



Highlights

www.grandvalleyartists.com

May 2018

Larry Goff

Grand Valley Artists lost a dear friend with the recent passing of Larry Goff. He will be missed by all of those who enjoyed his company, his wit, and his amazing talents at regular sketch sessions. Below are some of the memories sent in by our membership.

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Larry Goff became a valuable member of GVA almost immediately after joining. We made the move from Jefferson Street shortly after he joined and Larry was very active in making the decision to move to Monroe. He remained very active in GVA and was an important factor in the continuous success of the organization.

It was also great to see how good of an artist he became. He worked hard at it and the hard work really paid off. It's so nice to see an individual take so much pleasure in art.

An organization is extremely fortunate to have members like Larry. His smile and dedication to GVA will be greatly missed.

—Jim Markle

Larry was a wonderful person and artist. Always helpful.

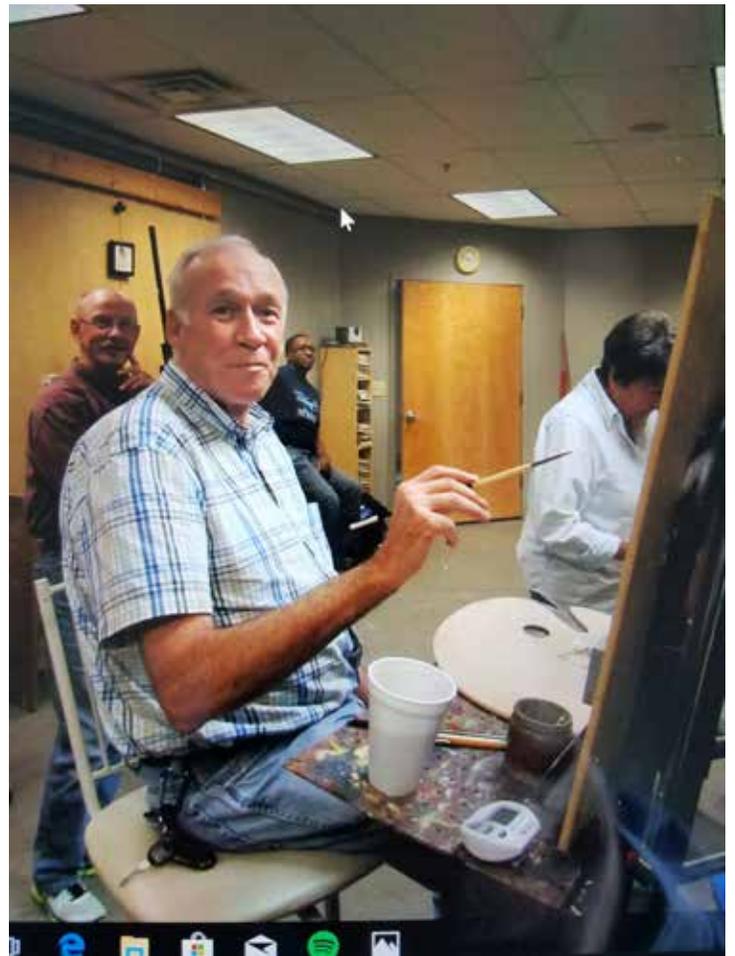
—Nancy Liszewski

Larry and his wife donated the wonderful lighted GVA sign. His light continues to shine into the world.

—Joanne Swann

Larry was a very good artist and such an inspiration to me. I cherish and will never forget his gentle way, and also the little conversations about art and most of all the beautiful drawings as I sat next to him. Larry was a wonderful person who truly will be missed. My heart goes out to his family, children, grandchildren and his wife Nancy. With all my heart, God Bless.

—Florence Truskowski



Always There

I met Larry some 20 years ago, approximately one month after I had joined GVA. We were both attending a Thursday evening Critique session. As was custom, our president asked if there were any new 1st time members attending. A gentleman sitting behind me spoke up and introduced himself....Larry was there. We talked more at break and a friendship began. Larry proved time and time again that he was great at making newcomers welcome. Larry was there.

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“What Does Success Look Like for GVA?”

The two members who are coordinating our 501(c)(3) efforts answer this way:

“I was thinking about how I would answer the question ‘What does success look like?’ I think I would say it looks like what we are now, but with additional space, more classrooms and workshops and a KNOWN PRESENCE in the West Michigan area. I think success looks like Grand Valley Artists being to the visual arts community what St. Cecelia Music Society is to the music community, i.e., a grassroots organization made up of people who have a passion for the arts and who want to infuse their passion into the community as a way of enriching life in West Michigan for everyone.”

