

MONTGOMERY COUNTY ART ASSOCIATION

# MCAA News

## Michael Sastre Returns for Our February Meeting

**M**ontgomery College instructor and national award winning artist Michael Sastre returned to our meeting on February 13th to critique the abstract paintings from the January workshop and additional paintings from MCAA members. Mr. Sastre began with a summary of his background as a member of a first generation American-Cuban family. His family's arrival in this country, across 90 miles of water, had a major influence on his artwork. The majority of his work uses water, particularly the ocean or rivers, as a theme. Mr. Sastre's paintings are usually large, often as much as 5' by 6', conveying the feeling of vastness of ocean his parents experienced in their journey to this county.

During the question and answer session, Sastre taught the group about the process of finding a home for such large pieces at public buildings and institutions. Most municipalities have a budget which has been designated for "art", much of which is used to fill the large walls and halls of public build-

ings. Some of these buildings may be as much as 500,000 square feet. An advertisement, often referred to as a "cattle call", is posted by the administrator. Artists submit copies of



their work. After assembling the collection, the final selection is made, the art is purchased. If the building or site where the work is going to be displayed is unfinished the artworks are warehoused until it can be displayed..

### PROGRAMS

**A**ll are encouraged to attend monthly meetings for the most up to date and detailed information concerning MCAA and our activities. Meetings are held at PLAZA-ART Materials, 1594B Rockville Pike and begin at 7:00 PM (In the Pier One plaza, behind Duron Paints and

During the second part of the session, participants' paintings were displayed to allow for Mr. Sastre's critiques. His complements and comments were closely followed by all the attendees. Design, color, texture, and composition were the primary emphasis. A few members and this reviewer spent some time discussing the benefits of a 2-dimensional art class or reading books on the topic of composition. Everyone agreed that by employing the design basics, the bones of all artwork, every artist can develop his or her work to its highest potential, whether abstract or representational. Mr. Sastre provided MCAA members with the wonderful experience of seeing their paintings through highly experienced and educated eyes. While he is preparing for a show in 2008, you can see Michael Sastre's artwork at [www.sastreart.com](http://www.sastreart.com).

Twinbrook Metro access road. Opposite Congressional Plaza, east side of Rockville Pike). As a courtesy to our guest presenters, be sure to come early to shop! Our meeting begins promptly at 7:00 pm and concludes at 8:00 pm sharp, so your punctuality also allows us to maximize the time allotted.

## MARCH MEETING

**Wednesday  
March 12, 2008**

### Preparing Your Own Portfolio

....a fifteen minute talk by Alejandra Anastassiou-Hucek followed by a question and answer period.

In addition, our Treasurer, Jacques, has reported on MCAA financial results which will be covered in more detail.

Also, 2008-2009 board and committee nominations will be accepted at this time.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The time has come to begin the nomination process to the 2008-2009 board for the officers and heads of standing committees. Nominations are to be made at the March meeting and voted on at the April meeting to take effect June 1st. The period between election in April and installation in June will allow the incoming officers to become familiar with their duties.

I am happy to report that the following officers/chairpersons have volunteered to continue in their present positions:

- Sandy Cepaitis: Membership
- Jacques Bodelle: Treasurer
- Natalie Falk, Marlene Sapperstein & Judith Levine: Newsletter
- Alejandra Hucek: 1st VP Programs, and Hospitality Chair
- Edelweiss Calcagno: 2nd VP Show Chair.

I have enjoyed my position as President this past year and am happy to continue. I would be even happier to work with someone over the next year through the President Elect position! We are accepting nominations for the following positions opening for the ensuing year:

- Secretary
- Publicity
- Hanging Shows
- Show Registration
- Activities/Special Events
- Telephone Coordinator
- President Elect

For nominations all we really need to do is to talk amongst ourselves, within the membership ranks, and ask people if they will consider certain positions. Of course, self-nominations for any board position are more than welcome! Newcomers are eagerly encouraged to get involved on a significant level. It is a great way to get to know everyone, participate in decision making and become familiar with the activities of this local community organization. It's a great resume enhancer too! If you are a long term member and have been away from the higher involvement level for a while, I hope you will consider once again being a contributing member of this group. There are so many great ideas and activities to pursue as a group but we need member support in order to organize, get things done and create the opportunities to apply our artistic talents. Your participation in the nomination process is most appreciated so please carefully consider making one or several nominations.

