

MONTGOMERY ART ASSOCIATION

MAA News

The Outwin Boochever 2009 Portrait Competition

By Glenn Kessler

National Portrait Gallery
October 23, 2009—
August 22, 2010

Two years ago The National Portrait Gallery ran its first Outwin Boochever Portrait Competition. The exhibition was by all accounts a tremendous success. Work from well-known and unknown talents were showcased in the beautifully renovated Portrait Gallery. It ensured that the show would become a staple of the gallery's schedule.

Opening this past October, the second exhibition has taken shape, and it is even better than the first! The work is stronger, more facile, deeper in content, wider in scope. More than 3,300 entries were received, forty-nine pieces have been juried into the show.

In a group show of this number and diversity writing about every piece is unrealistic. Aside from being held together by the shared subject of portraiture, there is not much to say about a group dynamic. I have chosen to turn the microscope on a few of my favorite pieces and a few less than favorites. I hope you enjoy the following insights and schedule a visit to the gallery to find your own favorites.



'Self-Portrait with Hermes' by Kate Sammons

Portrait #23, Rick Yarosh' by Matthew Mitchell

One of the exhibition's more striking images is that of Matthew Mitchell's 'Portrait #23, Rick Yarosh.' The subject is one of 100 combat veterans to be painted by this artist. This particular subject, a former army sergeant in Iraq, has been severely disfigured by an IED attack on his vehicle. Mr. Yarosh suffered burns over 60% of his body as well as a broken leg. Neither the artist nor the subject are concerned with engendering pity in viewers. There is nothing but pride and an appreciation of life in both the painting and an accompanying letter from the sergeant. "I'm lucky and blessed to be here, I'm able to share my story with others." writes Mr. Yarosh. The portrait is posed so

Mr. Yarosh faces directly out at us. He is wearing a gray 'ARMY' T-shirt and stares plainly just to the viewer's right. His expression is complex though it almost approaches a smile. The paint is handled deftly given the challenges of the subject--what is the historical precedent for painting mangled flesh? The paint is rougher on the T-shirt. The background is flat, an incredibly modest range of simple sienna and gray.

'Self-Portrait with Hermes' by Kate Sammons

A delicate and dark charcoal self-portrait, Kate Sammon's 'Self-Portrait with Hermes' is immediately stunning. It is flawlessly rendered, with the darkest areas of charcoal reaching a
(See page 3)

MAA MEETINGS

Please note that a museum visit to the National Gallery of Art on February 20, 2010 AT 10:00 AM will serve as our February meeting.

MAA members are invited to join in during The National Gallery of February museum visit. The tour will focus on the "Robert and Jane Meyerhoff Collection Selected Works" and will take place on Saturday February 20th at 10:00 AM. We will meet at the 4th Street information desk of the East Building. (Additional information inside).

The nearest Metro stops are Judiciary Square on the Red Line, Archives on the Yellow/Green Lines, and Smithsonian on the Blue/Orange Lines.

The National Gallery of Art, located on the National Mall between 3rd and 7th Streets at Constitution Avenue NW, is open Monday through Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Sunday from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Now that we have all survived the demands on our time during the holiday season, it's time to start thinking about spending more time on our art. We have had some evidence in recent days that warmer weather will be here soon which will lead many of you outside to paint nature's changing landscape. With that urge to be productive will come an equal urge to show your art and, hopefully, sell some.

We were very fortunate to get some useful advice from our January speaker about ways to be more successful with our respective art. The article summarizing Jane Preece's major points will serve as a guide to all of us. I encourage you to think about her suggestions and apply them to your art.

This is also the season to think about classes to improve our techniques and to pursue opportunities in shows and competitions. If you need any special encouragement, remember that our Friendship Heights Show will be coming up in May. Please also note that as part of the Show, we will be featuring an exhibit of Rita Moscato's work as a special tribute to her. That will be a very nice feature of our show and one which we will all look forward to. I encourage everyone to begin thinking about creating new work for their entries to the show as well as the Red, White and Blue Show that will follow shortly thereafter. Millie Shott has set the pickup from our members show and the drop-off for her Red, White and Blue Show on the same day to encourage our members to participate. Let's all take advantage of her clever scheduling that only requires one trip. As a reminder, the Chevy Chase Women's Club show is coming up March 26-28. Contact the Club for delivery details.

