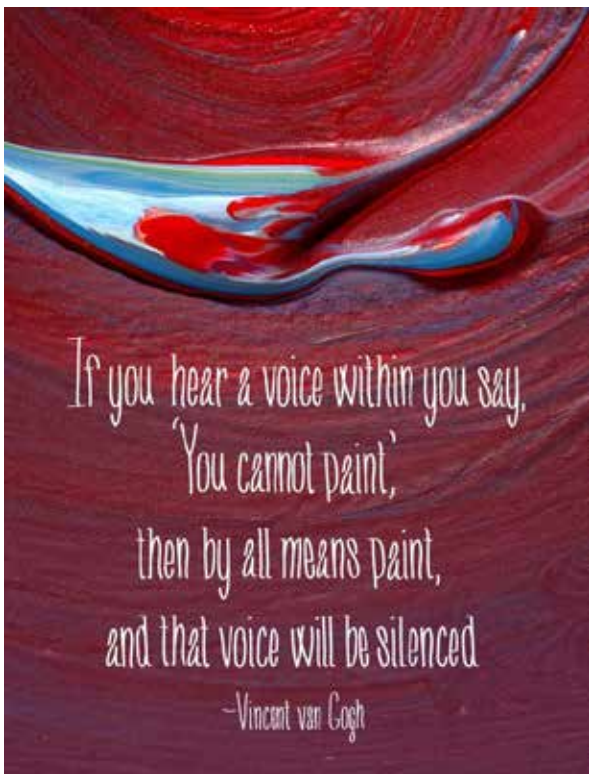


## Check Out Our Library

The GVA Library is chock full of books...how-to books, biographies, anthologies of works of artists through the centuries...to inspire all of us to grow our own inner artistic selves.

Thanks to Jim Johnson, librarian extraordinaire, for organizing everything so we can actually see what we have. Thanks, too, to Bob Kraai and Marty Klar for picking up a couple of really sturdy bookcases and bringing them to GVA. What an improvement!

Please sign out any books that interest you. We use the honor system, so just bring them back when you are done with them so others can read them too.



## The Classifieds

Have art or photography supplies you want to sell or trade? Let me know and I'll advertise them here for you. Send your ad to [marymarin@comcast.net](mailto:marymarin@comcast.net).

**Full-sized french easel** in decent shape. Contact [marymarin@comcast.net](mailto:marymarin@comcast.net) or call 616-443-0362. \$30.

**Gorilla Pochade Box**, 9"x12" (large size), used only once or twice. Paid \$200 new. Will sell for \$100 firm. Contact [marymarin@comcast.net](mailto:marymarin@comcast.net) or call 616-443-0362.



**Antique Drawing Table with drawer.**

Cast iron frame with casters and one board drawing surface. In beautiful shape. \$135. Contact Jim Markle at [jimcmarkle@earthlink.net](mailto:jimcmarkle@earthlink.net).



**French Easel.** Full size and almost new. \$100. Contact Jim Markle at [jimcmarkle@earthlink.net](mailto:jimcmarkle@earthlink.net).



**Panel Paks for holding two oil paintings for easy transport.** 8"x10" \$16. 5"x7" \$10. Contact Jim Markle at [jimcmarkle@earthlink.net](mailto:jimcmarkle@earthlink.net).





**Board Meeting January 5 at 6:15 p.m.**

EVERY WEEK	
<b>Sundays</b>	Closed
<b>Mondays</b>	10:00 a.m. until noon
<b>Tuesdays</b>	1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month 7:30 p.m.
<b>Wednesdays</b>	2:00 until 5:00 p.m. (check website for location)
<b>Thursdays</b>	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.
<b>Fridays</b>	10:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.
<b>Saturdays</b>	10:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.

**Contact Listings for Grand Valley Artists**

**President**  
 Carol Laurn  
 616-437-9365  
 carollaurn@yahoo.com

**Vice President**  
 Emily Green  
 616-617-1548  
 ww.emilyg@gmail.com

**Secretary**  
 Dana Donnell  
 danaBdonnell@gmail.com

**Treasurer**  
 Evie Carrier  
 616-648-6858  
 evie.carrier@gmail.com

**Membership Chair**  
 Dave Bechtel  
 616-818-9618  
 davidbechtel@sbcglobal.net

**Photography**  
 Lora Cecola  
 loracecola@mac.com

**Program**  
 Randy Nyhof  
 616-745-1486  
 r.nyhof@comcast.net

**Reeds Lake Art Festival**  
 Bob Kraai  
 616-956-7734  
 rkraai@ameritech.net

**Newsletter and Website**  
 Mary Marin  
 616-443-0362  
 marymarin@comcast.net

**Publicity**  
 Steve Scarborough  
 stevescarb1@yahoo.com

**GVA Gallery Shows**  
 Jim Johnson  
 616-451-2211  
 johntheartist@hotmail.com

**Sketch Coordinators**  
 Kathy Bechtel  
 616-540-5744  
 kathleen.bechtels@yahoo.com  
 Dave Bazen  
 dbazen@bazenelectric.com  
 Larry Goff  
 lawrencegoff@comcast.net  
 Jim Johnson  
 616-451-2211  
 johnsontheartist@hotmail.com

**Hospitality**  
 Peg McKeown  
 616-656-9210  
 mcperfitt@me.com

**Library**  
 Jim Johnson  
 616-451-2211  
 johntheartist@hotmail.com

**Facilities Coordinator**  
 Dave Bazen  
 616-453-6706  
 dbazen@bazenelectric.com

**Do You Have Any 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.

# Grand Valley Artists

1345 Monroe Ave. NW Suite 140

Grand Rapids, MI 49505

*Happy  
New  
Year!*