I would like to thank all of the current board members for their participation on the Montgomery Art Association Board. For more detailed information about serving, chairperson job descriptions, etc. please feel free to grab me at the meeting or contact me at thebeckers6400@verizon.net

—Sara Becker



"Trees give peace to the souls of men."

— Nora Waln

## "Memorable Trees"

Rock Creek Park invites you to partake in the quest of celebrating the beauty of the park's natural elements specifically, trees through the expression of art. So grab your camera, pencils, or paint brushes, and canvas and head out into the park! Use your artistic talent to capture the beauty and essence of Rock Creek Park trees that are meaningful to you. We're not just looking for the largest tree(s), but also those trees that are

noteworthy for their beauty, age, history, community significance or for any other reason that is relevant to the artist.'

Send us your framed photographs, paintings, or drawings of the tree(s) along with an essay of 300 words or less telling why the selected tree(s) have significant meaning to you. Your framed submission should be no larger than 18" by 24".

Your choice of trees can  
*See page 4 ...*

## MCAA SPOTLIGHT

### Dewey Heising

An oil painter and a past president of MCAA, Dewey Heising keeps busy not only painting but, also working with computerized classical music. Dewey has been a moderator for the "portrait open studio" at Montgomery College for several years. He wanted all MCAA members to be aware of this wonderful opportunity to work with a live model with a group of talented artists. (See "news you can use" below for more information about the open studios at Montgomery College.)

While Dewey had focused on portrait painting in the past, he has now begun doing landscapes. While portrait painting remains satisfying and chal-

lenging for Dewey, he felt that landscapes had a broader audience with more general success for himself. On weekends with decent weather, you will find Dewey, with his plein air group painting along the C&O canal, beside the Potomac River, in Brookside Gardens, or at the Arboretum in Washington D.C. His latest project, a slight departure, is a beach scene.

In addition, Dewey provided information about the upcoming Chevy Chase Women's Club Show. The registration deadline is March 1, 2008. If you are interested, more information about this open show is included in the newsletter under "Shows & Exhibits". We are honored to have Dewey as part of MCAA.

## news you can use ...

**M**ontgomery College has started the spring season of open drawing/painting sessions and will run through May 4th. The sessions, open to the community, provide a great opportunity to practice skills and build a portfolio. No instruction is provided. Artists bring their own materials. A \$6-\$9 contribution is collected to cover the model fee.

- **Friday Night Portrait Group-** 6:30 to 9:30PM, Room 405 Art Building\
- **Saturday Sketch Group- Figure Study, Short Poses-** 9:30AM-12:30PM, Room 301 Art Building

- **Sunday Life Study Group- Figure Study, Long Poses-** 10:00AM to 1:00PM, Room 301 Art Building
- **Sunday Figure Painting Group- Figure Painting, One Long Pose-** 10:00AM to 1:00PM, Room 405 Art Building.

For more information please contact Professor Sumita Kim, the Weekend Art Group Coordinator at Montgomery College, Rockville Campus at 240-567-1775 or [sumita.kim@montgomerycollege.edu](mailto:sumita.kim@montgomerycollege.edu).



### PLEINAIR!- EASTON! COMPETITION & ARTS FESTIVAL DEADLINE MARCH 3

Easton Main Street & The Avalon Foundation. July 21- July 27, 2008. Competition will be juried. Media: Oils, watercolor, pastels. Entry fee \$35/3 images. 40% commission on sold work; 25% on Quick Draw artwork. Cash awards total more than \$11,000 + awards of merit. Juror: Lynn Gertenbach, Signature member, Plein-Air Painter of America, [www.pleinaireaston.com](http://www.pleinaireaston.com), SASE to Plein-Air Easton, c/o Avalon Foundation, 40 W. Dover St., Easton, MD 21601 or 410-822-7297. Accepted artists will be notified online on March 24.

