

MONTGOMERY COUNTY ART ASSOCIATION

MCAA News

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Barbara March Smith

Watercolorist and Mixed Media Artist

Barbara March Smith, not only has devoted years of service to Montgomery Art Association, she brings a lifetime of international experiences to our organization. Barbara was raised in the artistic city of San Francisco, educated at San Francisco State University and earned her Masters at San Jose State. Interestingly, Barbara explains she grew up in a different "era" when men and women still adhered to a double standard. Women artists were generally not taken seriously and were considered "dabblers". To circumvent the prejudice, women artists usually signed with either their initials or just their last name. So Barbara combined her own last name and her husband's last name and developed her signature, "March Smith", cleverly hiding her gender. The ploy worked and "March Smith" began her successful career as an artist.

Marriage, rather than hindering, enlarged her life's opportunities. Her husband's employment with IBM, enabled relocations to diverse cities such as Carmel, California; Paris, France; and Washington, DC. During their stay in France, Barbara studied at the famed



Parisien Balcony by Barbara March Smith

Ecole de Louvre for five years. Barbara loved the relocations and her paintings are inspired by her travels. To this day, she and her husband travel yearly to Europe, France in particular, where she recharges her artistic

batteries. Barbara joined Tony Van Hasselt, one of the first teachers to inaugurate international watercolor plein aire trips, on eight European tours.

In addition, to her art *see page 3*

SEPTEMBER MEETING

Wednesday
September 10th.

Our upcoming meeting at Plaza Art presents us with a special opportunity. During the meeting, we will have a chance to have our Kensington work reviewed and critiqued. Member Ann Gordon, who has taught painting for many years, will lead our session. The critique is not limited to members who were part of the Kensington show; all members are welcome to bring one or two works of art for group comments. The meeting is at PLAZA-ART Materials, 1594B Rockville Pike and begins at 7:00 PM.

Plaza Art is located across from Congressional Plaza on Route 355 in the Pier One Plaza, where Radio Shack and Calico Corners are located, behind Duron Paints and Twinbrook Metro Access Road. There is plenty of parking and Plaza is easily accessed via Metro (the Twinbrook station is a 3-4 minute walk). As a courtesy to our guest presenters, please plan to complete your shopping by 7:00 PM. Our meeting begins promptly at 7:00 PM and concludes at 8:00 PM sharp, so the store may close. Your punctuality also allows us to maximize our meeting time.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I hope you all have had a nice summer doing all the things that the summertime offers. Hopefully, that included doing artwork in preparation for the "Paint the Town" show in Kensington. Your show chair, Debra Halprin has been doing a truly outstanding job coordinating many activities and volunteers. As an added publicity feature this year, we now have a new banner to advertise the show. Debbie placed the banner at the beginning of Howard Avenue on Connecticut Avenue. Check it out! We hope this new banner will attract many new visitors to our show this year and in future years. There has been a very good response to our requests for donations from local merchants and all the prize categories have been allocated. So be sure to attend the show....it promises to be a GOOD ONE!

Thanks to all the members that attended the Friendship Heights show reception in support of their fellow exhibiting members. It was a very hot day but the air-conditioning was a nice escape from the heat. Our juror, Antonia Ramis Miguel, gave a nice talk on her carefully considered choices for awards. I was very happy to see that the abstract category was one of the strongest being that Antonia, is herself, an abstract painter as well as instructor. We had room for a few more pieces of artwork so I would appreciate hearing from some of you who did not enter the show about what you would like to see in order to entice you to enter next year. As always, artful suggestions for improvement are welcome.

I look forward to seeing many of you during the show and at our next member meeting on Wednesday, September 10th.

My best to all of you,
Sara Becker

Nods to Newcomers

Philip Licara
13640 Ansel Terrace
Germantown, MD 20874
301-528-9967
PLUCARA@comcast.net

Phil, as he is known to friends, is an oil painter with a Greek heritage. His paintings reflect his love of life, whether on the Greek islands or in this country. Although his paintings are usually genre scenes, the emotions that fill them mirror Phil's vibrant personality.

Friendship Heights Show Update:

Thanks to all who participated in the annual show at the Friendship Heights Village Center Gallery. Our juror, Antonia Ramis Miguel had many nice things to say about the show including, "I was struck by the variety of mediums and styles and the creativity and quality of the works." In her selection process for awards she mentioned that she looked for good composition, mastery of execution and expression of personality through technique.

