



Laurel Art Guild Highlights

www.laurelartguild.org

May 2007

Message From Mary Ellen

As I complete my term as President, I want to thank the Executive Board - your officers and committee chairpersons - for their help and support. Whenever I needed to know what to do, or how something should be done, you were there to tell me. You knew who to ask to do certain jobs, and who would be a good speaker or workshop presenter. You made the past two years easy and fun. Thank you.

I also want to thank all of the members for your support and participation in Guild activities. Your presence made the Board's hard work worthwhile. Please join me at the May meeting to welcome and install your new officers.

See you in May, *Mary Ellen*

Program Notes

On **May 14** Nanette Clapman Blinchikoff, sculptor and author, will speak on Promoting Your Art with Integrity. **PLEASE NOTE that the usual order of the meeting will be reversed: the lecture will begin promptly at 7:30 pm.** A very brief business meeting will follow.

Ms. Blinchikoff is a sculptor, author, lecturer, and art instructor. She holds a Master of Education in Art Education, Sculpture from Towson University, Towson, Md. She is the author of three books on promoting fine art, is President Emeritus of the Maryland Artists Equity Foundation and is active in Maryland's visual arts community.

Ms. Blinchikoff has been making sculpture since 1961, working in cast bronze, welded brass and steel until she changed to lighter, more fragile materials. Nanette's recurring sculptural themes have always been the family; the human figure and face in realistic, abstract, mythical, or representational forms; nature; and the conflict between one's internal and external personalities. Her sculpture can be found in public and private art collections and has been seen in numerous local, national and international exhibitions since 1972.

Help Wanted

Laurel Art Guild is seeking a good man or woman to serve as **Exhibits Chair**. Mary Flanigen is stepping down in order to serve as your next President. The Exhibits Chairperson maintains LAG's slide library, contacts potential exhibit spaces/galleries and works out exhibit arrangements with their management. This is a wonderful opportunity to grow your understanding of the exhibit side of the art business, learn all about what gallery managers are looking for and make some great contacts.

We are also in need of a new **Newsletter Editor**. Carol Leo, who has done a terrific job for the past two years, has expressed her desire to move on to other areas of LAG operations. The Newsletter Editor is responsible for collecting, editing and layout of articles and information submitted by the membership. The editor's final design is then sent to the Membership Chairperson for printing and distribution.

Workshop Sign-up Policy

Every so often, it is helpful to remind ourselves of Guild policies and the reasons behind them. It has long been the Guild's policy that payment is required to reserve a place in our workshops. Seats in the workshops are filled in the order in which payment is received. In other words, until we have your check, your seat in the workshop cannot be guaranteed.

The reason for this policy is to make sure that we have enough attendees to cover the cost of the presenter's fee. LAG's standard contract with workshop providers allows us to cancel a workshop up to a specific date in advance of the workshop if we don't have enough people signed up. Once the cancellation date passes, LAG is obligated to hold the workshop. So you see, we really do need to have your checks in hand by the due date given in the workshop announcement.

Potluck Dinner Honoring New Members

June 11, 2007, 6:30 pm at the Carriage House

LAG will honor all new members at the annual June potluck dinner and membership meeting. New members (anyone who joined LAG after the June 2006 potluck dinner) are not expected to bring food; instead, they should each bring up to three examples of their own artwork to show to the group. All other members are asked to bring an hors d'oeuvre, salad/vegetable, main dish, or dessert. ***Please bring enough to feed you, your guest/s, and five other people.*** Also, we need one person to provide bread (rolls or French bread etc.) and another to bring soft drinks.

Feel free to bring guests to share food, fun, and great conversation. As you are probably aware, LAG members are either good cooks or patronize the best delis! There will be no business meeting. Our new members will provide the evening's program. They will show us some of their art and chat a little about their work, what led them to become artists, and anything else they want to share. Our new members are: Cameron Boyd, Cathy Harville, Bonnie Zuckerman and Katherine Holzer.

You can register to attend the potluck by calling Mary Flanigen on **301-345-7737** or sending her an email at **mkinf@earthlink.net**. She will keep you informed about the dishes members promise to bring. So far one member is bringing a main dish and two members are bringing salads.

ATTENTION LAG OPEN JURIED SHOW EXHIBITORS

If you have not picked up your slides from this show, Stuart Randlett will have them for you at our next general meeting on Monday, May 7.

