

MONTGOMERY ART ASSOCIATION

MAA News



MAA JANUARY MEETING

The first MAA program evening for 2011 will be on Wednesday January 12th.

We will be viewing the DVD by Skip Lawrence, "The Secrets of Color: Value, Hue & Intensity." Skip Lawrence is a nationally recognized painter, author, and teacher who will provide in this DVD, powerful design tools that every artist needs to understand to consistently create beautiful, heartfelt paintings.

As usual, the meeting will be held at the Plaza Art store at 1594B Rockville Pike. The store is located on the east side of Rockville Pike, Rte 355, between Halpine Road and Congressional Lane in the same shopping center with Pier 1 and Fuddrucker's. Phone 301-770-0500. Ample parking is available.

The Birth of A Gallery

If you are one of those people who doubt the value of networking, then the recent birth of the MAA Art Gallery at Westfield Wheaton Mall might help change your view completely. What follows is the story of how a small idea blossomed into something larger than anyone involved ever imagined. And--it all started because of community networking.

Back in the summer, members of MAA—**Vicky Surles** and **Laura-Leigh Palmer**--were attending the regular meetings of the Wheaton Chamber of Commerce as part of their efforts to stay informed about what was going on in the community. The meetings were part of their "day job" responsibilities but they affected their art world as well. As a result of those contacts, a September 13 meeting was arranged between MAA President **Cathy Hirsh** and Westfield Malls

Marketing Manager **Sidney Woods**. Woods expressed his interest in creating an "art in the mall" event for the 2010 Christmas Holidays. At that initial meeting, Cathy asked if there were any empty storefronts that might be used as a gallery. Woods was immediately enthusiastic but said he would have to talk to Westfield's property managers to see what was possible. At that point, regular discussions began about organizing a Holiday Art Fair at Westfield Wheaton Mall. At a subsequent meeting that month with Cathy, Woods showed her the storefront for the first time. It was not a pretty sight.

Being a good organizer, Cathy quickly got others on the MAA Board involved in the project as part of an MAA Board Meeting on October 12. The Board gave its approval for the Holiday Art
(See page 2)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

A new year and a new venture—the MAA Gallery in the Westfield Wheaton Mall. I still can't believe it! And it is so beautiful. If you haven't seen it yet, come by—the Gallery is currently open Thursday-Saturday, noon to 8 pm and Sunday, 1-5 pm. And figure out for yourself how you can take advantage of this new sales venue and how you can help make it the KEY local art destination for the county! That is truly our goal—nothing less. It is ambitious, but I'm convinced with all of our efforts, we can make it happen.

Just getting the Gallery ready was an amazing challenge. Less than 3 weeks from the time we got the key, November 19, to the opening December 7. The feature article this month is "Birth of a Gallery," and it describes what had to be done. When we first saw the condition of the space, "daunting" is an understatement. I helped as much as I could before my long-scheduled family trip, but it was others, especially **Michael Shibley** and **Elizabeth Stecher**, who got it completed. And at the same time as the work needed to be done to get the Art Fair together! Truly wonderful efforts and commitment. My thanks to all who helped.

When I got to see the Gallery for the first time I couldn't believe how much was done. Things I had expected would have to be done later were instead completed. We had a fully re-furnished space with supplies, procedures, and everything else needed! Didn't even need to get paper clips! Wow!

While getting the Gallery together was a challenge, now the real hard part begins—getting the word out, building and maintaining the clientele, operating the gallery, etc. There's a reason standard galleries charge 50% commission—it is not a routinely easy business.

Another article, "FAQ: the MAA Gallery," provides answers to some common questions. As you'll see, there's much still left to figure out—especially with regard to marketing, mall outreach activities, and gallery operations.

WE NEED YOU! First, to help figure out how we want to go about our efforts and second, to help do the effort needed and provide ongoing feedback on how to improve. We will be holding working sessions in January to focus on the most critical areas. Look to your email to learn more about these meetings—please come and contribute your ideas and effort. It's your Gallery!

Marketing (getting the word out) is especially important, and there you can all help immediately. We had one visitor—no, he's now a client since he bought things!—who said he stopped by after he saw an announcement in his neighborhood listserv.

Something so simple, yet it resulted in a visit and a sale. And he will also be an advocate for us. He was very pleased that the Gallery exists and that it is for, and operated by, local artists. Visitors in general are very pleased to know the products are from local artists. The MAA Gallery is unique in the region, and there is an eagerness to see art by local artists and to support them. So, get notice out to all of your neighborhood listservs, your friends, and however else you can personally get the word out!

Second, make sure all of your artist friends know about the Gallery and encourage them to become members of MAA and

participants in the Gallery. Getting the Gallery going is like building a snowball—the more we build clientele and participants, the more people will know about it, the more we will attract new visitors and ultimately, clients, and new members, etc. etc.

Finally, I want to acknowledge the wonderful staff of the Westfield Wheaton Mall. They approached us with the idea of forming a partnership with MAA in August. As part of this partnership, they've supported and worked with us on the Art Fair and on the Gallery, including making a substantial donation to help defray the costs of making the Gallery ready. They have been wonderful partners so far and I know they will be a great help in making the Gallery a success.