As happens frequently, we had an opportunity arise at the end of January to have a brief two-week show at Kensington Framing and Design. I have included some photos from that show and want to thank Vicky Surles for her work in making that happen on such short notice. As noted in the Dates To Remember, we will also be showing At KFD in April. The work must be in wood frames. Jason, the owner and manager, has great deals on pre-made frames but can also customize a frame for your art.

Finally, please note that a number of our members are having individual or group shows in the coming weeks. I encourage everyone to take advantage of the invitation to see your fellow artist's work.

In the months to come, we will continue to offer you interviews, art show reviews, customized articles prepared for us by area artists, and, of course, practical information that keeps you informed about events of interest to you. That's what makes membership in our association so valuable.

Thanks for listening.

Laura-Leigh

Laura-Leigh Palmer
Owner/Designer
asap graphics
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301-942-1121

Kensington Framing and Design Reception



Outwin Boochever

(From page 1)

velvety richness. Everything is infused with a delicate softness that makes the image a joy to ponder. As we study the image we are able to wonder about the four objects/symbols in the picture: the figure, a bust of Hermes, the artist's camera which has been used to capture this image, and a coin in the artist's hand. The camera is the closest object to us and is in sharpest focus. Is this a statement about modernity? The figure sits behind the camera

'Pat' by Peg Trezevant

This close up on a man's face is a remarkable tour-de-force in acrylic. The medium of acrylic, originally born from the craft of sign painting, has been used here as deftly as any oil glazing painter to convey the translucency of the skin of an elderly man. We are shown the skin as a thin cellophane that can barely conceal spider veins and burst blood vessels beneath. Liver spots, wrinkles, and wispy thin hair complete our understanding of this man. "The marks and patinas of its days, some earned and some stamped there."

'Dressy Bessy Takes a Nap' by Adam Vinson

This oil painting, modest in scale, is perhaps the most facile of the entire show--quite a distinction considering the company. However, for all its technical virtuosity it is a less interesting image than its Third Place Award may allude to. The objects--the figure, a magnifying glass, and a raggedy doll--seem almost arbitrarily placed. The figure stares up and out of the picture's realm. She rests her head on the magnifying glass which is held in her bent arm. The doll-Bessy we can assume- is laid

unceremoniously on the sitter's lap. They are surely meant as symbols, but not nearly as smartly arranged as Kate Sammon's or, to another level,

Vermeer's. 'Laura' by Dave Woody

This C-print has been awarded the top prize in the show. With this distinction comes the honor of being commissioned by the gallery to execute a portrait that will be made a part of the permanent collection. The photo is beautiful in its setup and printing; its color is subtle and searching; its focus is impeccably controlled. In opposition to this technical bravura is the absolute banality of its subject. The girl is pretty in an unastounding sort of way (she most resembles actress Natalie Portman), but she offers us nothing more than that. By all accounts she is just a girl, and perhaps that is the brilliance of this image. In an era of Facebook, Twitter, and reality television, the elevation of ordinary to celebrity is a curiously quick slippery slope.

'Dad' by Stanley Rayfield

A large black man stares out at us. His plaid flannel shirt is completely unbuttoned to reveal a massive torso marked with scars. He looks down on us with his one good eye; the other is hidden behind a black eye patch. His goatee is visible underneath the tubes of a respirator. A hospital bed sneaks in to the bottom corner of the picture. And a too-nice-for-a-hospital clock and curtain allude to this scene almost feeling like home,



'Pat' by Peg Trezevant



'Dressy Bessy Takes a Nap' by Adam Vinson

an indication that this man has been here so often the line between institution and abode have been blurred.

We may have already decided what this portrait says about its subject--we would be wrong. The man depicted in this painting is not some gangster who drifts in and out of hospitals being mended at taxpayers' expense only to tempt fate on the streets again. He is a diabetic, and he is the artist's father, the painter's hero. One of the great abilities of painting, or any visual medium, is to confront expectation with a deeper truth. This piece is especially poignant today when, on the heels of our first black president, we may be on the precipice of further combating racism.

Notable Others

What portrait show would be complete without those sweet devotional images of friends, family, and mentors? These pieces do not try to blaze any new territory in the development of portraiture through the ages, they simply mark the time during which they were created.. If anything, it is their subject matter that is most intriguing. A grown man shown in his cub scout uniform smiling like a little boy; an angst-ridden teen who

hides his hands in his oversized sleeves; a former marine, cop, SWAT member who's bald head and nothing else is depicted.* While you're in the gallery, you may also wish to stop by the adjacent America's Presidents exhibition to view the recently installed George W. Bush portrait. And on your way out be sure to stop by the second floor south stairwell to view 2007 Portrait Competition winner David Lenz' portrait of Eunice Kennedy--doubly poignant given the artist's son's disability as well as Mrs. Kennedy's recent passing.