—Dana Donnell

“Success means GVA is still thriving long after I’m gone.”

—Mary Helmic

What does success for GVA look like for you? Drop us a line:

<http://grandvalleyartists.com/contact>

GVA Gallery in May

Submitted by Jim Johnson

The theme for the month of May is the color red. Simply put, we’re looking for art that uses the color red as an essential element. And I’ll leave it at that. All 2D and 3D art is eligible, including drawings, paintings, prints, sculpture, photography and digital imaging, mixed media, fabric and mosaic work. 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: April 30 / Monday

Strike: May 28 / Monday



We thank Larry and Nancy Goff for the sign that now graces GVA’s new home.

Shining Through...Chase Your Light

The Foundation for Mental Health of West Michigan will hold its 25th Annual Art Show and Auction on October 18, 2018. This includes both a silent and live auction. Contributing artists are creatives who manage ongoing or persistent mental illness, such as depression, anxiety, bipolar disorder, and PTSD. Our Shining Through event highlights these artists and decreases stigma. Creating artwork is a release, expression, a light in the darkness. This year’s theme, Chase Your Light, is meant to capture that.

What light do you have burning in your soul? What desire fills you with happiness? Does it keep you up at night or get you out of bed in the morning? We all have a light inside of us that gives us purpose, makes us confident, bold. What’s your light? Whatever it may be, never stop chasing it.

You can submit up to 10 pieces to be considered by the Foundation’s committee. Deadline June 1, no exceptions. All final artwork will be decided on by June 15.

*Artists will receive 51% of the revenue made on their artwork. The other 49% goes back to the Foundation to support mental health education throughout West Michigan.

Please email kandicesloop@benice.org for more information or visit the website: <https://www.benice.org/shining-through>

One Sentence Artist Statements

At age 86, my mission is to keep painting until my frustrations cause me to cut off my ear.

—Donna Muench

I like to create something that is a pleasure to look at, whether on paper or fabric.

—Sarabeth Carr

A single person needs a reliable source of aggravation and dissatisfaction.

—Joe Goeldel

Enjoy my emotional views rendered by my abilities

—Patricia Dee

My own self expression helps me define who I am.

—Jan Proli

Colored pencils have been my life long friends and when I am using them I feel at peace with the world.

—EmaLee Birnie

The single most important thing that connects me to my art is the sense of challenge to achieve and master what is uniquely mine.

—Larry Blovits

Art is the creation of beauty by any means possible.

—Laurene Alflen

Creating visual art is my way of bringing more beauty into the world.

—Mary Helmic

I create art because I love it, and I hope other people love it too!

—Dave Bechtel

Connecting with my creative side makes my soul sing and my heart happy.

—Terri Dunderman

My art is the language of my soul.

—Irene Wordhouse

Stay tuned for more quotes next month! Send your own one sentence statement to Jim Johnson at johnsontheartist@hotmail.com.

Doug Klemm in St. Joe

Our own Doug Klemm is having an art show in St. Joe and would love to see GVA members attend the Opening Reception on May 4th, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. There will be wine and hors d'oeuvres provided by the Box Factory for the Arts. As we plan for the future, the Box Factory is a wonderful example of what GVA could aspire to become as we seek to be more interactive with our community.

The Box Factory for the Arts, Williams Gallery
May 4th to June 2, 2018

Opening Reception, Friday, May 4th, 5:30 to 7:30 PM

Location: 1101 Broad St. St. Joseph, MI 49085

Mark your calendar!

“Natural Illuminations” Artwork by Doug Klemm





Call for Artists in Rockford

Rogue River Artists Association hopes you can join them as an exhibitor on September 8, 2018.

Rockford's juried ART IN THE PARK exhibition offers a charming setting along the Rogue River in the city's downtown Garden Club Park. Limited to 50 artists, the event draws exhibitors and patrons from around the state.

You are invited to join in as an exhibitor. Download applications at www.rogueriverartists.org. Please fill out and return the application with your exhibitor fee and art photos or link to your web portfolio by August 10, 2018.

Event: Saturday, September 8, 2018 | 10 a.m.-5 p.m. | Garden Club Park, Rockford

Deadline to apply: August 10, 2018

Cost: \$75 before July 1, \$90 after July 1. No refunds after acceptance. Make checks to Rogue River Artists Association. Friday Night Set-up: Artists may request Friday night set-up, however, no security service will be provided. Lot Size: 10 x 12 ft. Please provide your own set-up. Terrain in Garden Club Park is uneven. Parking near the exhibit area. Contact and Questions: James Falk | falkdesign@me.com | 616 866-3282

Call for Artists in Lake Odessa

The 44th annual Art in the Park will be held on the grounds of Lake Odessa's shady and picturesque Village Park on Saturday, August 4, 2018, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.!