Here are the show results:

Abstract/Mixed Media

1. Beatrice Mellinger-*Convergence*
 2. Faye Reed-*War*
 3. Elizabeth Stecher-*Magic Pebbles*
- HM. Faye Reed-*Birds I*

Still Life

1. Natalie Falk-*White Daisies*
 2. Sara Becker-*Purple & Yellow Wine*
 3. Gale Bell-*The Red Love Seat*
- HM Jacques Bodelle- *Ready for Cooking*
HM Elizabeth Stecher-*Studio Still Life*

Landscape

1. Catherine Miller-*Mulhouse Market, France*
 2. Vicky Surles-*Azalea Pond*
 3. Catherine Miller- *Church on Santorini Island, Greece*
- HM Jacques Bodelle- *In Provence*

Sculpture

- HM Edward Rowan-*Ancient Ocean*

Portrait

1. Gale Bell-*Four Women*
 2. Alejandra Hucek-*Fish Market*
 3. Jim Haynes-*Open for Business*
- HM Dorothea McIntyre-*Happy Boy*

news you can use ...

Donate Art to Treasures from My Attic!

Do you have framed or unframed paintings, prints, sculpture, decorative household items or collectibles that you want to get rid of but they are too valuable to toss? Donate them to Treasures from My Attic! Artwork is accepted anytime, all year. If you have artwork to donate, please bring it to JCCGW's front desk anytime the JCC is open. For information, contact Phyllis Altman at 301-348-3770 or paltman@jccgw.org.

Barbara March Smith

Watercolorist and Mixed Media Artist

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career, Barbara has worn several other career caps. For ten years, she taught art in private and public schools. She has worked in public affairs and relations for Continental Can. While in California, she had a commercial real estate broker's license. During all this time, a gallery in Carmel, California handled her work taking care of her marketing and promotions. Until her husband's retirement two years ago, the couple spent six months in Carmel, California and six months in Washington, DC. Currently she calls Friendship Heights home.

Carmel's wonderful year round weather allowed Barbara to pursue her love of plein aire painting at least once a week. Over the years, Barbara's work has become larger, and today she usually uses a full sheet, with stronger heavier values than in the past. March Smith's typical subjects are landscapes and cityscapes in which France tends to dominate. Smith also ventures into wildlife paintings. Barbara says that her preference is to work in series. Her current series is a group of cityscapes. She finds the Montgomery County climate not as conducive to her plein aire watercolor sketching. However, she easily circumvents the weather by photographing her chosen sites and subjects. Later, execution in the studio leads to more complex designs and compositions.



Please Come In by Barbara March Smith

Currently, March Smith is doing a book of her watercolor sketches titled *Art on The Run*. Barbara truly feels her best work is her fresh sketches. She loves the spontaneous aspects of watercolor, its transparency, texture, freedom. Smith states that much of her work is enhanced by additional mediums, particularly ink and acrylic. Barbara wants her art to have the "signature of your hand".

Barbara's advice for new artists is: "Paint as often as you can, make yourself more interested in creating by becoming involved in the depth of your work, set up a "painting space" so you are in work mode when you sit down, and don't worry about sales because your work will sell itself." Whenever an artist sells a painting, there is a great satisfaction in knowing that another person likes your work enough to "hang it up."

Barbara had additional advice about what makes a great painting. The observer should feel excited just by a look at the painting, with that first glance. Then the person must begin to take note of the individual things - the feeling and time of the day, the background, the mental work, and the planning. The observer should not get bored with a painting so it will stand the test of time in the person's collection. There are always trends in painting and Barbara likes and appreciates a diverse selection of styles, if they are well done. It is the chosen style which helps the artist's personality come through. Newer artists should not necessarily seek to mimic their teachers and a good teacher wants and encourages each student to find his or her own style. The best teacher recognizes that each student is unique and steers the student to find their style in order to express that person's personality. Barbara shared a story from her travels in France. In 1973, she saw Picasso sitting in his Mercedes with his driver. March Smith and Picasso lived in the same area in France and even shared the same doctor. The night Picasso died, Dr. Mougines, came to Barbara's home and shared that Picasso had just passed away. That is just one small slice in a lifetime of art and travel memories. As her fellow artists at Montgomery Art Association get to know her, just imagine what a wealth of other memories and stories she will be sharing.