Member News

- LAG is pleased to welcome **Mark Cameron Boyd** as a new member. He works in Mixed media. We also welcome new pastel artist **Katherine Holzer**.
- **Barbara Brisso** has 11 pieces of work currently hanging at the Bowie Library .
- **Debra Halprin** has an exhibit entitled "Watercolor Journeys An Exhibition of Watercolors" in the Art-Barn, 320 Kent Square Road, Gaithersburg, MD 20878 from April 15-May 20, 2007. For Information Call: 301-258-6394. The reception is on Wed., April 25 from 7-8:30 p.m.
- **Joe Criscuoli** has his first solo exhibit, "Through the Years" at the Publick Playhouse, 5445 Landover Rd. in Cheverly, MD (Rt. 202 1/2 mi. West of the Baltimore Washington Pkwy., 301-277-1710 from April 6-June 27, 2007. The reception was held on April 15.
- **Cher Compton** and her students of Moonstruck Studios are having an exhibit entitled "Personal Mythologies: An Exhibition of Works by Cher Compton" at the Bohrer Activity Center, Gaithersburg, MD, May 11 - July 8, 2007.
- New LAG member **Mark Cameron Boyd** (see above) will be teaching his "Abstract Painting" class at The Art League in Alexandria, VA. Mark recently won a Merit Award for his painting in the 38th LAG Annual Open Juried Exhibition. He welcomes painters of all levels who wish to explore abstraction as a medium of expression. His class begins this Saturday, April 14th from 1-4 pm and runs for 9 weeks. There is more info and a link to register here: http://www.theartleague.org/school/course_desc.php?class_id=1197
- Congratulations to **Jennifer Haack**. Her painting, "Pregnant Praying Mantis" sold at the LAG 38th Open.
- Congratulations to **Robyn Hatton**. Her painting " King Pomegranate" sold at the LAG 38th Open.

April Paintout Report: We had a "cool" outdoor painting/musing opportunity last weekend (April 14). Writers and artists participated. Some came early, some came late, some came in-between. Every one seemed to be invigorated (and chilled) by being outdoors. — Robyn Hatton

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Montpelier Festival of Herbs, Tea and the ARTS Plus “Small Works” Show

Dear Fellow Artists,

All members in good standing may enter one piece of framed art no wider than 18 inches in the annual MAC Small Works Show. Paintings are hung in the lobby and in the downstairs hallway of MAC. Drop off is on May 1st from 10 am to 8 pm and the pick up is on May 29th from 10 am to 8 pm. There will be a reception on the day of the Festival, May 5, for all new exhibits between 3 and 5 pm in the main gallery. The Buck Hill Jazz Quartet will be performing.

During the festival on May 5, the artists of the LAG will be painting *En Plein Air in the Montpelier Mansion grounds at the Carriage House. (*This will be our May Plein Air event.) We will have a model sit for us between 11 am and 2 pm and have invited the public, all ages, to participate. This will be our community contribution, to encourage and chat about painting as they join us. Easels and materials will be provided. The rest of the day we can paint still life set ups or the beautiful trees and flowers in full bloom. There will be great food, afternoon tea in the mansion and tours of all facilities.

Artists are also encouraged to bring their portfolios. No commissions and no fees. It is wonderful so many have already signed to participate. Help will be needed at 9.30 am to set up, tent, tables, chairs, easels etc. and at 5 pm for take down. The following LAG members have signed up:

Small works: Jane Trout, April Rimpo, Mary Ellen Simon, Tom Kirby, Carol Leo, Cathy Harville, Catherine Nickle, Marleen Cunningham.

Plein Air Paint Out: April Rimpo, Mary Ellen Simon, Bonnie Parry, Carol Leo, Bonnie Zuckerman, Michele Morgan, Marleen Cunningham.

Set up Tent: Marleen Cunningham, April Rimpo & Son, Jane and David Trout. All hands are welcome at 9.30 am to bring easels, tables and chairs to our site outside the carriage house.

Take down: 5 pm. Marleen Cunningham, Michele Morgan, Carol Leo. Again all hands welcome. Please call or email me with any questions. I will contact those signed up a little later.

Marleen Cunningham, 301-776-7084, tedmar1@msn.com

Note that Richard Zandler, director of MAC has suggested that artists who complete a plein air piece at the May 5 festival and wish to hang it, may remove their small works entry and hang the plein air piece in its place.

