

MONTGOMERY COUNTY ART ASSOCIATION

MCAA News

MCAA SPOTLIGHT

Jack McCrory-Watercolorist

How delightful to catch up with long time MCAA member and former Treasurer, Jack McCrory. As many of you know, Jack, a very talented watercolorist, is generous with his time and extensive knowledge of art techniques. A retired Nuclear Submarine Naval Officer, Jack could finally indulge and explore his interest in art. Because of his Naval Academy background and management experience, Jack's approach was very quantitative. Jack had come to realize that watercolor was his medium of choice. At first, he read extensively, finding that every artist seemed to give different advice. Eventually, he found two separate approaches to applying the paint that seemed to be comfortable. The first technique achieved its look by building up darks, layering with gradual glazes. The second was Tony Couch's "one shot" approach. This was the method that worked best for McCrory. Tony became his "artist inspiration" from then on.

Jack has taken numerous Couch workshops over the years and distilled the most important points of this method as follows:

- Any picture or design can be broken down into a quantitative number of ele-



Winter at Spruce Lake by Jack McCrory

ments and principals of design can be applied regardless of the subject matter. Although there are separate yardsticks for representational and abstract art, both must be able to function on an abstract level.

- The painting should have brush marks that convey symbols that are abstract,

but convey a sense of real world items but, at the same time, are interesting shapes that are not strictly geometric.

- To be successful every painting needs color dominance (warm, cool, bright, light), directional dominance (horizontal, vertical, oblique) and texture.

See page 2

PROGRAMS

All 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

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.

MAY MEETING

**Wednesday
May 7, 2008**

During our May meeting, Dewey Heising, talks "Plein Air".

Dewey, a long time MCAA member and talented plein air artist, will address the real how to of Plein Air painting. Dewey does not plan to discuss painting techniques. The title of his presentation "Getting Organized, Selecting Equipment, and Identifying Locations Appropriate for Landscape Painting" should be of interest to many of our members.

Please Note: There will be no June regular member meeting due to the fact that the Friendship Heights reception occurs 3 days before the normal monthly meeting date. Current member news including Kensington Labor Day show preparations will be made available at the Friendship Heights reception on June 8th. Additional information will also be made available in the June newsletter. During July and August the newsletter will take a vacation but will be back before the Kensington Show which begins during the last weekend of August through September 1st.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

First off I am happy to report that the new 2008-2009 board has been unanimously accepted. The email voting method proved quite successful in that we had over half of the membership respond. Everyone seemed glad to be able to participate in voting this way. Your new 2008-2009 board is listed on the back page.

As you can see we still have open positions since, unfortunately,

no one has come forward. These are not overly time intensive jobs so I am still hoping some more members will decide to participate on the MCAA 2008-2009 board.

Vicky and Sandy have been hard at work in refining our membership lists between current members and former members who we would like to reach out to. Please check the current paid membership list attached to make sure that your name is included if you are currently paid for the Sept. 2007- Sept 2008 membership year.

As you see in the Scholarship Update section of this newsletter we have a scholarship recipient for the upcoming school year. I had a nice conversation with Teddie this week and she is very happy to have been selected to receive the MCAA scholarship of \$600.00. She has a bright and cheery outlook and knows exactly where she wants her career path to go. Art Therapy is an area that is getting more attention lately as a vital part of recovery after illness or for those disabled or just in need of self improvement due to other reasons. I have invited Teddie to display some of her artwork at our Friendship Heights show. We will have the opportunity to meet Teddie and hear more from her about her own art education at the Friendship Heights reception on Sunday, June 8th. We wish her much success in her endeavors.

I've also been talking with our Friendship Heights juror Antonia Ramis Miguel. She is very happy to have been asked to judge our show and is very much looking forward to this opportunity. She is busy teaching in Howard County and plans to travel back to Spain to visit family after our show in June. Take a look at her website at <http://www.antoniamigmuel.com/> for more detail about her artwork and activities.

A lot is going on for MCAA right now and we hope you will take advantage of the show opportunities coming up. And don't forget that ideas and suggestions about ways to enhance our membership activities and initiatives are always welcome.