### WOMAN'S CLUB OF CHEVY CHASE MARCH 14-16, 2008

Information was previously sent to email members due to the March 1st art submission deadline. The 33rd Annual Community Art Show and Sale, occurs March 14-16, 2008. Champagne Reception March 14, 8-10PM \$5.00 Donation. For additional information contact Lou Harrell of the WCCC at 301-365-0511.

### FRIENDSHIP HEIGHT VILLAGE CENTER SHOW: JUNE 2008

### KENSINGTON LABOR DAY PAINT THE TOWN SHOW: AUGUST 29-SEPTEMBER 1, 2008

### BROOKSIDE GARDENS OCT. 31 - DEC. 12, 2009

Venues: Lobby, Information Desk, and Library  
Show Title: "Scenes of Autumn"

Plants should be the primary focus of all of the works. Landscapes, seascapes (including vegetation), floral arrangements, botanical studies, etc. are all appropriate for exhibition.

We reserve the right to reject on the day of installation any works whose quality or subject matter, as judged solely by the exhibitions coordinator, is not consistent with Brookside Gardens exhibition standards.

### NEWSLETTERS & MEETINGS

Are you being featured in a show? Let us know, and we'll get the word out in our newsletter! Also welcomed are suggestions on guest presenters for future meetings. Contact Marlene Sapperstein with your submissions for the newsletter or Alejandra Hucek for suggestions on guest speakers.

## Member Shows:



**Sue Moses** and **Carol Kent** will have a two-artist exhibit at the Brookside Gardens Visitor's Center from April 28 through June 20, 2008. The show, titled "*The Shape of Color*" and will be open from 9:00AM-5:PM daily at 1800 Glenallen Ave., Wheaton, MD. Please come out to see their show!

## Classes at Plaza

The Plaza Art team in Rockville has their winter class schedule out and available in their store or online. There are still openings for March. Plaza is offering unique classes not only in art techniques but also in marketing your art.

In addition, the Rockville store hosts national artist workshops on designated weekends. Break away and try something new that will reenergize your artistic vision. With so many changes in the art market over the last several years, there seems to be a class or workshop for everyone.



## BOARD VACANCIES

We will be recruiting for new board positions in the near future so please give a thought to how you can serve MCAA. For information about serving, including job descriptions, please contact our president Sara Becker at [thebeckers6400@verizon.net](mailto:thebeckers6400@verizon.net)

## Memorable Trees

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be from Rock Creek Park proper or any of the other areas in Washington D.C. administered by Rock Creek Park which includes Palasades Park, Glover Archbold Park, Whitehaven Park, Battery Kemble Park, Fort Reno Park, Soapstone Valley Park, Little Forest Park, Fort Stevens Park, Battleground National Cemetery, Meridian Hill Park, Old Stone House, Francis Scott Key Memorial, Dumbarton Oaks, Park, Montrose Park, Normanstone Parkway, Rock Creek and Potomac Parkway, Klingle Valley Park, Melvin Hazen Park, Bryce Park, Fort Bayard Park, Fort Slocum Park or Fort Totten Park.

This exhibit is open to visitors of all ages. Entries must be hand delivered to the Rock Creek Park Nature Center and Planetarium by close of business March 16, 2008.

Visitors whose images are chosen from the entries will be invited to attend the opening exhibit and reception the evening of April 6, 2008.

All visitors whose images are chosen will receive a copy of Remarkable Trees of the World by Thomas Pakenham.

All submitted images and essays can be picked up by participating visitors at the Rock Creek Park Nature Center and Planetarium after July 5, 2008.

For more information visit our website: [www.nps.gov/rocr](http://www.nps.gov/rocr) or call (202) 895-6070.

## MCAA Board for 2007-2008

### President:

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VACANT

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