The show features 70+ unique fine art and craft booths, favorite festival food, a children's craft area, live musical entertainment and, courtesy of our sponsors, lots of door prizes! The deadline to submit ParkPrize! applications is June 15, 2018.

Learn more at their website:

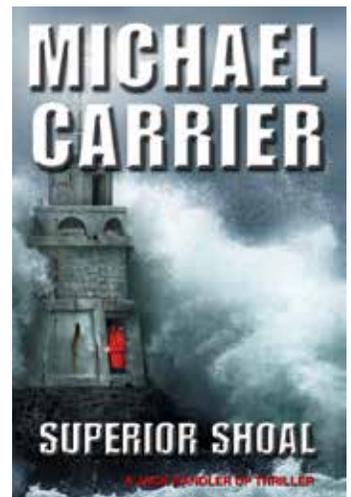
<http://www.lakeodessaarts.com>

The 44th Annual
ART
in the **PARK**

Special Price—One Day Only

Michael Carrier expresses his gratitude to members of Grand Valley Artists for all their help in designing the cover for his new book, "Superior Shoal." Michael, who also is a member of GVA, submitted his proposed cover designs on numerous occasions to the Photo Group of GVA and to those artists present at Critique. The new book, number twelve in his best selling Michigan-based Jack Handler saga, is scheduled to come out on May 16, 2018. Like all of the earlier Jack Handler books, Superior Shoal provides intense levels of excitement—at times electrifying, at other times gut wrenching.

For one day only—**Wednesday, May 16**—you will be able to buy the eBook for the reduced price of 99 cents. Regular pricing for the download is \$6.95. It is just like the print version (\$19.95), except the electronic version can be read on your eBook device, or on any PC or Apple computer. The special sale will begin at 12:01 a.m. (Eastern Standard Time), and will continue until 11:59 p.m. that evening. You can click on this Amazon link (<https://amzn.to/2pbM89v>) to buy the book for this reduced price.



WELCOME TO GVA!

A message from our friend Larry Goff, as read to the members of GVA at our Pasta-Thon

I have always considered myself an unofficial greeter for GVA. I regret that I could not be here tonight to make everyone feel welcome.* But I just couldn't miss the opportunity to greet everyone and say "Welcome, I'm so glad you're here!"

I joined GVA shortly after I retired. When I saw the amazing quality of talent, I immediately decided I had overreached. The existing members assured me, as I hope you will be assured, that there is nothing more variable, vague, or ever changing than "talent." The support and encouragement you will find within these walls is amazing. It empowers everyone with the opportunity to grow, the courage to experiment, and possibilities that have never been considered.

Even more important than the artistic support you will find are the people you will meet. This is a group of people who are extremely varied, not only in talent, but in background and ambitions. You will meet people who have been in the "business of art" their entire careers and people who are entering the art community for the first time. You will meet people who are making art their new profession and others who are developing creativity for their personal satisfaction.

If you have a question, someone here has an answer. In fact, you may find more answers than you ever considered. And a discussion livelier than you might have imagined.

If art in any format is your passion, you have come to the right place. If you are just curious about art, you have come to the right place. So welcome, come and join us and enjoy yourselves. You will never regret being here.

*Larry passed away the day before our Pasta-Thon. He left us with this message to be read at the event.



Great Lakes Pastel Society Competition Winners

Earlier in 2018 the "call to artists" went out from the Great Lakes Pastel Society asking for entries to their bi-annual National Competition to be held at the Holland Area Arts Council at 150 E. 8th St., Holland, Michigan. Six GVA members were fortunate enough to have their paintings juried into the show by Nancy Mertz King, nationally known artist from Chicago, Illinois. Those members are Larry Blovits, Dana Donnell, Marilyn Troutman, Nancy MacLachlan and Gene Sampson, each of whom had one piece selected, and Kathleen Kalinowski, who had two pieces chosen. The show will run from May 18th through July 7, 2018. The Awards Reception will be held on **Friday, May 25th from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.** Many nationally known artists will have works in the show. This is a show you will not want to miss!

Alexander Calder

Steve Scarborough

I've wondered who Alexander Calder was since I moved to Grand Rapids. I'd seen Calder's mobiles before, and was surprised to see this enormous bright red sculpture right in the center of town.