Oil and Acrylic Painting Class at Montgomery College, Rockville Campus.

Michael Sastre will be teaching the Fall 2008 semester Painting I class at Montgomery College. The class may be taken for credit or non-credit and is open to all levels of artists interested in oil or acrylic painting. There will be opportunities to paint from still life as well as your choice for subject matter. Classes meet twice a week on Tues and Thurs nights from 7-9:30 P.M. in the Art building on the Rockville campus. Classes start September 4th so sign up now if you're interested! For more information visit: <http://www.montgomerycollege.edu/>

Call To Artists

Howard County

The Howard County Center for the Arts, a 27,000 square foot facility located in Ellicott City, Maryland, is seeking proposals from artists and curators nationwide for solo and group exhibits for the 2009-2010 gallery season. All original artwork in any media, including installations, will be considered for the general review.

Qualifications: Work previously shown at the Howard County Center for the Arts will not be accepted for review, nor will work previously submitted to the gallery program in the past year. There is no fee to apply. Artists must be at least 18 years old. Artists and curators should submit 10 to 20 slides or jpgs on a cd with an accompanying slide list, an artist/curator statement, resume and application to exhibit, along with a self-addressed, stamped envelope with sufficient postage for the return of application materials. Incomplete applications will not be reviewed. Call 410.313.2787 or visit www.hocoarts.org for an application. Submissions are accepted on an ongoing basis. For more info please visit www.hocoarts.org

"5x5x5: Small Works Juried Exhibition"

(Posted: 7/16/08) -- The Torpedo Factory Art Center in Alexandria, VA announces a call to artists for the "5x5x5: Small Works Juried Exhibition", held December 11- January 11, 2009 at the Target Gallery. Open to all artists nationally and internationally working in any media. There is a strict stipulation that the work must fit within the parameters of five inches in any direction (all framed work must not exceed five inches in any direction).

Juror: Elaine Levin. Deadline: October 1, 2008. \$35 for three entries. Download prospectus (PDF format) or send a SASE to: Target Gallery, 5x5x5 Prospectus, 105 N. Union St. Alexandria, VA 22314. Questions? Contact Mary Cook at target-gallery@torpedofactory.org or call 703-838-4565x4.

A Lifetime of Perspective

This annual exhibition provides an opportunity for senior adults to exhibit their work. This show

features paintings, prints, photography, sculpture, fabric art, crafts and jewelry. *A Lifetime of Perspective* is generously funded by the Kaplan family, the Center's Deena and Jerome A. Kaplan Fund for Senior Adult Programming and the Berliant/Kaplan Fund of the United Jewish Endowment Fund of The Jewish Federation of Greater Washington. Artists age 65 and older interested in participating should contact Kandy Hutman at 301-348-3864 or khutman@jccgw.org.



Our new MCAA banner advertising the Kensington Labor Day Art Show. It is hanging prominently on Connecticut Avenue at the corner of Howard Avenue.

Paint the Town Art Show 2008

Special Notice:

"Paint the Town" Kensington Labor Day Show Update. The board is happy to announce that renewing members may enter the plein-air portion of the show for free this year. Non-members will be required to pay the usual \$5.00 per canvas.



Elizabeth Stecher is exhibiting seven watercolors at the Barnes & Noble at the fun Washingtonian Center. The bookstore is located at 21 Grand Corner Avenue, Gaithersburg, MD 20878 and their telephone number is (301) 721-0860. Elizabeth's paintings are still lives with a food theme. The exhibit runs from August 15th through September 15th.

Debra Halprin will be featured in the September issue of Montgomery Insight Magazine. The three page feature article will spotlight Debra, one of our most active members and a talented watercolorist. In addition, Debra tells us that there will be a paragraph about our Labor Day Show in Kensington. The magazine is available for free at Barnes & Noble, Giant, or online at www.mcinsight.net.

Elizabeth Riordon was awarded second place in the Sulphur Springs Valley Miniature and Small Works Art Show in Arizona. In addition, Elizabeth's entry was accepted into the CPSA (Colored Pencil Society of America) International Exhibition in Seattle, Washington. Now Elizabeth's work is traveling over the

Atlantic and she had three works accepted into the United Kingdom Colored Pencil Society International Exhibition. With works chosen for three colored pencil shows in three years, Elizabeth is now a CPSA signature member. Elizabeth will be traveling to England for an extended period of time starting in late October and is planning to personally pick up her work at the end of her exhibit at the Royal West Academy in Clifton, Bristol. Although, Elizabeth will be gone for a few years on her adventure, she will be available through e-mail and postal mail.