A Call for more slides: Highly visible exhibits throughout the year are one of the most important benefits provided to our membership. LAG maintains a slide file of representative artwork by our members for submission to galleries and other institutions that must review samples of our work before allowing us to exhibit. Currently, the following members have slides in our collection: Joseph Criscuoli, Marleen Cunningham, Peggy Duke, Mary Flanigen, Doris Kessler, Carol Leo, Judy McLean, Stephanie Lyon, Charles Reiher, April Rimpo, Kay Sandler, Mary Ellen Simon, Nar Steel, Jane Trout, Mavreen Veihmeyer, Jerry Weinstein, and Gail Zinar. Many, but by no means all, of the slides date back to the 20th Century and others are not dated at all. Jurors place currency right up there with quality and originality; therefore, we are asking that those of you who have not sent in slides recently please consider doing so soon.

Photographic shops often give a substantial discount on extra slides that you purchase. Please send your slides to Mary Flanigen (4914 Erie Street, College Park, MD 20740). Each slide should contain the following information: (1) your name, (2) title of artwork, (3) size of unframed artwork, (4) medium, and (5) date completed.

Practical Art Display Tips

Submitted by Tom Kirby

1. Inspect each item to be exhibited early enough so you have time to fix. Time itself is sufficient to cause glues to dry out, wires to corrode, frames to separate.
2. Attach your hanging wire 1/3 of the height of the picture frame down from the top.
3. Generally speaking, you should use enough wire to stretch to a point 2 to 3 inches below the top of the frame. You don't want to see the hanging hook. This becomes more difficult when the frame becomes small and then the wire must be stretched pretty much straight between the hooks. The locking mechanism at the hospital effectively makes the hanging hook taller than normal, about twice as tall.
4. Only hang with wire & eyehooks or ring hooks, absolutely no saw tooth or other hangers. In some venues, they will only permit ring hooks or eyehooks that do not extend above the frame on the back.
5. Use clean, unsoiled mats & frames and frames that are well and sturdily constructed. Frames that are used over and over in many exhibits tend to get dinged up and need to be repaired if possible or replaced.
6. Use reasonably new wire that has not become brittle or overly worn.
7. Canvases need to be firmly attached via screws, nails or frame clips. Pressure alone against the frame does not work, changing humidity and temperature will invariably cause them to loosen, usually at the most inopportune time.
8. Each artwork to be exhibited should have the following on the back – Title, Artist, Medium, Phone and Price. If not for sale, put NFS.

Failure to observe these guidelines may result in your piece not being hung. Poorly framed and/or dirty works not only reflect on you as the artist but also on the other artists exhibiting with you as well as on the Guild as a whole. If you are unable to clean/fix your work, have it done in a frame shop or have someone in the Guild assist you. We do want everyone to be able to hang, we absolutely don't want to reject wonderful artworks that are poorly supported.

Also, put your name and the title of the artwork on the wrapper protecting and/or the carrier, it greatly assists the take down process and assures you get your materials returned.

I hope this helps if you haven't thought about it in awhile.

FYI. . .

Plein Air Competition: Gunpowder Falls (northern Baltimore County), Fri., June 15-Sat. June 16, 2007. Applications are due by May 31st with an entrance fee of \$35 If you have any questions call the chairperson of this event, Laura Wilke at 410-472-2415 or email at monktonmom@aol.com.

Sponsors Needed for Maryland Art Exhibit

The Maryland Artists Equity Foundation (MAEF) and the Baltimore Museum of Art (BMA) are combining their efforts to spotlight 24 Maryland artists with a *Winners' Circle* art exhibition. The opening reception and awards presentation will be held at the BMA on June 1, 2007, and is open to the public. MAEF, a nonprofit foundation incorporated in 1984, sponsors a statewide annual scholarship competition for gifted high school senior art students to assist with their college education. In an effort to follow their careers, MAEF offers its finalists a juried exhibition every three years in a prestigious setting. Since 2006-2007 has been a particularly difficult time to raise funds, we are inviting Maryland's general and artistic communities to help in sponsoring this event. Please call MAEF at 410-484-6434 if you would like to contribute. We thank you in advance and hope to see you on June 1 at the BMA.

All Aboard the Art Train

The City of Gaithersburg is sponsoring a Call to artists. Fiberglass locomotives (9' long, 6' tall) and Caboozes (6' long, 4' tall) are awaiting your artistic design. Find the details and opportunities of this exciting contest at gaithersburgmd.gov/arttrain .

The annual MCAA Kensington Labor Day Weekend Art Exhibit is a wonderful opportunity for artists to show their works and win awards. It's very well attended and many paintings sell over the Labor Day weekend. One painting of Kensington, Maryland in the 20895 zip code (Old Town) is required in order to enter the show. For more information contact **Debra Halprin (301) 260-9701** or www.halprinart@aol.com.