The sculpture is named 'La Grande Vitesse' and has become a symbol of Grand Rapids, much as the Eiffel Tower is of Paris. You'll find images of Calder's masterpiece on everything from ArtPrize posters to shopping bags. Our popular Festival of the Arts is held in the Calder Plaza and the stage for events and presentations is held right under its large shadow.

Here's something you might not know, unless you've been to one of the taller buildings downtown and looked down on Calder Plaza. The Kent County building has a replica of the sculpture painted on its roof!

"La Grande Vitesse" means "the great swiftness," a clever turn of the words "Grand Rapids." Although an American, Calder finished his schooling in Paris and had a studio there from 1926 to 1933. In fact, our sculpture was made in Tour, France, and shipped over here in 27 pieces! Nancy Tweddal, the project advocate, said it was like constructing a huge jigsaw puzzle.

It's a grand sculpture! You can walk around it for several minutes and at each turn see something new and inspiring. Other interesting facts about the sculpture are that at first it was met with opposition. There were even songs written about the unwise choice of this design. Many protests were held, but thankfully, the sculpture was built and delivered anyway and now has few detractors.

A small replica was donated to the City by Mike and Mary Ann Keeler and sits near the base of the larger one. It's meant to be touched by blind visitors so they can see the entire sculpture with just their hands. A very nice thing to do, I think.

Calder was born in 1898, and followed in the footsteps of his father and grandfather, both of whom were world famous sculptors.

In 1933, after meeting his future wife, Louisa, on a



boat traveling from France to New York, they moved back to the U.S. and bought a farm house in Connecticut and began to raise their family there. He worked in the U.S. for many years before traveling again and constructing his work in India and then back in France.

Calder died of a heart attack in 1976, shortly after a retrospective show at the Whitney Museum in New York opened. His fame continues however, and his many sculptures and mobiles around the world are admired by new generations. He called his large pieces "stabiles" in reference to his many "mobiles" that are



La Grande Vitesse, installed in 1969

on display in many museums around the world. His mobiles are fun to see because they are usually constructed so that the wind currents move them around, making them ever changing. I especially like the shadows they cast on the walls behind them.

Calder was supposed to receive the Presidential Medal of Freedom from Gerald Ford, but refused, protesting the Vietnam War. The next year, after Calder's passing, he was awarded the medal posthumously. He was also honored with his own set of postage stamps in 1998.

Photo Group

Submitted by
Randy Nyhof

The Photo Group met for their regular meeting on April 3 with their usual critique.

For our meeting on Tuesday April 17, I led a workshop on studio lighting for portraiture. It was great fun for everyone involved.

We meet again on May 1 at 7:30 p.m. for our regular critique. We would love to have you!



Program Night, May 10

Submitted by **Randy Nyhof**

I will be showing the film I had intended to show after the Pasta-Thon dinner but could not due to a computer audio malfunction. The film is a 60 minute segment from the BBC series “The Power of Art - Vincent Van Gogh.” Program begins at 7:30 p.m.

“Vincent’s passionate belief was that people wouldn’t just see his paintings, but would feel the rush of life in them...the color itself seems to tremble and pulse and sway.”-Simon Schama, Power of Art.

Meditation in Wood and Metal

Mary Helmic’s new piece, “Meditation in Wood and Metal,” will be part of the Legacy Trust Award Collection and shown at the GRAM on May 14–15. This show features Michigan artists with disabilities. The GRAM is open and free to the public on May 15th so people can view this exhibition and vote on their favorite pieces. LTAC will sponsor four art pieces from this show in ArtPrize 10.

A New Opportunity to Show Your Art!

We are excited to announce that Trinity United Methodist Church, located at 1000 Lake Drive SE, has invited GVA to provide art for their beautiful community room going forward. The room is used regularly by the congregation and by many other organizations who meet there, so our work will get a lot of attention.

Artists will set prices (or NFS) that will be included with artist name and title of each work, and you will receive 90% of the sale price of your work, with the remaining 10% going to the church as a donation from the purchaser.



We anticipate changing out the exhibit quarterly, although you will be permitted to remove your work/s earlier if you need them to take somewhere else, sell them, etc.

If you would like to show your work or have questions, please contact marymarin1285@gmail.com. The room is very large, so we can include several artists at a time.

Finally, if you would like to assist with the organization of this endeavor, please let Mary know! Thanks!