One final note—we will be having our first social get-together at the Gallery February 9. February is the month where our usual organizational program is a visit to a gallery downtown on a weekend date. So we will be using the normal meeting time for our social get-together at the Gallery. More about that later, but save the date. Hope you can all make it!

Til next time,
Cathy Hirsh

Gallery

(From page 1)

Fair and for continuing discussions about the storefront as a gallery. A number of additional meetings took place over the weeks that followed as MAA and Westfield Mall discussed the logistics and production of the Holiday Art Fair to be held December 10-12. As

November approached, the discussion broadened as Sidney Woods suggested that the storefront might be available. Now things really became complicated as the ideas began to flow about how that idea might be able to enhance the Art Fair and provide MAA with future opportunities. Meanwhile, the planning for the Art Fair moved ahead.

Lo and behold, on November 17th, Sidney contacted Cathy and told her that the space would not be leased. He asked if MAA would like to meet with him to look at the space again and decide what, if anything, might be done. That's where the fun started.

Sidney took a group of MAA Board Members including **Cathy Hirsh, Sandy Cepaitis, Vicky Surles, Elizabeth Stecher** and me into the abandoned storefront. The space had been a photograph-
(See page 3)



Cathy adds a final coat —almost.

Gallery

(From page 2)

ic portrait shop for 17 years. The closing of the adjacent Hecht Company store in 2006 caused a drop in business. The shop decided to let its lease expire. That was approximately three years ago in 2007. The condition of the store was horrendous to the point that the Mall had painted the windows and hung black curtains over the door so that passersby—including many daily “mall walkers” could not see into the space.

When Sidney raised the gate and pulled back the black curtain, the expressions on the faces of the MAA members reflected “shock and awe” to use a formerly popular phrase.

The walls in the front half of the store were bright yellow while the back half was painted black. The ceiling tiles in the rear half were painted bright yellow and dark blue. Many holes in the walls made the space look even worse. And, the smell of photographic chemicals was almost overwhelming. However, the imagination of a group of artists should never be underestimated. After a lengthy discussion, the group decided that it was worth trying to recover the space and return it to a useful purpose—the MAA Art Gallery.

Over the ensuing weeks leading up to the Holiday Art Fair, several MAA members devoted many hours to stripping and painting furniture, painting walls and ceilings (yes, even the ceiling), pulling up carpet, and making the bathroom useable. The Westfield Wheaton Management staff—as well as the daily “mall walkers” and the proprietors of adjacent shops watched with great interest the comings and goings that surrounded the renovation effort. After many days and twelve gallons of white paint, the place started to take shape. There was, however, one enormous problem. The carpet was stained and torn and it became clear that no amount of cleaning was going to rescue that carpet. So, Cathy Hirsh made a presidential decision with the advice and consent of those Board Members present that bids should be solicited for replacing the carpet. It was clear that no one would come into the new gallery with the floor in such poor condition. So, on December 1, Empire Carpet came and replaced the old stained



Dirty carpet and the blinds.



Elizabeth using the Kilz to prep for painting.



Covering the yellow paint.



The new carpet is installed.

carpet. What a difference!! At that point, preparations went into high gear to get the space organized for the Holiday Art Fair. The Westfield Mall management was so excited by what had been done that they pushed for a Grand Opening of the gallery prior to beginning of the Holiday Art Fair. A panic call went out to gather as much art as could be quickly delivered. The intrepid members of MAA responded and on Tuesday, December 7, the Grand Opening of the MAA Gallery took place. Westfield Mall provided the food and beverage and a nice crowd of members and Westfield Management staff enthusiastically browsed the Gallery and admired what MAA had done in a very short time.

At the Grand Opening, I asked Sidney Woods the following question. “Did you ever really think when we began working that MAA would turn this dreadful space into such a beautiful Gallery?” His answer was a simple—“Never.” In appreciation of what MAA has done, Westfield Properties will be donating \$2,000 to MAA in recognition and appreciation for the work that was

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Art gallery view into the mall.

Gallery

(From page 3)

done. They believe that this can be the beginning of a longstanding relationship between MAA and Westfield.

The Gallery is now in full operation with hours of 12-8 PM Thursday through Saturday and 1-5 on Sundays. Any member of MAA whose dues are current is entitled to hang his or her work in the Gallery. Those who hang their work must also agree to gallery sit during the hours of operation. Since the opening came so quickly, a lot of operating policies governing participation are still

under discussion by the Board. Soon, all members will be notified of the operating procedures. (See the FAQ in this issue).

If you have not yet seen the Gallery, it would be worth your time to visit and see how a simple conversation at a neighborhood meeting in October blossomed into such an unusual opportunity for MAA and its members.

A special thanks to President **Cathy Hirsh** whose determination to get the Gallery open was inspirational. And thanks to **Elizabeth Stecher, Sara Becker, Alejandra Hucek, Laura-Leigh Palmer** for their time and dedication to making it happen. Additional thanks to Laura-Leigh for the photos that accompany this article.

