

MONTGOMERY ART ASSOCIATION

# M.A.A. News

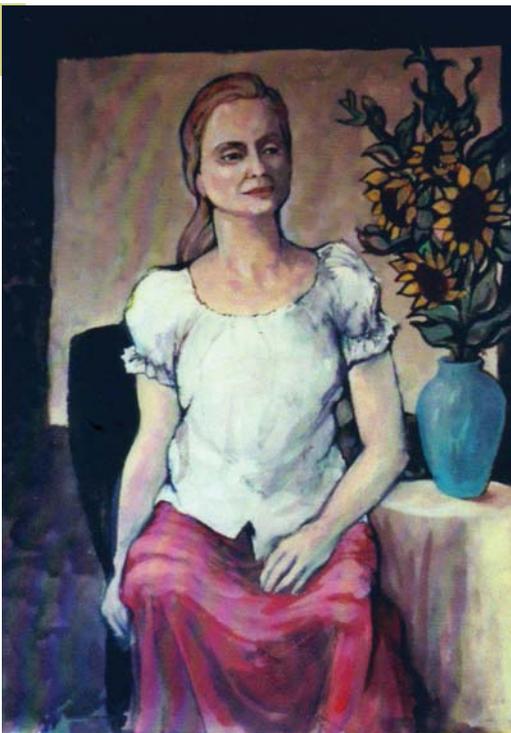
## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

### Dan Ranhart *Multimedia Painter*

It is so refreshing to catch up with the conversational and multi-talented artist, Dan Ranhart. Currently Dan's favorite subject to paint is portraits, but he also enjoys painting animals, clowns, landscapes, and architecture.

Twenty years ago, Dan painted in oils. However, due to allergies of mediums and certain paints, Dan switched to acrylics, pastels, charcoals, and watercolors. Although he uses many brands of acrylics, his favorite is American Craft Liquid Acrylic because it can be used on any surface. He describes his customary techniques for painting a portrait by beginning with 100 pound watercolor paper. Dan then covers the paper with pastel colors, forming an abstract pattern. He later rubs off the excess pastel and uses a charcoal pencil to add a drawing. After drawing, Dan sets up his palette with a few drops of each color of liquid acrylics. He uses plastic dishes as palettes because he can add lots of water and then wipe the dish clean.

Dan will often paint watercolor overtop and under the various thin layers of acrylics. He appreciates the advantage of the quick drying liquid acrylics and watercolors. Dan takes the opportunity to go over his dried creation with more charcoal. He uses white charcoal to restore and lighten "whites" and colors. Finally, the portrait is complete. Although the portrait is finished, Dan engages in a secondary creative process to bring the artwork to a new height. He creates a background to "put the person into the painting". Dan adds windows, tables, bouquets of flowers, political signs – whatever it takes to construct a painting around the portrait. This can be a very inspiring and whimsical process. For instance, one painting cried out for a "FREE TIBET" sign to make the painting into an original "Ranhart". When the painting is complete, Dan sprays it with a workable varnish to



keep the various mediums and layers from rubbing off.

Dan provided some additional thoughts on his creation process. He likes to use pastels because he believes it has the purest and strongest colors of all mediums. He feels using pastels makes his work more vibrant. Dan cannot duplicate his favorite colors in other mediums that require binder. He uses watercolor paper because it is easy to store and to alternate the frames for shows. Sometimes Dan will use a collage as a basis for one of his mixed media creations. He will blow up a portion of a photo and glue it to the canvas in pieces. The fun begins as Dan begins to apply layer after layer of paint, pastel, charcoal, and

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## JANUARY MEETING

Wednesday  
JANUARY 14, 2009  
7:00 PM  
Plaza Arts in Rockville

Sculpture artist, Christian Benefiel will give a presentation. He will show his work on a CD and tell us about himself and his wonderful work. His web site is [www.christianbenefiel.com](http://www.christianbenefiel.com)

Artwork pick-up is Monday January 5th, 2009 for the December Show and Sale at Kensington Framing and Design.