We've gotten lots and lots of positive feedback about the new newsletter format and are pleased to hear it! We will announce the date of the next board meeting soon. Feel free to contact me at any time.

All the Best,
Sara Becker

Jack McCrory

From page 1

- Brush size is critical. Using the largest brush possible keeps the artist from overworking the shape.
- Freshness is found in a confident brush mark, and this is always better than a "fussy" or overcautious mark. The goal of a watercolor painter should be a completed painting looks like it could have been done in an hour.
- By using a watercolor paper that has been soaked completely for at least five minutes, no stretching is needed, the paper is relaxed and the pigments do not form hard edges. Later, when it is time to add the darks in his painting, Jack uses a concentrated pigment without very little water in the brush or the paper. This way, he notes, even the darkest areas are thin layers and the natural light can pass through the paint to the substrate. Overall this gives the painting that unique, impressionistic landscape look that can only be achieved in watercolor.
- Always keep in mind that you are painting a landscape not a still life. By focusing on the big picture and not on the little details, you create a scene that can be enjoyed. You need to ask yourself where the foreground begins.

McCrory chose watercolors because he liked their look. It is a medium that requires patience to master; it him seven to eight years to learn how to successfully manipulate the medium Jack says he still finds watercolor to be very humbling and if he doesn't practice continually then he loses some of the finer control over his medium. The artist's paintings are typically one half sheet (15"x22") and are framed in silver or gold metal. Landscapes and old barns can be found, but maritime themes, seascapes, boats out of water, and lighthouses dominate. His inspiration comes as a synthesis from sketches or photographs taken on site, together with modern sources such as television or the internet. Jack exhibits through the MCAA including the September Paint the Town show and he also exhibits work with the Rockville Art League. And you just might find Jack in Ocean City at the trawler dock, where he probably has been sketching for hours, happy as a pig in the mud!

news you can use ...

The University of Baltimore ARTS HELP LINE: provides free legal assistance to artists and arts organizations. 410-545-0463

Scholarship Update:

Good News! Our Montgomery College Art Department Scholarship has been awarded to Teddie Rappaport. Teddie, a sophomore, is a rising star who is interested in Art Education. She already has earned an associates degree and is continuing towards a B.S. in psychology. Her eventual plans are to go on to GW to work as an art therapist. While enjoying many art mediums, Teddie has recently focused on printmaking and enjoys intaglio. She also received a scholarship award in printmaking.

Artscape Applications are available now.

Artscape Applications are available now. Artscape, the largest free, public arts festival in the country features more than 150 artists, craftspeople and fashion designers. Artscape is produced by the Baltimore Office of Promotion & the Arts, Inc. Visit their site at www.artscape.org.



Exhibits

SUGARLOAF CRAFTS FESTIVALS

Sugarloaf Crafts Festivals, which serves the mid-Atlantic with juried Fine Art and Craft Festivals, is accepting applications to become an exhibitor at their shows. Go to their website, to download an application and read more about their application process and schedules.

BETHESDA ROW ARTS FESTIVAL

The 11th Annual Bethesda Row Arts Festival is accepting applications for their shows on October 18th and 19th, 2008. The deadline for applications is May 31st and will include 15 media categories. All work must be original and completed within the past two years. There is no commission charged on sold works. For more information go to their website www.bethesdarowarts.org.

THE ART INSTITUTE AND GALLERY OF SALISBURY, MARYLAND

The Art Institute and Gallery of Salisbury, in Salisbury, Maryland is calling for entries in their 17th Annual National Juried Exhibition. The prizes for Best in Show are \$1,000 and a 2009 Solo Exhibit. Two awards of excellence at \$500 each and three honorable mentions will also be made by the juror. The deadline is June 2, 2008 and the show runs from September 14th until October 11th, 2008. For more information, go to www.artinstituteandgallery.org.

