



www.grandvalleyartists.com

Highlights

November 2016

Don't Miss the Photography Group Artists' Reception

When: Saturday, Nov. 5th, 4:00 p.m.–8:00 p.m.

Where: Grand Valley Artists (GVA) Gallery

1345 Monroe Ave, Suite 140, Grand Rapids, MI



The GVA Photography Group will show an intriguing collection of fine art photography and imaging including photographic composites, hand colored/black and white silver gelatins, tin types, collodions and metallic prints. Refreshments will be served. Free parking. We look forward to seeing you.



GVA Holiday Competition and Party

Media Types: Oils, acrylics, watercolors, prints, drawings, sculpture, ceramics, fiber, textiles, collage, photography, multi-media, jewelry, etc.

Fee: \$15.00 for your entry. Make checks payable to Grand Valley Artists. This year just one entry per member will be accepted. This will result in far fewer unaccepted pieces.

Juror: Jon McDonald, Professor of Illustration at Kendall College of Art and Design.

Prizes: 1st–\$100, 2nd–\$75, 3rd–\$50.

Requirements: All work must be dry and ready to hang with proper wires and hangers. No prints accepted. Only original artwork.

Sale of Works: Works not for sale should be marked NFS. GVA does not take a commission.

Liability: GVA will handle works with all possible care, but is not responsible for any loss or damage whatsoever.

Dates: Pieces must be received at GVA 9:45 a.m.–1:00 p.m. on Saturday, December 3. You will receive notification on Monday, December 5, by email or by mail at a later date. Unselected works must be picked up the week of notification—no later than December 10 during regular GVA hours. See the calendar for hours. Selected works must be picked up by Saturday, January 7.

Reception for the Show and Holiday Party: This year the reception and holiday party will be held at GVA on Thursday, December 8, from 6:00 until 8:00 p.m.

Application is available at www.grandvalleyartists.com

Who Knew?

Contributed by Carol Lourn

Who knew there are over 50 different-shaped gourds! Who knew the southerners grow thicker gourds that we do in Michigan! Who knew primitive cultures used gourds as utensils and musical instruments!

Mary Myszka provided our GVA members with a great program on October 15. She started her program by providing us with a gourd identification sheet. Of course the gourd shape could be the impetus for the completed design.

Mary spent some time instructing us on preparation of the gourd. She emphasized the importance of caution when cleaning mold from the interior and exterior of the gourd using bleach and water. Mary learned from the “school of hard knocks” that gourd cleaning without a mask can cause breathing problems that linger for a long time. She showed us slides that demonstrated a variety

of techniques for decorating the gourd surface, including carving and wood burning, and finishes using shoe polish, furniture dye, inks, acrylics, oils, and even ashes. One of the decorative techniques I found intriguing was Mary’s use of clay to embellish the natural shape of the gourd. She uses a product called “stone clay,” which hardens in the air...no kiln needed...in only a day or two.

Who knew there were so many beautiful and sophisticated ways to convert dried gourds into functional vessels, helpful tools, and elaborate sculptures?



November’s Program

The Program for November will be presented by Charles LaRue with his newest Powerpoint Presentation on Art, Artists, and Visual Perception. Charles describes the presentation as “a highly visual presentation that moves along smoothly and quickly and is easily absorbed while a bit entertaining too, it seems.”



Bliss & Vinegar

Stop in to see the artwork of Kathleen Kalinowski, now on display at Bliss & Vinegar, 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, (616) 813-7921.



Kathleen at Bliss & Vinegar

GVA Gallery in November and December

By Jim Johnson, the Gallery Guy

NOVEMBER

Be sure to visit the gallery in the next few weeks to see the beautiful photographs currently on display from our Photo Group.

DECEMBER

Our Annual GVA **Member Exhibit and Holiday Party** will be held at our GVA Studio this year. If you wish to enter your artwork, it will be due at the studio on Saturday, December 3. This will be a juried show, and if your work is selected, it will be on display until Saturday, December 31. As usual, the party will be on the second Thursday of the month, which is December 8th. This year's entree form and other details are available on the website.