10805 Connecticut Ave.  
Kensington, MD 20895  
Owner: Jason Miller  
Tel: 301-9 33-6806, email [KFD@Millerland.com](mailto:KFD@Millerland.com)

**Please note:** The store will be closed from December 24 until the 3rd of January 2009

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

What a lovely evening it was at Kensington Framing and Design for our holiday reception. We are grateful to Jason Miller for providing this opportunity. Everyone was in a festive mood and enjoyed a wonderful spread of food and drink. Thank you to all who participated in the holiday card contest. Jacques Bodelle won 1st prize and Sandy Cepatis won 2nd place. There were also a couple of door prizes donated by Vicky Surles that two lucky guests received. It was a nice occasion to be able to honor our long time members, Dewey Heising and Dan Ranhart. Dewey was president from 1998-1999 and Dan followed as president from 1999-2000. Each of them shared their memories of the people they worked with on the Montgomery Art board at that time and acknowledged that their successes were a group effort shared by many members. They also talked about some of the previous venues on the C& O Canal and McCrillis Gardens they had had for art shows that are no longer available. I am happy to report that Vicky Surles sold two works at the reception.

I hope that if you weren't able to make it to the holiday reception you've had a chance to stop by the frame shop and view the exhibition that was expertly hung by Edelweiss and Vicky. Thanks also are due to Elizabeth Stecher for registration and Alejandra Hucek for organizing the reception.

Wishing you all a creative and fruitful year in 2009.

Happy New Year,  
Sara

## Save the Date:

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7TH, 2009, 11:30 A.M.  
SMITHSONIAN AMERICAN ART MUSEUM.**

Guided tour by our own Ann Gordon, docent. We will tour the permanent collection, have lunch at the café and maybe continue on to one of the current exhibitions. Meet at 11:30 A.M. at the main entrance. There is no cost to enter but bring money for lunch.

By Metro take the exit to Gallery Place-Chinatown Metro station (Red, Yellow and Green lines) 8th and F Streets, NW, Washington, D.C. 20004  
Information: (202) 633-1000,  
<http://americanart2.si.edu/index3.cfm>

Please contact Sara Becker at [thebeckers64000@verizon.net](mailto:thebeckers64000@verizon.net) or 301-216-0861, if you plan to attend the tour.

## Dan Ranhart Multimedia Painter



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watercolor. He feels this technique helps to maintain a whimsical quality in his work and is suited well for architecture and portraits. Dan learned through trial and error how to size his paintings. He uses a pad large enough to accommodate either an 18"x24" or smaller. He then draws two boxes the size of the mat so he may have a choice of two sizes both scaled and ready to be matted after completion.

Dan enjoys travel workshops very much. When he travels he brings a sketchbook, pencils, colored pencils, and a fine tipped black pen. Dan proceeds to make thumbnail sketches in either a 5"x9" or 8.5"x11" notebook. On "painting trips" he will bring watercolors, acrylic tube paints, and colored pencils. Dan has taken workshops with Walt Bartman. His workshops have taken him to Sante Fe, New Mexico twice, Greece, and Italy. On his Italian tour, Dan joined a group of English artists even though he knew no one in the group. After three or four days, the group fell under the "Ranhart spell". After the workshop ended, Dan trav-

eled back to London for a week and toured Winchester Cathedral with the other students. In fact, several students invited Dan to stay at their homes in England. Dan produced fourteen pieces of artwork from his trip. He later displayed the work in a show at the Kensington Café Monet. Although all fourteen paintings sold, Dan regretted that he had no originals left from his trip. Dan changed strategy and began putting up copies for sale. He has found that his clientele do not care if his paintings are originals as long as they can have an image. Today, Dan has two laser prints made of each artwork. The copies are matted and sold as "bin work". The pieces sell well and Dan gets to keep his originals. Because he does not accept commissions of any kind, this is the only way to have a piece of the "Ranhart" collection in your home. Dan has been a very active member of Montgomery Art Association. We are lucky to have such a fun, extremely talented artist as a member of our group. Dan knows how to break the rules and still make true "art".

