



Highlights

November 2018

Holiday Party Ahead!

A message from our GVA president, Carol Laurin

Hello Grand Valley Artist Members,

It is hard to believe we are close to the Holidays. This means we want to begin planning our GVA Holiday party.

I remember last year's event was so much fun. You are what makes our Holiday party a great social event. The opportunity to mix and mingle with our membership is always the highlight of the evening. We extend this invitation to all members and particularly to those who are new to GVA. Our holiday get-together is a chance to become acquainted with our new and seasoned members in a relaxed social setting.

Our party will be held in place of Program on December 13 at our studio on Service Road. Please bring an appetizer or dessert to share. The food is always tantalizing and tastes fabulous. The evening celebration will include a short program. Randy Nyhof will run a video throughout the evening that captures the many special GVA events throughout 2018. Randy's video always captures the spirit of our members who volunteer throughout the year to help make GVA a vibrant organization.

Under the direction of Jim Johnson, we will have our annual Juried Holiday Exhibit featuring our artists' work. You'll find more information in this newsletter.

Planning for the party takes some work. Peg McKeown, our hospitality chairperson, would appreciate help setting up the food and drink tables. Please contact Peg to offer your assistance. Her email is mcperfitt@me.com.

ArtPrize 10

By Joanne Swann

In spite of the dreary weather during the last week and a half of ArtPrize 10, it was a great success for Grand Valley Artists. We had just over 5,000 visitors to our venue. There are so many people who helped make this happen, but first I need to thank Fred Bivins for mentioning that the Water Treatment Building might be a good site for us. Networking works. I especially need to thank the City of Grand Rapids and Asante Cain for opening the building during all the times we needed to get in so we could lay out the space and clean it. And thanks to the Water Department for the use of the Water Treatment Building on North Monroe – they did not charge us for its use, which meant we could pass on the savings to our artists.

ArtPrize 10 actually began way before September 19th. A group of jurors met every Monday afternoon for two months—beginning in April and ending in June—that was called the “connection process.” Each time they would select at least 10 artists out of the 30 or more each week who wished to connect with us. The process of connecting could go on for 5 to 10 emails until the artist decided whether or not they would be willing to sign a hosting agreement with us. Even then artists would back out or wait for a more favorable location until the last day, which made it nerve-racking to try to lay out the space. Fortunately, Dave Bazen and Todd Darling laid out the space to include the maximum number of artworks by incorporating the wire screens we use at the Reeds Lake Festival. They were also instrumental in assisting Jim Johnson’s hanging committee by using cement drills to get fasteners into the walls. We could not have had the number of artists in our venue without them!

We had a group of volunteers (both non-members and GVA members) show up to clean the space – washing windows inside and out, removing nails, filling holes, painting walls, washing floors and cleaning toilets. No job was too menial for our cleaning volunteers. Bob Kraai brought his floor buffer which made the back room presentable. Their effort enabled us to look like a real gallery!

This year, the ease of signing up to volunteer to host was made a lot more convenient by Sarabeth Carr, who set up our online volunteer sign-up site, Sign-up Genius. When this stuff works it’s a time saver.

Steve Scarborough was instrumental in writing and contacting various media to promote our venue. He appeared on eightWest and got Jim Johnson, myself, and Steve invited to a podcast at Rosa Park Circle to talk about our venue and art.



Jim Johnson was our artist in residence, painting on site nearly every day during ArtPrize. Thanks, Jim!

The Opening Reception was the masterwork of Diane Haworth, who will tell you that setting up an off-site event like ours isn’t easy. And yet it was beautiful and allowed us to get together with our friends and family and non-members from around the state and the country. It was a wonderful time.

Evie Carrier, along with her daughter and Evie’s friend, put on one of the best Off-the-Wall Parties I’ve attended. I knew we had creative members, but their talents go way beyond painting and photography. And once again, Randy Nyhof’s video presentation of GVA members’ work was a hit.

Three of our artists sold work during ArtPrize – Larry Blovits, Jonathan Ralston, and Dani Ehlenfeldt. Dani also received commission work from a visitor.

Finally, I want to thank all the artists who agreed to show their work in our venue. We had a good variety of professional work. We had a number of visitors who came for more than one visit. And we had a lot of visitors say they thought our venue was one of the best in ArtPrize 10!

Each year that I manage the venue I learn something from the experience, and this year was no exception. But mostly, I’m grateful to be able to get to know and talk to some of our members who do not attend many of our meetings, which allows me to put faces to the nametags I print out. We have a diverse and talented group of artists in GVA whom we were able, once again, to introduce to the public.