TARGET GALLERY

The Target Gallery at the Torpedo Factory Art Center in Alexandria, VA is calling for entries for an all media exhibit that features artwork based on the aftereffects of natural or man-made disasters. Exploring the inescapable common denominator of the human condition in dealing with grief and loss, the works will examine all facets of human strength: physical, spiritual, and emotional. The work featured in this exhibition will surely strike at the innermost chords of both creator and onlooker alike. This exhibition is open to all artists. There is a fee of \$35 and a commission of 40% for any work that is sold. For more information either call Mary Cook at 703-838-4565 or go to their website at www.torpedofactory.org/images/galleries/target/prospectus/Aftermath.



By Bruce Campbell

FREDERICK, MD

Artists living or working within a 75-mile radius of Frederick, MD, working in any media, are invited to bring up to three works to the Deleplaine Visual Arts Education Center. The Delaplaine is both an art gallery and school. Jurying will be on May 24th from 10:00 AM-4:00PM, and on May 25th from 1:00PM-4:00PM. The Delaplaine annual show will run from June 7th to July 27th, 2008. The reception take will place on Saturday, June 14th from 3:00PM -5:00PM. This year's show will be juried by Jack Rasmussen, Director and Curator of the American University Museum at the Katzen. Rasmussen is also the executive director of Maryland Art Place, where he has curated a series of cutting edge exhibits and off-site projects. For more information contact Dianne Sibbison Program Manager 301-698-0656, dsibbison@delaplaine.org.

Member Shows:

Sue Moses and Barbara March Smith are having a two-person show at a newly built home in Chevy Chase. The reception will be held on May 2nd, from 7:00PM until 9:00PM. includes Wine and cheese will be served to the sounds of music. Additionally, the paintings can be seen on May 3rd and 4th between 1:00PM and 5:00PM. Address: 4424 Walsh Street, Chevy Chase, MD 20815.

Ann Gordon, a docent at the Smithsonian Museum of American Art, is exhibiting a watercolor at the Smithsonian Ripley Center. The Artists at Work show showcases works by employees and volunteers, and is on view until July 27th. The Ripley center is the round building outside of the Freer Gallery on the Mall in D.C. To see the show, enter through the round building and go down three floors. Because parking on the Mall is difficult, visitors are encouraged to take Metro. Take the Orange line, get off at the Smithsonian stop, and exit on the Mall side. The building is immediately on the right.

Ellen Sherfy will sing in two choral concerts, accompanied by the professionally acclaimed Trio Globo! Please go to concerts/index/html and scroll down to the hummingbird poster for more information. Tickets can be purchased on the website and discounts are offered for advance sales and group tickets.

Bruce Campbell's paintings were included with a select group of 12 artists at the Pope John Paul II Cultural Center in Northeast Washington, D.C. on Harewood Road. The exhibit was extended past the Pope's visit and a closing reception was planned for late April. You can view more of Bruce's art at www.AtelierBic.com.

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.

Anna Glodek

Introduction to Watercolor

Live Demo

Artomatic2008

Saturday, May 17, 4-6pm

This workshop is intended for both people who never tried watercolor before, but are intrigued by it or for people, who tried it already in a more traditional way and feel somewhat discouraged by the medium . (Think 18th century dainty English landscapes) .

The goal of the workshop is to show watercolor as an expressive and free-style medium that can make the art creation process exciting and lively. Glodek is going to demonstrate her techniques. As she demonstrates, Glodek will discuss watercolor supplies (paints, brushes, paper), techniques such as glazing and mingling color, color theory, and color mixing to avoid the muddy look. Those in attendance can expect to come away having learned about a wide variety other tricks that help an artist make make watercolours that are vibrant and exciting.



By Anna Glodek

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Show News:

MCAA is in great need for an "interim" Show Chair to help out for the next few months. Current show chair Edelweiss Calcagno is leaving for Italy soon and will remain there until after the new baby's birth. We wish her all the best and look forward to her return in September. In addition to preparations for the Friendship Heights show, we are moving forward with Kensington Labor Day show preparations also. Kensington Show co-chair Debra Halprin

is looking for someone to come forward to act as co-chair in the area of donation collection. This job mainly entails calling on past donors and requesting their continued help in return for being advertised at our show. It is a vital part of the Kensington Show success and works best when several people are willing to make inquiries on behalf of MCAA. Thank you for the time you can contribute to our biggest show of the year.