Photo Group Update

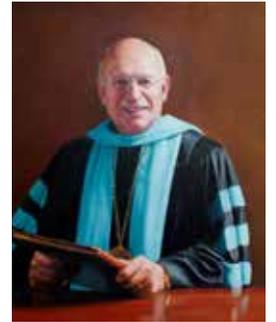


The Photo Group met for their regular meeting on October 4 and again on Tuesday October 18, where Randy showed how to check for the auto focus accuracy of camera and lens combinations. He also demonstrated how to make microcalibration adjustments in the camera's auto focusing if warranted and the camera was capable of such adjustments.

For the meeting on Tuesday, November 1, we will be hanging the GVA Photo Group Show. The reception for this show is Saturday, November 5, 4–8 p.m. The program for the second GVA Photo Group meeting in November has yet to be determined.

Portrait Workshop

Our own Larry Blovits will be having a 3-day portrait workshop November 11, 12 and 13. To learn more, visit the GVA website, www.grandvalleyartists.com.



Make and Take Christmas Workshops

Just in time for Christmas, check out these exciting workshops held at our Lowell Campus in November and December. Learn how to create a gift and go home with it that day—no experience required.

Workshops begin on November 3 and end on December 15, with a total of 15 different workshops! For a complete listing of workshop dates and times, workshop details, and ticket information, visit www.lifeprocesscenter.org, click on "Events," and then "Art Workshops."

Holland, Germany and the Czech Republic

Part 1 of a 2-part article by Kris Andrus

But, wait, let me add Canada! We left home, drove to Toronto (flights to Europe are considerably less expensive from Toronto) and visited the Ontario Arts Gallery to see an exhibit of Lawren Harris, a member of The Group of Seven.

His work evolved from an absolutely beautiful impressionistic style to large graphic images minimizing form to large color blocks.

As an added attraction, we saw a group of beautiful Henry Moore sculptures. I could have spent hours there, and I missed my



Henry Moore at the OAG - Toronto

sketch pad. The OAG is a beautifully designed space of wood and glass in a very lively area of Toronto.

Then off to the airport to fly to Amsterdam. We had visited some years ago, but this time it was going to be with Euros and a group of 15 friends. One year's worth of planning and many discussions later, we were finally on our way. Our stay in Amsterdam was at the Hostel Stayokay. It was just that. A bit of close community, but it was inexpensive, fresh breakfasts



Bikes are everywhere in Amsterdam

and dinners were included, and the location was great. We did all expected visits to the VanGogh Museum and the Rijtmuseum. At the VanGogh, the most interesting display other than his very last painting was the special exhibit trying to explain his illness with the fashionable medical reason of the time, varying from schizophrenia to Ménière's disease. The Rijksmuseum Museum is a wonderful open, airy space that fills your sense of old and new art.

The last day in Amsterdam we took a tram, a train and another tram to The Haag to visit the Gemeentemuseum. Built in the Bauhaus style, it houses a collection of art in all forms, from paintings to sculpture and visiting exhibitions from all over. One that stands out in our minds is a Venetian glass exhibit from Japan. Rooms lead to other rooms, and the total effect is spaces that are human sized and invite contemplation. The philosophy of the museum is that art is in every object—a painting, dishware, furniture, photography, and sculpture—every object on display.

After our time in Amsterdam, we made a short stop in Cologne to visit the Cathedral, an incredible monument that took hundreds of years to build. The outside surfaces are black with soot and dirt, yet the spires are shiny gold that doesn't tarnish. Back on the train to Frankfurt—German trains are fast, clean, efficient, and on time!