The Perfect Present

for the artist who has (almost) everything!

Just in time for the holidays, for only \$40, you can prepay a year's GVA membership for a deserving artist and gift it—along with art supplies, if you're feeling really generous.

It's like ordering flowers, only better: A certificate including the sender's name will be customized with your personal message and mailed according to your instructions. The lucky recipient may use the certificate immediately and thereby be a member through August 31 or wait to activate the membership on September 1, 2019. Contact marymbaine@gmail.com for details.

Volunteer Needed: Collecting Monies from Sketch

Marty Klar has been the volunteer who has kept records of money collected during our sketch sessions. The system he has developed for reporting sketch funds is simple, efficient, and accurate.

Marty is ready to pass this volunteer opportunity along to another willing member. You do not need to attend every sketch session to do this task. Marty has graciously offered to show the new volunteer his method of record keeping. We are incredibly fortunate to have at least three opportunities a week to give our membership access to drawing a live model for the low cost of \$5. We need someone to help keep a record of monies collected. Please contact either Marty (Martyklar@comcast.net) or Carol Lurn (carollurn@yahoo.com) to volunteer.



Plein Air Group Winding Down....

Another season for the Plein Air group is winding down. Enjoying summer's last gasps found Mary Ann Perry and other members painting at her home in Holland. If you want to join the Plein Air group, you only need to check out the location chosen for the day and then show up. We often go out for a bite to eat after painting, too. You can find the details (where and what time) on the calendar on our website. We may squeeze out another paintout or two in 2018..who knows?

Otherwise.....

Until Next Spring, Friends!

November in the Gallery:

The John Singer Sargent Challenge!

Inspired by GVA's visit to the John Singer Sargent exhibit at the Chicago Art Institute, we are celebrating this great American artist (born of American parents in Italy and lived as a citizen of the world) by filling our gallery with facsimiles of his great works. There are three ways you can participate in The JSS Challenge.

- 1: Create a painting slavishly copied from a JSS work.
- 2: Using a JSS painting as reference, create your own version of his composition painted in your own style.
- 3: Create your own original composition painted in the style of JSS.

This exhibit is not juried and the works do not have to be framed, only hangable with a wire in back. If you don't have time to create your own JSS work, we will accept as a substitute, your own copy of one of the other great master painters that you admire.

Hang: Oct 29 / Monday

Strike: Nov 30 / Friday

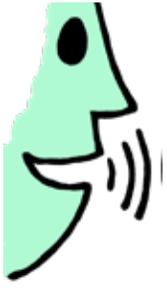


Sallie Zigterman will have a painting of a light house on display at Spring Lake District Library November 5 through the end of December.



The works of Sallie Zigterman, Cindy Wojciakowski, Devi Fongers and Dennis O'Mara can be seen in the community room of Trinity United Methodist Church during October and November. If you would like to show your work there, please contact Mary Marin at marymarin1285@gmail.com.





Come to the Next Art Chat

Come join us for fascinating topical discussions on and about our changing art scene locally, nationally, and beyond. Your ideas are important and welcome in this informal and comfortable setting. We plan to meet Friday, November 2, at 1 p.m. in the GVA library. We look forward to seeing and hearing you there!

Photo Group News

The Photo Group met for their regular meeting on October 2 with their usual critique. For a second meeting in October on the 16th we had a hands on table top photography workshop where Mike Mitchell brought 3 light table boxes for us to photograph different objects. Great turn out and lots of fun. Our first November meeting is scheduled for November 5.



John Knight Presented at Clark Home

If you missed it, here are a few photos of John at his reception at the Donna Chase Gallery at Clark Home. Thank you, John, for referencing Grand Valley Artists during your presentation.



Program Night

For the October 11th Program H.J. Slider, Art Educator, presented a program titled "New Ways of Looking: Sharpening The Artist's Eye." This program was interspersed with frequent and lively audience participation.



Our November

Program on November 8 will be "My Journey in Fine Art Photography from the 1970s to the Present" by Randy Nyhof. This program will cover topics and areas as the College Years, Influences in Photography, Equipment, Published Works, Photo Contests & Shows, Photo Compositing, Selling Online, and more.



De Schoolmeester Paper Mill...Established in 1692

By Kris Andrus

On our recent European tour, we visited the De Schoolmeester Paper Mill in the Zaan district of Holland. It is run and shown by people who love the original paper making process and want to show a quality product. The mill is associated with the Windmill Society of Holland and is a testament to ingenuity and expert craftsmanship. In its heyday, there were about 60 paper mills in the Zaan District; De Schoolmeester is the only working facility left.