National Portrait Gallery
800 F Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001
(202) 633-1000
npg.si.edu

Hours: Daily 11:30am-7pm

Admission is free

Public Transportation:
Gallery Place/Chinatown - on the Red line- the use of Metro is encouraged as there is very little parking available in this area.

HELPFUL ARTIST SERVICES TIPS

In the coming months, we will provide information on services of interest to MAA members. This month we present two such tips. One is for framing services and the other is for artist supplies.

West Charlton Frame Company

This frame company, located just outside Albany, New York, is a great resource for painters. They offer a wide range of frames, mats and other framing supplies. They prepare your order and it arrives already assembled (including the glass where applicable) and ready to place on your artwork. The most impressive things about West Charlton are the personal service and the free shipping for your orders. Barbara and Dave Bacigalupo have a website for viewing product offerings but they prefer to deal with their customers personally, by phone on the toll-free number. Orders are taken quickly and shipping is prompt. They can be reached at 1-888-569-5571. The website address is: www.westcharltonframe.com

ULINE.COM

As we heard from Jane Preece, the speaker at the January meeting, notecards and greeting cards are a great way to get images of your artwork out to the public. One of the special products you need when doing cards are the protective polybags. Uline has a wide variety of poly bag sizes with re-sealable tabs. This allows the artist to insert single cards or sets of cards as needed. The customer can take one out and reseal to protect the rest of the cards. A carton of 1000- 6 x 9 1.5 mil bags is \$33.00 plus shipping. To access Uline, go to : www.uline.com. Click on polybags.

Nods to Newcomers

We are happy to announce that MAA has gained two new members in January—**Sara Sennett** and **Craig Whitt**. Sara is a local artist who has been active at the Yellow Barn Studio and had her art juried into the December Friends of the Yellow Barn Art Show. Sara decided to join MAA after attending the Kensington Labor Day Show at the Armory. Craig is rejoining MAA after an approximately five-year absence. He is an avid gardener and painter. Craig also works in clay. He rejoined our organization after attending the January meeting and realizing how valuable membership can be. Please welcome both Sara and Craig to our diverse artists' community.

Sara Sennett

4607 Derussey Pky.
Chevy Chase, MD. 20815
301-951-9843
sara.sennett@verizon.net
Watercolor painter

Craig Whitt

19435 Brassie Place, Apt 201
Montgomery Village, MD 20886
301-330-4985

Monthly Meetings

January 2010- SUMMARY

At the January 13th MAA meeting, we were fortunate to have Jane Preece as our guest presenter. Preece is an award-winning artist and teacher in Montgomery County. She is also the curator for the art shows at the Sandy Spring Museum Art Gallery and teaches at the Rossmore Art Guild.

Jane's excellent presentation included an extensive list of tips for promoting and selling one's art. She also spoke about her favorite business: painting pet portraits. The points she stressed were:

- Join local art groups. MAA is a good start! Show your art often.
- Develop a personal style. People will learn to recognize your work. Do something different with your art to distinguish you from others.
- Write your name clearly on your art. Don't try to hide it in the design.
- Monitor shows promoted in national magazines and local art newsletters.
- Locally, enter the Montgomery County Fair. There is a fine arts section and a professional, judged, category.
- Network with your artist friends. They are a great source of information and inspiration.
- Utilize local newspapers to promote your art and your business.
- Develop fliers that portray your work effectively.
- Donate your artwork when the chance arises. The exposure is good.
- Show your art in public libraries and other public buildings.
- Make your own note, greeting and holiday cards featuring your art.
- Develop your own website and business cards. Make your own business cards or use a professional. Distributing cards leads to customers.
- Be careful with your pricing and base decisions on what you think is saleable.
- Pay attention to the details of your framing. A well-selected frame enhances your art.

We appreciate and thank Jane for taking time from her busy schedule to share her art

experiences and educate our members. In the coming months, we will have similarly exciting and challenging speakers and we encourage MAA members to take advantage of the opportunity.

February

Please note that a museum visit to the National Gallery of Art on February 20, 2010 AT 10:00 AM will serve as our February meeting.

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National Gallery of Art, East Building
4th and Constitution Avenue NW,
Washington, DC 20565
October 1, 2009-May 2, 2010
(Please note-these are the Museum show dates.)