Pasta-Thon Welcomes New Members

What a great idea Joanne Swann had: a social evening now that winter is finally gone! And the Membership Committee came up with the idea of using the gathering as a way of getting to know our new members. What a fun time it was!



One thing we never skimp on: FOOD! So many pasta dishes. So many gorgeous salads. Lucious deserts! Wine!

Old and new members alike enjoyed the family-style long tables that stretched the full length of our studio, and overflow guests mingled in our Critique Room, chatting and enjoying the fellowship with other artists.





Our new space easily accommodated a great attendance.

Thanks

Thank you to Joanne Swann, Diann Bartnick and Carol Lurn for setting up the studio, to all who contributed food, and to those who helped clean up afterward. The combination of helpful hands made this event a special evening for us all.



Mary Myszka, Membership Chair, read the welcome letter from Larry Goff.



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Later, I believe at the next Critique, Jim Markle approached me asking me if I would be interested to take over the scheduling of models. I, being a bit daunted, jokingly turned to Larry with whom I had been talking and said, "Sure, if Larry agrees." We both accepted, and between both of us from then on till about 2 years ago, we scheduled the models for sketch. Larry was there.

GVA was at this time located in a small space on Jefferson. Critique often had standing room only. Sketch was held in the basement, which was only accessed via a set of steep wooden stairs. The membership was continually growing. Larry and I approached Jim Markle with the idea of looking for a location with more space. Larry was there. Ed DeVries, a local commercial building developer, had space available at 800 Monroe. Larry and Jim and I met with Ed and we came to terms. Larry was there.

As membership grew we moved to 1120 Monroe, and when DeVries sold that building, he made more space available to us at 1345 Monroe. Each time Larry was there running the numbers. Larry was one who could look at a balance sheet and within a minute see where potential problems were. Larry was there.

Larry knew and realized that the "Reeds Lake Art Festival" was imperative to keeping GVA viable. At board meetings, he was always working with the Reeds Lake chairperson. He knew many of the City people that we needed contact to pull off this festival. He volunteered many hours of his time year after year for this worthwhile money making event. Larry and I always volunteered for the early (4:30 a.m.) Saturday morning meet and greet to welcome the artists as they arrived to set up their booths. Try as I might, I could not beat him to the Wealthy/Lake Drive meeting spot. Larry was always there sitting on a lawn chair with his coffee or water bottle. Larry was there.

Larry and I talked together at least 2 times a week for the last 20 years.....this was partly due to model scheduling. Texting was unheard of, and Larry really didn't like or do emailing. Our conversations often turned to other topics. We talked family, business issues, and saw eye to eye on

many many other topics. Larry was there.

—Dave Bazen

Larry always looked out for the other person. He always brought out the best in people. GVA and I will miss Larry because..... Larry, a true friend, was always there. Larry was the first person I felt tried to get to know me when I started coming to GVA. He helped me feel like I belonged. He used to tease me about wanting me to will him my nasty old metal fishing tackle box full of charcoal and pencils...I'd had it since I was 17 and in art classes at Aquinas. Although Larry will no longer be sitting in his chair at GVA, legs crossed, sketch book in his lap, he lives on in my heart and my memory. Thank you for your friendship, Larry.

—Mary Marin



A Portrait of Larry. His wife Nancy would like to know who painted it? Did you?

When I attended my first portrait sketch session as a new member, Larry approached me with that infectious smile of his and welcomed me to GVA. It didn't take long for me to get comfortable enough to ask Larry to make suggestions on how I could improve my sketches. He was always kind and supportive with his help and I learned quite a lot from him. Larry quickly became a dear friend and I will miss his warm personality and his great sense of humor.

—Bob McDonald

Larry's dedication to drawing was inspiring. He had multiple little sketchbooks filled with beautiful little drawings of people. I enjoyed the times he shared with me new drawing techniques or concepts he was learning and was excited about. I will miss his caring, giving, sharing, encouragement and smile.

—Connie Kuhnle

The Chair

It was his chair. On occasion others sat in it, but it was known to be his chair. You didn't sit in it if he was in the studio. And if you were smart, you'd give it up if he came in late. He wouldn't ask you to move. One of the other artists might though. It was out of respect. Respect for his talent, his years of service to GVA, his willingness to guide, encourage and teach other artists, and yes, his love for this

chair. His chair. It's comfortable enough, but you wouldn't think it would suit his 6'4" frame. Yet, there he was week after week sitting crossed legged in a crossed legged directors chair. Sketch book on knee. Comfortable with his skill, as well as his life. Calm, cool and collected. Quick with a quip, and of course a compliment. He will be missed. The chair may be empty but Larry's legacy lives on.