The Frankfurt rail station is ugly and full of homeless souls. We walked to the Merlijn, our home for the next 6 days, a very comfortable barge from which we would leave biking every morning. Barges are the "18-wheelers" of Germany. They move people and goods up and down the rivers with a very efficient system of locks. The Main is the largest tributary of the Rhine. We followed it to Bamberg, a UNESCO world heritage site. It is a city bursting with tourists, breweries and shops.



Cafes and cobblestones in Germany

Our daily bike trips were on paved trails along the Main River thru small towns in the Bavarian countryside. After breakfast, we would get on the bike for 20 to 40 miles, meet the barge downriver, relax (with a beer or wine, of course), have dinner, take a walk along the river, play games, and off to sleep.

Organized, clean, and compact are words that come to mind when describing the German countryside. People love to grow flowers and veggies on every bit of arable land.

(Next month, Part 2, the Czech Republic.)

Area Art News

ICCF

Evie Carrier and Randy Nyhof present “Our Michigan”—The Land of Lakes where the great waves break and the night runs into the day.

Randy and Evie will take you on a life adventure around Michigan and its freshwater moorings. As photographers we ask ourselves, “What is there not to shoot in Michigan?” From an abundance of waterfalls in the U.P. to the white sugar sand beaches of Sleeping Bear dunes, Michigan is truly a photographer’s dream.

We are always thrilled to click our cameras at Pictured Rocks and the Hiawatha forests. Downstate we enjoy the skylines of the cities and the barns in the country—the rocky shore of Superior to the squeaky sands of Holland; from a Native American Pow Wow to the Klompen Dancers of the Tulip Festival.

Our hope is that you will enjoy our tranquil pink sunsets and orange sunrises, often shot against the backdrop of storms with ship-crushing ferocity.

Michigan—there is no other place on earth like it. This show runs from November 1–February 27 during regular business hours.

920 Cherry Street SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49506

Lowell Arts

The annual LowellArts! Holiday Artists Market, featuring artwork by over 50 area artists, will be the first show to be held in the new LowellArts gallery at 223 West Main Street. Artwork and other handmade items by Michigan artists will be available for purchase during the gift-giving season. Gift items include pottery, paintings, photography, jewelry, textiles, glasswork, handbags, woodwork, metalwork, wreaths, basketry, ornaments, candles, soaps, and more.

www.lowellartsmi.org

Gallery Hours:

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

New address beginning November 18:

LowellArts

223 West Main Street

Lowell, MI 49331

Cascade Library

If you wish to show your work at the library, contact Larry at 616-949-1247.

Frauenthal Center

Please join us at the Frauenthal Center in Muskegon for a beautiful display of paintings by Sandi Lummen. This show will run November 1–December 3.
<http://www.sandilummen.com/about/>

St. Cecilia’s Terryberry Gallery

Historic Photo Retrospective

In celebration of the recent \$2.4 million renovation to the St. Cecilia Music Center building, the Terryberry Gallery will feature historic photos of the 122 year old building. Visitors will view photos of the building through the years, will see how this important cultural landmark has changed through the ages, as well as before and after photos of the recent renovation. This renovation included new seats in Royce Auditorium, new furniture and fixtures throughout the entire building, a re-design of the lobby and box office area, and completely renovated administrative offices, including many upgrades to lighting, heating and cooling, and other structural refurbishments.

Franciscan Life Process Center

Please check out the workshops at http://lifeprocess-center.org/calendar/cat_ids~3/.

Marywood Dominican Center

Reyna Garcia’s “Ayotzi, Inspiration and Revolution” will be shown from November 1 until December 31. Reception Sunday, December 11, from 1 until 4 p.m.



My Life As A Male Model by Steve Scarborough

I got to class a few minutes late, and the model still hadn't arrived. They didn't have to wait much longer though—Jim Johnson approached me and asked if I would step in. I knew my turn was coming (everyone takes a turn when the model doesn't show up), so I put my art supplies down and made my way to the platform at the front of the room and took a pose amid a few jokes.

Then the room became quiet. I had never noticed how quiet we all become when we begin drawing or painting. Everybody is concentrating, and making quick decisions: Do I do the whole body or just the face? How do I get the best design? What colors should I use?