Sara Becker was informed that there are no guided tours on weekends and we encourage each attendee to pick up a copy highlight information sheet. The show has been curated by style and divided among ten "theme" rooms. The Meyerhoffs collected these works in support of these individual modern artists. The works were chosen for their visual impact and some are said to be startling in their affect on the viewer.

The nearest Metro stops are Judiciary Square on the Red Line, Archives on the Yellow/Green Lines, and Smithsonian on the Blue/Orange Lines. The National Gallery of Art, located on the National Mall between 3rd and 7th Streets at Constitution Avenue NW, is open Monday through Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Sunday from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

The Robert and Jane Meyerhoff Collection: Selected Works

Ten themes-Scrape, Concentricity, Line, Gesture, Art on Art, Drip, Stripe to Zip, Figure or Ground, Monochrome, and Picture the Frame-illuminate specific works across the Robert and Jane Meyerhoff Collection. The resulting juxtapositions, often surprising and provocative, provide a new way to tell the story of postwar American art, and of a great collection. Through remarkable acuity, exhaustive study, and close relationships with the artists, the Meyerhoffs amassed one of the most outstanding private collections of modern art, with

an emphasis on six American masters: Jasper Johns, Ellsworth Kelly, Roy Lichtenstein, Brice Marden, Robert Rauschenberg, and Frank Stella, in addition to important works by other leading abstract expressionists and younger artists. A number of the ten themes center around the concern related to the material process of creation, others address issues of form and composition. Still others extend past material and formal issues to broach the self-reflexive aspects of modernist painting. The 126 paintings, sculptures, drawings, and prints include several acquisitions made after the collection was last highlighted in a major exhibition at the Gallery in 1996. All of the works in the exhibition have been donated or promised to the National Gallery of Art and continue to shape and greatly enhance the Gallery's modern and contemporary collection.

**Newsletter
submissions
for March
newsletter
due February
15th.**



From the Meyerhoff Collection

Member Art Supply Exchange

Sue Moses has been given turpentine cups that clip onto palettes (about 20 - singles and doubles) and the wood triangles for stretched canvases. She also has some pen points. She has can not use them and has thoughtfully decided that she would like to give the materials away. If you are interested, contact Sue Moses at mmoses4@verizon.net.

DATES TO REMEMBER

We will be updating "DATES TO REMEMBER" each month to keep you informed of upcoming deadlines. Deadlines will be repeated each month until the approaching due dates no longer apply. If you know of events of interest to the members, please email Michael at mfs-art@comcast.net. The last date to have material submitted is the 15th of each month.

Members might want to take note of the following due dates for submissions to the following art shows, festivals and competitions in the Washington Area. Also listed are art classes at Montgomery College.

MEMBER SHOWS

Nancy and Florence Gang
Holy Cross Hospital Art Gallery
Forest Glen Road
Silver Spring, Maryland
February 1 to March 31, 2010

MAA member Nancy Bullough cordially invites you to a "Meet the Artists" Reception on Sunday, February 7, 2010 from 2:00 pm to 4:00 PM at the Holy Cross Hospital Art Gallery featuring the artwork of Nancy and Florence Gang. Each artist will have 25 paintings in the show that will run from February 1st to March 31st. Free admission and free parking. Refreshments will be served.

Washington Metropolitan Artist's Society
Brookside Gardens
Wheaton, Maryland,
February 6 - April 3, 2010.

MAA Membership Chair, **Sandy Cepaitis** will be part of a group show with the Washington Metropolitan Artist's Society to be held at Brookside Gardens. The show runs from February 6 - April 3.

Beatrice Mellinger
VisArts Center Member
The Portfolio Gallery, 2nd Floor
155 Gibbs Street, Rockville, MD

Current through February 3, 2010.

Gallery hours: Monday-Saturday, 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM.

MAA member Beatrice Mellinger is having a solo show at the VisArts Center.

SHOWS

February

Kensington Day of the Book Festival
Sunday, April 25, 2010 • 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM

In last month's Newsletter we give you information about the Kensington Day of the Book Festival that will be held on Sunday, April 25 from 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM. MAA will have a booth at the

Book Festival and members are encouraged to submit bin work, small prints, and notecards for sale during the festival. Anyone interested in participating should contact Vicky Surles at vsurlesgraphics@comcast.net or call her at 240-604-5377. For more information, go to www.dayofthebook.com or call Eli at 301-949-9416

2010 Annual Membership Multi-Media Exhibition at Strathmore Mansion
February 27-April 10, 2010.

All entries must be delivered to the basement of the Mansion on between Friday, Feb 12, 2010 3:00 PM and 5:00 PM or Saturday, February 13, from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM.