We were given a tour illustrating the process of manufacturing 100% rag content paper making. In its heyday, it was staffed by 13 workers and 5 –



Photos courtesy of Sandra VandenHeuvel

10 rag-tearers. The full time staff included millers, paper-makers, sorters, paper-cleaners and other people. A majority of the machinery used is all wind-mill driven, all wood and for the most part original, as seen in these photos. The tour was a fascinating diversion in our bike tour of Holland and Belgium.

The paper is still made today in various sizes and is available for sale at deschoolmeester@hetnet.nl.



GVA Artists Help Battle Mental Illness in Grand Rapids

by Mary Helmic

Three GVA artists helped destigmatize mental illness by participating in the "Shining Through: Chase Your Light" auction on October 18th. Sponsored by the Mental Health Foundation of West Michigan, artists Debby Walker, Mary Helmic, and Wayne Pierce each donated and sold a framed piece of art, with 49% of the proceeds going to the foundation. This was the event's 25th year of raising money to support mental health education in the West Michigan area. To learn more about the organization, how you can help, or its annual auction, please visit benice.org

Wayne Pierce with his photograph "Loretto Chapel"



Wes DeVries at Meijer Gardens

by Steve Scarborough

Sunday, October 14th, GVA member Wes DeVries gave a special demonstration at Meijer Gardens as part of their ArtPrize exhibit "Contemporary Disability Sculpture." This exhibit brings awareness to disability and the human experience of change and embodiment.

Wes has a disability, but it doesn't stop him from painting. Though he's unable to grip a paintbrush, he can use a credit card to work the paint on his large canvases, creating memorable abstract work that is being sold to collectors all over the U.S.

Wes is inspirational to all artists who have to find other ways to keep working even though, for some, it can be quite difficult to create using 'normal' techniques. We have several members who have had to look for other methods to keep creating, and it can be a challenge. Keeping your mind open and getting professional help to find these new ways can make the difference between having a productive life and one of just dreams.



The exhibit at Meijer Gardens is open until January 6th and includes sculptures from artists brought here through the Shiga Prefecture in Japan.

Holiday Sale at Kalinowski Fine Art Studio

When: November 16-17. - 10am-6pm

Where: 9120 Nestor Ave NE, Comstock Park, MI

What: Special pricing on retired artworks, unframed plein air landscapes and still lifes, reproductions, note-cards, painted ornaments and frames!

“What is Art” and “What is it worth”

Banksy adds to the confusion

by Steve Scarborough

I was amused after reading an article about Banksy's stunt at Sotheby's. His piece “Girl With Balloon” had just sold for 1.3 million dollars and immediately after the gavel came down, an automatic shredder built into the frame, probably started by remote control, started destroying the work of art. The emotions in the room ranged from alarm to amusement. It seemed to be obvious that a joke that took 12 years to spring had just been tripped.

The talk went from who was in on it directly to what was the piece worth now, if a shredded piece was worth anything at all, or maybe, because of the stunt itself was such a huge and memorable event, maybe it's worth quite a bit more. The experts say that it is.



The art of Banksy often makes fun of art itself and so it's fitting that a short time later, many imitators hit the internet, their creators posting Van Gogh paintings self destructing, a McDonald's logo turning into french fries, political and popular cultural

figures being shredded, the Mona Lisa and even cute dogs added to the mix. You can't go wrong with little animals joining in. These pieces are sure to also command high prices, but maybe a bit shy of the almost two million dollars the "Girl With Balloon" is considered to be worth now.

You know what they say. "Imitation is the sincerest form of flattery." Each addition to the mix creates more fun and confusion (and conversation).

It also adds to the huge list of "what is art." Who would have thought that it now includes a shredder, an over-sized frame, a heart shaped balloon, and countless imitators who have joined in with their



memes. As if we need it to, art has once again changed in an unlikely direction. Buckle up, the future has many more surprises about the direction of art, and who and what makes it valuable.



Area Art News

Lowell Arts

November 6 to December 23: The annual LowellArts Holiday Artists Market features artwork by over 50 area artists. Artwork and other handmade items by Michigan artists are available for purchase during the gift-giving season. Gift items include: pottery, paintings, photography, jewelry, textiles, glasswork, handbags, woodwork, metalwork, wreaths, basketry, ornaments, soaps, and more.

Holiday Artists Market Regular Hours: Tues–Sat 10 a.m.–6 p.m. and Sunday 12–5 p.m.