—Marty Klar

I will miss my tall, funny, sarcastic friend. We have painted GVA walls and canvases together for many years. He has been a guardian of the bottom line ever since he joined, so GVA would stay financially strong. I'm so happy he found such joy in art and the members of GVA in retirement years. We enjoyed hearing about his grandchildren as they were born and about the outings and visits he shared with them. His retirement seemed very rich indeed. I am grateful for his friendship and for all of the contributions he made behind the scenes to insure GVA's important purposes would continue.

—Gail Madura

Larry was one of the nice guys at GVA. He was friendly and personable. When I rejoined GVA I could always count on Larry for a friendly welcome when I came in to sketch.

—Diann Bartnick

Larry Goff and I were co-presidents when GVA was at 800 Monroe. He and Dave Bazen successfully negotiated a contract for us to have a space in one of Ed DeVries' buildings. It was a good time of growth and friendship. Larry was unfailingly patient and steady in meetings. He lent a sense of solidity to the group. There are special people in this world and Larry was one of them. I knew that the time was coming that we would lose him, but yet when we did I felt the world shift a bit. I read the email and gasped. I will miss my friend, because he was truly a good man.

—Kathy Bechtel

When I joined GVA I was very intimidated by the talent I saw, I was shy, I didn't know anyone, and after a couple of visits, I quit coming. Many years later, I decided to give it another try.

I was so extremely lucky at this point to meet Larry Goff. Larry welcomed me, and when he looked at my work he gave me encouragement. We had a wonderful conversation that made me realize art was a learning journey, and it was

OK to have "bad" days of art! I've had many "bad" days of art at GVA, but thanks to Larry, I was encouraged to keep coming back. And thanks to Larry, I've had more good days of art. Larry loaned me books of different artists, he offered tips for drawing in small formats for when I was traveling, he showed me new drawing products he discovered, and freely gave critiques on my work. I know he did the same for everyone he met. I was not unique. Larry was. Three years ago, Marty and I moved into Larry's neighborhood and as neighbors we got to know Larry's wife Nancy. We've enjoyed some wonderful times together. I will miss Larry's quick wit, his sweet smile, his kindness, his generosity, that water bottle that hung from his belt loop, and just seeing him on a regular basis, doing what he did so well. Larry and Nancy

donated the beautiful new Grand Valley Artists sign that tops our studio. He gave so much to Grand Valley Artists. Because of those memories, and that beautiful sign, Larry will always continue to be a part of GVA.

—DeLaine Klar

Larry was so kind to ask me about my "hubby" every time he saw me. He really cared how Bill was recovering from treatments. He always mentioned that it takes time and not get impatient. Larry was so considerate we all will miss him. Our condolences to his family. It was wonderful knowing him for a time

—Kris Andrus



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Larry Goff, continued

Afternoon at Larry's.

John Diem and I have known Larry for many years. We knew that he was in hospice home care and we heard he was not doing well. So after lunch one Friday we decided to pay Larry a short visit. Later, on that sunny but very cold April afternoon, I rang his doorbell and was surprised to see Larry himself open the door with a big smile on his face, clearly glad to see both of us. He lead us into the living room where he had his comfortable chair set up looking out a large picture window at the birds that were feeding there. He identified three or four bird species and talked about their migratory patterns. He obviously knew birds pretty well and wasn't just staring out the window. We all talked about birds, and squirrels, and squirrel brushes and red sable brushes, and where to buy art supplies, and Larry's thirty year career in the automotive industry and his friendship with Peter Cook, his old boss and mentor. He talked about his long association with GVA and its impact on his life. Larry said he was surprised by how much pleasure he got from donating the new building signage to our new GVA studio. We talked all afternoon and the conversation never lagged. He seemed very content and as sharp as ever. As we were leaving, Larry mentioned that he was "hanging on" just to see the crocus blooming for one last time. As John and I walked down the path to our car, we noticed that a small crocus had poked through the soil and was just beginning to bloom. We were both grateful that Larry had held on so we could all enjoy that last April afternoon together. Goodbye old friend.

—Jim Johnson / April 2018



"If art in any format is your passion, you have come to the right place. If you are just curious about art, you have come to the right place. So welcome, come and join us and enjoy yourselves. You will never regret being here."