When the timer sounded, I got up to stretch and see how everyone was doing. My first encounter went something like this; "Hey, I wish you would smile for a few minutes." Me. "I'm not smiling? I thought I was." But when I looked at all the faces staring back at me from a dozen pads and canvases, I could see she was correct—I wasn't smiling at all. Mmm... Maybe it was the pressure to perform in front of a group, but I was not looking happy. The truth was, I was more than happy to observe how everyone chose the path they did. Not drawing today was going to free me up to see the different approaches.

When the timer sounded again, I returned to my pose. The room's climate changed and felt more relaxed as the artists had the chance to settle in and make sense of what they were doing—no pressure, plenty of time left. While they worked, I listened to the music and kind of zoned out until my next break.

During my second break I could see that the works in progress were definitely looking like me. It was unsettling to see my face all over the place. I looked at the portrait closest to me, very colorful, and thought, wow, my hair really is thinning. Maybe I should do a comb over.

After a few more breaks, the tension seemed to rise again as everyone tried to finish while they still had time. It was too late to make large corrections, the design was finished, the outline done and major features committed—it was crunch time! Jim and Todd joked about this phenomenon as they raced to finish up.

People started leaving, so by the time noon rolled around, most of the artists had packed up, their work destined for the most part to be placed in a closet or painted over during the still life group, as I see Mary often do. I always think that's a shame, but it's one of the reasons I usually draw instead of paint – what does one do with so many paintings? My closet space is quite limited.

At one point, I took a picture of Jim Markle's pastel of me and told him how much my wife Linda would enjoy seeing it when I got home, but at the end of the class, he signed his piece and gave it to me. Linda was very excited to receive it, and she kept saying how eerie it was to see me standing next to Jim's portrait of me.

All in all, I enjoyed my turn as a model. Life in the studio is always full of surprises!



GVA welcomes new members
Sandi Brogger and Carol Cline

Contact Listings for Grand Valley Artists

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

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

Vice President
Emily Green
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ww.emilyg@gmail.com

Photography
Lora Cecola
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Secretary
Dana Donnell
danaBdonnell@gmail.com

Program
Randy Nyhof
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Treasurer
Evie Carrier
616-648-6858
evie.carrier@gmail.com

Reeds Lake Art Festival
Bob Kraai
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Newsletter and Website
Mary Marin
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Publicity
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GVA Gallery Shows
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johntheartist@hotmail.com

Sketch Coordinators
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kathleen.bechtels@yahoo.com
Dave Bazen
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Larry Goff
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Jim Johnson
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johnsontheartist@hotmail.com

Hospitality
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mcperfitt@me.com

Library
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johntheartist@hotmail.com

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



Board Meeting November 6 at 6:15 p.m.

Photography Group Reception Saturday, November 5, 4:00 p.m.–8:00 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

Wednesdays 2:00 until 5:00 p.m. (check website for location)

Plein Air or
Still Life

Thursdays First Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m.
Second Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m.
Remaining Thursdays at 7:30 p.m.

Critique
Program
Model Sketch

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

Still Life

Saturdays 10:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.

Model Sketch

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 130

Grand Rapids, MI 49505

2017 Reeds Lake Poster Contest

Your submission for the 2017 Poster Contest! Entries can be either original art or digital file. If you choose to submit a digital file, please provide an image measuring 8"x12" at 300 ppi (2400x3600 pixels) to rkraai@ameritech.net no later than **November 10th**. If you will be submitting an original piece of art, it should measure 12"x18". You will need to bring your poster to the GVA board room on Program Night, November 10th. Images do not need to include wording, as that can be added electronically to the image you provide. However, if you wish to include the information yourself, the poster should include the following:

**Grand Valley Artists presents
The 52nd Reeds Lake Art Festival
In Gaslight Village, East Grand Rapids
Saturday, June 17, 2017, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.**

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