Sue Moses had an exhibition of her paintings of Forest Glen at an open house on August 6th, in a new townhouse model in Forest Glen. About 50 art patrons came for art, wine, and cheese. It was a successful evening for Sue with the sale of three painting and introductions to new patrons and clients.

Sue Moses is teaching a watercolor workshop on October 18th on "Composition and Shadows" at the Charles County Arts Alliance in Waldorf. The class is located at the Corner Studio in La Plata and runs from 10-4, with a cost of \$45 for non-members. Call the CCAA office to register 301-392-5900.

Natalie Falk will be exhibiting at the Activity Center at Bohrer Park at 506 South Frederick Avenue in Gaithersburg from August 22nd until November 2nd. Natalie's exhibition will include works in colored pencils and oils. Subjects of her works include a wide range of interests from flowers and Eastern Shore landscapes to sports figures. Viewing hours are Monday through Saturday from 8AM -9 PM and Sunday from 8-5.

Elizabeth Stecher will be exhibiting one of her watercolors in a Senior Artists Alliance Show at the City Hall Gallery, 31 South Summit Avenue, Gaithersburg, MD from September 19th- November 9th. In addition, two of Elizabeth's watercolors will be in the Washington Metropolitan Artists Society (WMAS) show at the Kensington Framing and Design Gallery located at 10805 Connecticut Avenue, Kensington from September 2nd through September 30th.

Survey about Websites:

It was very impressive to learn that most members attending the meeting on websites had their work on the internet. Artists who are not currently advertising on the internet are interested in which web site servers, services or graphic companies members used to post their art.

MCAA members are also interested in the business tools they employ to keep track of their inventory, opportunities, customers and accounting software. If you would like to respond to this inquiry, please send an email with any information, costs and how much computer expertise one needs (beginner, intermediate or expert) to: Christina Haslinger at c_graff1904@yahoo.com. The feedback will be printed in the October e-newsletter.

www.montgomeryart.org

Have you checked out our website lately? Laura-Leigh has done a phenomenal job updating it with fun new graphics and other added features. We are now ready to add our members names and website links.

Please contact Laura-Leigh at laura.leigh@asapgraphics.com if you would like our site to link to your personal website.

Member News

We are happy to announce the arrival of **Edelweiss Calcagno's** newest child. She will be back from Italy on September 10th. Here's what Edelweiss has to say about her new son: Dylan Marcello was born on the 17th of July and was not even 5 pounds, (2.680 kilos when he was born and then he lost 200 grams), but he is gaining weight quite fast which is very good but very like Kyran and Ayana his little brother and sister.

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** at mbspainting@yahoo.com with your submissions for the newsletter or **Alejandra Hucek** at richandalej@verizon.net for suggestions on guest speakers.

membership renewal time

September is the Montgomery Art annual renewal month. Please send your renewal to Sandy Cepatis. See attached form.



MCAA Board for 2008-2009

President:

Sara Becker
301-216-0861
thebeckers6400@verizon.net

1st Vice President, Programs

Alejandra Hucek
richandalej@verizon.net

2nd Vice President, Shows:

Edelweiss Calcagno
edelweiss101@yahoo.com

Secretary:

Cathy Hirsch
hirshcathy@aol.com

Treasurer:

Jacques Bodelle
301-493-8618
c1bodelle@yahoo.com

Membership:

Sandra Cepaitis
301-564-0331
s1cep@msn.com

e-Newsletter Editors:

Marlene Sapperstein
mbspainting@yahoo.com
Natalie Falk
nmfalk@comcast.net

Newsletter Assistant:

Judith Levine
301-869-6811
JULevineRN@aol.com

Publicity:

Vicki Surles
vsurlesGraphics@comcast.net

Show Registrar:

Elizabeth Strecher
estecher7@verizon.net

Hanging Shows:

OPEN

Activities Committee:

OPEN

Hospitality Committee:

Alejandra Hucek
301-588-2927
richandalej@verizon.net

Telephone Committee:

Dorothy McIntyre
301-530-0001

President Elect:

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