## REMINDER;

# Samples of Your Best Work...

Please mail a CD of sample artworks to Edelweiss Calgano to for our group application for art shows around Montgomery County. The CD should contain 5 to 10 of your best paintings or artwork on the CD. Also the CD should have information regarding the artist name, size of work and media. If you need help in getting good digital images of your work Edelweiss has offered to take photos at her home. Please call her at 301-256-7561 after the 13th of January.



## Exhibits & Member Shows

**Sandra Cepaitis** has a painting in a show with the Metropolitan Washington Artist's Society at Brookside Gardens from December 6 to February 6. 1800 Glenallan Ave. Wheaton MD, 20902. 301-962-1400 Hours: Visitors Center: 9a.m.- 5p.m.

**Audrey Salkind** has a solo show at the Visions Exhibitions Space in the Bethesda North Marriott Hotel and Conference center. The center is located at 5701 Marinelli Road, Bethesda. The exhibit is running until January 24. You may visit her website at [www.audreysabstractart.com](http://www.audreysabstractart.com).

**Audrey Salkind** has an upcoming solo show at the River Road Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Bethesda, MD. The show will be in April of 2009. You may visit her website at [www.audreysabstractart.com](http://www.audreysabstractart.com).



### Our Mission...

To encourage and promote the visual arts in Montgomery County, by means of educational activities, exhibits, lectures, demonstrations and other suitable means.

To educate the public on the value of art.

And to participate in any and all other related activities.

To further expand on that mission, more specific goals and objectives now include expanding and maintaining a membership base of artists in all styles and mediums including new artists to the visual arts. We are excited that we are attracting artists in emerging visual art styles or mediums so that the full diversity of artistic means can be represented within our group.

### The benefits of members

#### Monthly Meetings

Our monthly meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month. The meetings feature presentations by a local artist, art instructor or other person related to the visual arts. The program may include an artist discussing his or her personal approach to art, a critique of members' works and/or a demonstration of techniques with various media or a demonstration of techniques in Rockville for providing a great space for our workshops and meetings.

#### Monthly Newsletter

Montgomery Art publishes an interesting and informative monthly newsletter. It contains a great deal of pertinent news including articles about members and their work, news about upcoming exhibitions and more. It is delivered to the majority of the membership electronically as pdf format. Copies of the latest edition are available at [www.montgomeryart.org](http://www.montgomeryart.org).

#### Website

Montgomery Art maintains a website at [www.montgomeryart.org](http://www.montgomeryart.org). In addition to offering the latest newsletter, it posts information about current and upcoming events. We also offer members a link to their personal websites.

#### Workshops

Periodically Montgomery Art sponsors workshops. These are offered to give members opportunities to learn new techniques or explore alternate mediums or artistic approaches. They are conducted by various professional artists or educators.



#### Exhibition Opportunities

Montgomery Art membership is sponsored shows throughout the organization to give members opportunities through sales of exhibits as well as the satisfaction that of work displayed. Upcoming shows: annual "Share the Town" Show in Labor Day weekend, Brookside On Spring Museums are other venues in Montgomery Art has exhibited.

#### Join us...

Montgomery Art welcomes new members. Visit [www.montgomeryart.org](http://www.montgomeryart.org) to download a Membership Form pdf. Or write to P.O. Box 2154, Kensington, MD 20891. We will send you a form. Your \$5.00 membership contribution provides the continued artistic growth and expression.

## MONTGOMERY Art ASSOCIATION



## Have you seen the new Montgomery Art brochure?

Copies are available at our monthly meetings. Please feel free to take and distribute these brochures among your artist friends.



## MAA Board for 2008-2009

### President:

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### Hanging Shows:

OPEN

### Activities Committee:

OPEN

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### Telephone Committee:

Dorothy McIntyre  
301-530-0001

### President Elect:

OPEN