Artists will be notified of selection results by email or phone by Feb. 19 For more information go to www.strathmore.org and click on Fine Arts.

Bethesda Artist Market
June 12 and July 10, 2010

This Artist Market is sponsored annually by the Bethesda Urban Partnership. The event will be held at the corner of Old Georgetown Road and Woodmont Avenue in downtown Bethesda on June 12 and July 10. To download the application, go to www.bethesda.org. The deadline is February 19, 2010

Artpark2010,
Columbia Festival of the Arts
Columbia, Maryland

<http://columbiainfestival.com/2010artParkform.aspx>

Application Due Date: February 22, 2010

This juried, invitational show to be held in June is seeking artisans with original work representing a wide variety of media including functional and wearable art. ArtPark2010 is part of LakeFest, a three-day arts festival held on the Columbia lakefront. To obtain a copy of the application go to <http://columbiainfestival.com/2010artParkform.aspx> and click on the Download button provided on the site.

Art At The Mill, Spring, 2010
Millwood, Virginia

Due Date: Entries must be postmarked by February 26, 2010

Go to www.clarkehistory.org and click Art At The Mill for details.

Bethesda Painting Awards

The Bethesda Painting Awards is an annual juried competition. It will be awarding up to \$14,000 in awards to four finalists in the 2010 Bethesda Painting Awards. The competition is open to painters Maryland, Virginia and Washington, DC. To download the application, go to www.bethesda.org. The deadline is February 26, 2010.

March

62nd Annual Open Juried Art Show
Chestertown Arts League

March 21-April 11, 2010. Entries must be postmarked no later than March 1, 2010. March 14 is the drop-off date. For more information and application call 410-778-5789 or email

artsleague@verizon.net or go to www.chestertownartsleague.com and click on "Events".

1st Annual Annapolis Arts and Crafts Festival Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium Annapolis, Maryland

This is a debut event. The organizers are seeking artists for this new event which will be held on June 12-13 2010. Over 200 artists/crafters are expected to participate. They will be working in a variety of media. This is a two-day outdoor event. For information, contact 410-263-4012; info@annapolisartsandcraftsfestival.com or go to www.annapolisartsandcraftsfestival.com and click on "For Artists". Deadline is March 1.

Plein-Air Easton 2010 Avalon Foundation 40 East Dover Street Easton, Maryland

Entries are due by 5:00 PM on March 6, 2010. Entries may be submitted either online at www.pleinaireaston.com or by mail at Plein Air Easton, C/O Avalon Foundation, 40 East Dover Street, Easton, Maryland, 21601.

VMRC 2010 Juried Multimedia Art Exhibition May 28-June 20, 2010

The purpose of this exhibition is to showcase working artists. A diversity of works will be displayed that demonstrate mastery of technique, originality and exceptional presentation subject matter. Over \$4,000 in prizes awarded. No commission will be charged for sales. Submit 5 x 7 or 4 x 6 photos of each work to be exhibited. Entries are due March 25, 2010. For more information, go to www.vmmc.org/artexhibition or email artexhibit@vmmc.org. Reminders of Upcoming Shows:

Two regular events sponsored through the Montgomery Art Association will be coming up in the Spring. Keep these events on your arts calendar. Details of each will be forthcoming as the dates get closer.

April: MAA Members Show can exhibit their art at "Kensington Frame and Design".

May: MAA Members exhibit their work at Friendship Heights.

CLASSES

Montgomery College Rockville Campus

MAA Member Dan Ranhart would like to remind everyone that Montgomery College's Rockville Campus will be offering a series of Weekend Open Drawing and Painting classes between January 29 and May 16. The following is a list of offerings:

Friday Night Portrait Group, 6:00 – 9:00 PM Art Building, Room 405. This one starts on Friday February 5. Dan Ranhart

MAA Board for 2009-2010

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OPEN

MONTGOMERY ART ASSOCIATION



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will be attending.

Saturday Sketch Group, 9:30 AM – 12:30 PM, Art Building, Room 301

Sunday Life Study Group, Figure Study/Short Poses, 9:30 AM – 12:30 PM, Art Building, Room 301

Sunday Figure Painting Group, Long Pose, 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM, Art Building, Room 405

For more information call 240-567-1775 or go to sumita.kim@montgomerycollege.edu. Professor Kim is the Weekend Art Group Coordinator. No sessions will be held on Friday March 19, Saturday, March 20 or Sunday March 21.