—Larry Goff

ArtPrize 2018

Submitted by Joanne Swann (joswann@sbcglobal.net)

Grand Valley Artists has once again been accepted as a venue for ArtPrize. Our location this year will be at the former Water Treatment Building, Street Level at 1101 N. Monroe Ave. NW. The square footage in this part of the building is between 4,000 and 5,000 SF, so we will be able to accommodate a larger number of entries than we did last year. While we'd love to have the venue exclusive to GVA members, the stipulation with the city, who owns the building, is that we be inclusive and diverse in our selections. That said, we will be jurying the venue.

Here are a few items regarding signing up on the ArtPrize site and some of the items we will have on our Artist and Venue Hosting Agreement. There's a lot of information on the ArtPrize site when you apply to sign up. Please read the information carefully.

1. If you're new to ArtPrize, understand that their website is a bit quirky. It helps to have a newer web browser, like Google Chrome. It doesn't have to be Google Chrome, but a current web browser makes it easier to navigate the ArtPrize site. Otherwise you can become frustrated with the process.
2. You can begin signing up and asking for connections on Monday, **April 16th** through Thursday, June 7th. All connections must be completed between venues and artists by **June 28th**. The Connections process can take a bit of time, so I recommend that you don't wait until the last week to sign up.
3. The entry fee is still \$50.00 for one artist, or \$100.00 for a team. Each artist may submit only ONE entry. An entry may include several pieces that make up a series or an installation with several elements. Each entry must have one title and will be voted on as a single unit. To submit a series or multi-part installation as your entry, you will need to indicate the entire space needed to exhibit the work in the Entry Details section of your Entry Profile, and a description of the series, individual piece sizes, etc. in the Description section.
4. Once you sign up you must download a photo of your entry, even if it's not complete or if you don't have all the pieces in a series finished. You can go in and update it when it is complete.

5. Next, you'll go through the venues list and ask to connect with those you'd like to be a part of. I recommend asking 3 to 5 venues, just in case you are not juried into ours.

6. We will be jurying the entries for our site. We must meet the city's diversity requirement, so we will not have exclusively GVA members' work.

7. You can enter more than one piece as a series, but if you want to enter a big series or a series of very large pieces that take up a lot of wall space, we may not be able to accommodate you. We would like to include as many artists as possible without overwhelming our venue.

8. Size and framing are not a restriction this year. As long as the art can fit in through the front doors we'll consider it. All work must be ready to hang. This means wire hangers, or otherwise ready to install. There isn't a hanging system in the space. It will be hangers in the walls, and we'll need to remove them when the art comes down. There is overhead fluorescent lighting, and large windows; if you require special lighting you will need to supply it. Please indicate this is what you will be doing when you sign up.

GVA has a hanging committee, but if your piece is complicated we will ask you to assist in the process. Drop-off and pick-up dates will be established. Again, this is city property and we will need to abide by their rules.

9. There isn't much exterior space, however there is a courtyard, but it would be difficult to man and protect. In addition, the use of that space would mean applying to the city for permission to use the space, which could take months. The courtyard is considered a public space and must first be reviewed and approved by the City of Grand Rapids' Arts Advisory Board. Once you've made a Connection with a Venue that's agreed to host your Artwork, your Venue will work with our Exhibitions Team to try to obtain the necessary approvals from the City.

10. If you are juried into our venue, you will be asked to volunteer to man the space throughout the 19 days of ArtPrize. We'll set up a daily schedule of three-hour shifts. Since this is a larger venue with three rooms and a back door, we will need at least four volunteers for each shift. It's only fair for our artists to take turns volunteer-

ing – we will try not to overwhelm any of you with these duties, but we also don't want anything to happen to the art.

Volunteering to man the space is a wonderful way to interact with the public, to talk up your piece, and to talk up GVA. People love to hear about your art and how you do it and why. A few of our artists sold work last year at ArtPrize, so being around to answer questions is important. One of our artists sat with her work and did very small drawings that she handed to the people coming through – this was a big hit and I'm certain this got her votes.

11. That said, we also ask you to have your piece insured – GVA does not supply insurance for individual art pieces, but the ArtPrize site offers artists the ability to purchase insurance through Fractured Atlas. "In an effort to provide access to affordable insurance options to artists, ArtPrize is extending free Associate Memberships to Fractured Atlas to all ArtPrize Artists. Fractured Atlas is a non-profit organization that serves a national community of artists and arts organizations. Fractured Atlas' programs and services facilitate the creation of art by offering vital support to the artists who produce it. These services include access to clear and simple insurance quotes on all types of artistic activity."

If you choose not to insure your piece, GVA will not be held responsible for it.