Congratulations to our New Officers!

2007/2008 Executive Board					
President	Mary Flanigen	301-345-7737 president@laurelartguild.org	Laurel Regional Hospital Coordinator	Tom Kirby	301-262-6641 tbkirby@comcast.net
Vice President	Robyn Hatton	301-421-0949 lagopen@laurelartguild.org	MAC Liaison	Marleen Cunningham	301 776-7084 tedmar1@msn.com
Secretary	Jane Trout	301-776-8963 Jd_trout@msn.com	Newsletter	Carol Leo	301-423-6466 newsletters@laurelartguild.org
Treasurer/ Membership	April Rimpo	410 531-7602 treasurer@laurelartguild.org or membership@laurelartguild.org	Plein Air	?	
Programs	Mary Ellen Simon	301-776-6721 St8900@verizon.net	Publicity	Cher Compton	301 854-3478 cher@chercompton.com
Exhibits	Carol Clatterbuck	exhibits@laurelartguild.org	Scholarship Coordinator	Joe Criscuoli	301-206-5482 JCriscuoli@comcast.net
Festival Activities	Marleen Cunningham	tedmar1@msn.com	Telephone Tree	?	
Historian	?		Workshops	Yolanda Koh Cathy Nickle	410-799-5663 301-937-7917 workshops@laurelartguild.org

CANCELLATION: ACRYLIC WORKSHOP WITH ANN WALLACE

We regret that due to scheduling conflicts, this workshop will have to be postponed. We hope to have Ann Wallace as a workshop leader in 2008.

Watercolor Workshop with Nicholas Simmons, Nov. 3&4, 2007

Mr. Simmons has enjoyed a successful career in the arts, and is now painting again full-time. His large, non-traditional watercolor and acrylic paintings instantly earn the admiration and respect of artists in all mediums. They are sought by collectors, and sell at nearly the rate he can produce them. Avoiding the cliched practice of composing a long-winded and profound Artist Statement, Mr. Simmons simply says, "I'm doing what most everybody else is doing: trying to make beautiful pictures as best I can." LAG will have a 2-day workshop with Nicholas Simmons on Sat. & Sun., Nov. 3 & 4, 2007 from 9:30-4:30 at MAC.



Nicholas Simmons Workshop

November 3&4, 2007 2-day workshop, 9:30- 4:30

Call Yolanda Koh @ 443-956-1656 with questions

Name _____

Phone _____

E-mail address _____

\$110.00 for members \$120.00 for non-members



Return to: Yolanda Koh 8166 Tamar Drive, Columbia MD 21045

Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church

- Coordinator:** Jane Trout, 301-776-8963
Exhibit Location: 3215 Powder Mill Road in Adelphi, 301-937-3666
Dates: **March 31—May 8, 2007**
Pick-up: Church—**May 8**, 10-11 a.m.
Specifications: Paintings must be securely wired for hanging. Include your name, address, telephone number, title of work, and the price on the back. If you do not wish to sell your piece, add "NFS."
Commissions: The church gets a 20% commission for each sale.

Group Critique

The Critique Group is scheduled to meet on Sunday, May 20th at 2:30 p.m. in the Carriage House. If you intend to come please let Jane Trout know either by phone 301 776-8963 or by email jd_trout@msn.com.

Next General LAG Meeting:

Mon., May 7, 2007

7:30 p.m. at MAC

Next Board Meeting:

May 1, 2007 7:30 p.m.

May

- 1 **Executive Board** meets
- 1 **Small Works Show** Dropoff
- 5 **Herb, Tea and Arts Festival**
- 14 **Program** - Nannette Blinckhoff, Sculptor and author, on The Business of Art
- 20 **Peer Critique**

June

- 5 **Executive Board** meets
- 10 **Peer Critique**
- 11 **Program** - New Member Celebration and Pot Luck
- ?? **Paint out** - to be announced
- Workshop** - to be announced

Send information for the newsletter to

Carol Leo at:

newsletter@laurelartguild.org or mail to

Carol Leo

4114 27th Avenue

Temple Hills, MD 20748

We'd love to hear about shows you have been accepted into, tidbits from workshops you have attended, new member bios, etc.

DEADLINE FOR EACH NEWSLETTER IS THE 17th OF THE MONTH.

Laurel Art Guild Highlights

Montpelier Arts Center

9652 Muirkirk Rd.

Laurel, MD 20708