Forest Hills Fine Arts Center

FHPS Staff & Community Exhibit

November 12, 2018–December 19, 2018

Exhibit Hours: 9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m. Mon.–Fri.

All exhibits are free to the public.

Guardian Gallery Lowell

“Communicating Through Art” features the work of Irene Bakhuyzen Wordhouse. The show will remain through December. The gallery is open during regular business hours. Franciscan Life Process Center, 11650 Downes St., Lowell, MI.

Guardian Gallery Grand Rapids

“Franciscan Artists Group Show” will feature the work that is as diverse as each person is, and utterly beautiful. Don’t miss this chance to see the beautiful work of these exciting artists. This show will hang from November until February. 654 Davis NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49504.

Terryberry Gallery at St. Cecilia’s

Different Perspectives. Barbara Schilling, Connie Kuhnle and Kathleen Bechtel have journeyed through life making art. Each has a slightly different style, working in oil and pastel. Barbara Schilling creates beautiful florals and landscapes, Connie Kuhnle creates beautiful rural scenes, and Kathleen Bechtel creates paintings featuring landscapes and people. Come and see their own unique interpretation on their favorite subject matter. The reception for this show is Friday, November 2 from 5:30–7:30. Parking is free next to St. Cecilia’s.

Dominican Center at Marywood

Shenke Monroe mixed medium works. Reception December 9 from 1 till 4. The gallery is located at 2025 E. Fulton Street, Grand Rapids, MI 49503, and is open Monday–Thursday: 8:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m., Friday: 8:00 a.m.–8:00 p.m., Saturday and Sunday: 8:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m.

Bliss & Vinegar

Stop in to B&V to see the works of Ruth VanderMuelen, currently on display. In mid-November, DeLaine Klar’s beautiful ArtPrize paintings will be 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.

Trinity United Methodist Church

October–November features Dennis O’Mara, Cindy Wojciakowski, Devi Fongers, and Sallie Zigterman. Trinity is located at 1100 Lake Drive SE, and the church is open during business hours on Monday through Thursday. If you would like to show your work at Trinity, please contact Mary Marin at marymarin1285@gmail.com.

Fruenthal Gallery, Muskegon

“Different Perspectives” features works by Barbara Schilling and Kathleen Bechtel. Each has a slightly different style, working in oil. This show runs from October 1 through November 30, Monday–Friday, 9:00 a.m.–5:30 p.m. Extended hours on show nights.



Ruth VanderMuelen at Bliss & Vinegar



CALENDAR

Board Meeting November 1 at 6:00 p.m.

EVERY WEEK

Sundays	Closed	
Mondays	10:00 a.m. until noon	Model Sketch*
Tuesdays	Every Tuesday 7:00 p.m. until 9:30 p.m. 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month 7:30 p.m.	Model Sketch* Photo Group
Wednesdays	10:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. (check website calendar for location)	Plein Air or Open Studio
Thursdays	First Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m. Second Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m. Every Thursday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.	Critique Program Long Pose**
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 for Saturday, Monday, and Tuesday night
 **\$10 for long pose on Thursday

Did You Know? Ancient Drawing Found

Archeologists have discovered an artifact that scientists think is about 73,000 years old, predating the oldest previously known modern human abstract drawings from Europe by about 30,000 years. Read about it here: <https://www.nytimes.com/2018/09/12/science/oldest-drawing-ever-found.html>



**GVA Welcomes
New Members**
Bill Voetberg
Dawnette Lester
Anh Duong Dinh
Anna Kooienga
Sherri Rowland

Classifieds

Canon Pixma Pro-10 photo printer. Brand new in box. Never opened. Comes with \$50 box of photo paper. \$350 or best offer. Call Amy at (616) 304-4157 or email at amybsnell@gmail.com.

Officers and Board of GVA

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Secretary

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Membership

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Position Open

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Want to Contact GVA?

Please visit the Contact Us page on the GVA website to send us a message. Use the dropdown box to direct your question or comment to the appropriate person: <http://grandvalleyartists.com/contact>

Non-Member Sketch Price Going Up! Time to Join!!!

The board has determined to raise the cost of sketch participation for non-members from \$7 to \$10 beginning in January. Member price will remain the remarkable low price of \$5 per session except for the Thursday long pose charge, which is \$10.

Grand Valley Artists

1695 Service Road NE, Suite 106

Grand Rapids, MI 49503

Those Dues Won't Pay Themselves!

As of October 1st, if you are not current with regard to your dues, you will not be considered a member in good standing.

Don't know if you owe?

Contact Mary "Membership" Baine (marymbaine@gmail.com)!