12. We will also need to go in to clean up the site and paint the walls before we begin to hang the show. The date for this will depend on the city. Again we'll need your assistance in doing this. Many hands make the amount of time we spend there shorter.

13. GVA is in the early stages of planning events for ArtPrize. We hope to include model and plein air sketch sessions again this year. If you have ideas for events, please let me know so I can bring them to our ArtPrize planning committee.

We want to make this a memorable ArtPrize for every one who is a part of and visiting our venue. GVA has many talented artists whose work we want to share with the community, so we encourage you to enter. We look forward to seeing your entries online!

Area Art News

Lowell Arts

April 21–May 26, LowellArts hosts two exhibitions simultaneously featuring two different art groups: the Mayfield Fiber Arts Group and the Mosaic Artists of Michigan. Both artist groups exist to draw attention to and educate people on their specific, time-honored art forms. Steeped in tradition, yet full of innovation, this exhibition highlights the work of contemporary mosaic artists and fiber/textile artists. Gallery Hours: Tues–Fri 10 a.m.–6 p.m. and Sat 10–5 p.m. www.lowellartsmi.org.

Forest Hills Fine Arts Center

April's exhibit is the Forest Hills Public Schools Student Art Exhibit. This exhibit features a wide range of mediums and is a large exhibit covering every hallway of the facility. The artists are students randomly chosen from the entire FHPS district kindergarten-high school. It's colorful and fun!! It runs from April 12–May 11, 2018.

Guardian Gallery Lowell

Kathleen Mooney's exhibit "Acrylics and Abstracts" at the Guardian Gallery at Franciscan Life Process Center in Lowell featuring her signature multi-layered acrylic paintings on canvas will be on display through June 30, 2018. See more information at www.KathleenMooney.com. The Guardian Gallery Lowell is open during regular business hours. Any questions please call (616) 897-7842. Franciscan Life Process Center, 11650 Downes St., Lowell, MI 49331.

Guardian Gallery Grand Rapids

March through June hosts the work of William Alexander. After fifteen years of print and multi-media design for both ad firms and in-house publishing, he decided it was time to set up his studio to create expressive, rather than graphic or commercial art. His art has evolved from realistic to expressionistic to abstract, or non-representational, which best describes his current genre. Throughout this evolution William's art has been featured in regional exhibitions at the Grand Rapids Art Museum, Kalamazoo Institute of Art and Muskegon Museum of Art along with various other galleries and collections. His art is represented by The Weingrad Group in NY and The Gallery in Saginaw, MI. Guardian Gallery is open regular business hours. It's located on the third floor at St. Adalberts: 654 Davis Avenue NW, Grand Rapids, 49504.

Franciscan Life Process Center Workshops

To see the workshops that will be taking place in 2018, go to https://lifeprocesscenter.org/calendar/cat_ids~3/.

Terryberry Gallery at St. Cecilia's

The Joy of Art: A Retrospective
Realism, Impressionism, Expressionism, Abstract Geometrics, lively colors and shapes, are all to be seen during the month of April at the Terryberry Gallery on Ransom St., downtown Grand Rapids. Two Grand Rapids artists take us through their journey of finding joy in art. Through the years, art has been a source of comfort and a "language" of expression to Barb Van Noord and Irene Wordhouse. Both are members of the art group that meets weekly at the Franciscan Life Process Center in Lowell, MI, and Irene belongs to Grand Valley Artists. The show runs the month of April.

Dominican Center at Marywood

A Group Show: Spirituality through the Camera Lens, will be exhibited during the months of May and June. Reception on June 10, 1 p.m.–4 p.m.

Frauenthal Gallery

The Center is located at 425 West Western Ave., Suite 200, Muskegon, MI 49440.

Bliss & Vinegar

Stop in to B&V to see the works of Jim Johnson currently on display. 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.



Jim Johnson with his work at Bliss & Vinegar.



GVA Welcomes

John Jakobson

Susan Ralph

Jackie Griffin

Vicki Fairman

Wenxi Haisma

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Board Meeting May 3 at 6:00 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
7:00 p.m. until 9:30 p.m. Model Sketch*

Wednesdays 2:00 until 5:00 p.m. Plein Air or Open Studio
(check website calendar for location)

Thursdays First Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m. Critique
Second Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m. Program
Every Thursday daytime Either long pose or gestures
(check calendar online)**

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

Saturdays 10:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. Figure Sketch*

* Model fee \$5

** Model fee varies, and is split between attendees. (Usually between \$5-\$10)

Grand Valley Artists

1695 Service Road NE, Suite 106

Grand Rapids, MI 49503