— **Michael Shibley-Editor**



Judith at the Young Artist Corner.

The Holiday Art Fair, Wheaton Westfield Mall

FAQ:

The MAA Gallery

Below are common questions asked in the short time the Gallery has been open. All things are not yet resolved. Your help is needed to address new areas, refine existing approaches, etc. Please contact Cathy Hirsh, Michael Shibley, or Elizabeth Stecher to help. We will be having meetings during January to address critical activities and determine next steps. Periodic meetings to review operations will be held also. There are lots of opportunities to participate and have an impact on this exciting new (ad)venture.

- ▶ **Who may exhibit in the Gallery?**
Any MAA member whose dues are current.
- ▶ **What may be shown in the Gallery?**
Currently, we have original paintings (including miniatures), giclees, cards, sculpture, and glass mosaics. Paintings are both on the walls and in bins. If there is other suggested content, let us know. We can review.
- ▶ **Are members required to "gallery sit" if their work is on display?**
Yes, absolutely. Currently, we are asking for 2 shifts of 4 hours/month. That's not a lot of time.
- ▶ **Is there an entry cost for showing in the Gallery?**
No, just that your dues be current and that the sitting obligation be met. MAA will take 25% commission on sales.
- ▶ **How many "sitters" should be in the Gallery at one time?**
Two.
- ▶ **What is the procedure for signing up to gallery sit?**
For the time being, email Michael Shibley, who is maintaining the signup sheet. We are working on having the sign-up sheet available online.
- ▶ **Do we have written procedures for opening and closing the Gallery, conducting sales, etc.?**
Yes, there is a binder with material explaining what is to be done for opening, sales and closing. These will be refined over time as necessary (suggestions welcome!), but they seem adequate right now.
- ▶ **What days of the week will the Gallery be open?**
Our current hours are Thursday-Saturday, noon to 8pm and Sunday 1-5 pm. These are the busiest traffic periods in the mall.
- ▶ **How often and when will artists get paid for work that is sold?**
Accounts will be reviewed at the end of the month so artists should receive their money probably in the first week of the month following the sale.
- ▶ **How long will individual pieces be on display?**
We are evaluating this because of the effort involved in changing whole shows. We may choose to rotate work on display, introducing new pieces gradually rather than doing a full show change each month. However it is done, it is essential we have the Gallery looking significantly different (or have something else happening) in the Gallery often so that visitors will keep coming. If they pass by and the Gallery looks essentially the same as it did before, they won't come in again. To use some retail lingo, we have to keep "the buzz" going!
- ▶ **How will members be notified that new works are needed?**
Watch your email. In fact, we are anticipating there will be frequent email communications related to the Gallery in between since the newsletters are monthly. Repeat—watch your email.
- ▶ **Who will decide what is shown in the Gallery?**
A team of members will be responsible for hanging when the entire show is changed, and they will hang as many pieces as possible while still maintaining a professional look. Please indicate your availability to help hang when you send in the information about your work for display. Besides the work displayed, works will also be kept in reserve to have pieces to replace those sold or to do a partial rotation of the display in between full show changes.
- ▶ **What is being done for publicity and marketing?**
We have taken some initial actions, but this is a critical area where help is needed. Please do what you can to get the word out across your contacts, neighborhood listservs, etc. Just because the Gallery is in Wheaton does not mean our target customers are only in the Wheaton area. The Gallery is unique and should be able to attract interest across the county and the larger metropolitan area. Remember our goal is to be the key destination in the area to see and buy work from local artists. People are interested in seeing the work of and supporting local artists and local scenes are popular. We've heard that time and again from people visiting the Gallery.
Marketing is an area where we will be conducting meetings soon to develop plans and actions. Please let us know if you can help, particularly, but not only, if you have publicity or marketing experience. All ideas and enthusiastic activity right now—getting the word out.

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FAQ:

(From page 5)

A schedule is in the works for a Gazette article. There is coverage of the opening in the online ezine, Wheaton Patch, and we are working on other press coverage. The mall is using its resources as well.

► What are some ideas for maintaining and expanding interest (“buzz”) in the Gallery?

While marketing and changing Gallery displays are essential, there are other actions or events that will help as well. This is again an area where you can help. We need to get ideas together, select some to try, and get things in place. This will evolve as we will try different things. Some will work and be continued while others might be “one-offs.” The point is we must do things to further increase traffic and maintain ongoing interest. What should we do?

Within the Gallery space, one idea is that the front window be set up for painting or other artistic work. Clearly, we have to protect the walls/carpet and do activities that are not super-messy, but having someone doing something in the front window will definitely attract interest. In fact, Pattie Curtiss did glass mosaic work one day when she was Gallery sitting, and visitors came in, chatted, and some bought. Plus Pattie got some work done!

Other ideas suggested for the Gallery—monthly receptions at set times or having a “featured artist of the month.” These ideas have to be refined before we can begin, but they are up for discussion. Additional ideas?

Outside the Gallery space, mall management has given us permission to use the space outside (the area where the Art Fair was located) for activities. Would you like to teach a class? Give a presentation? Particulars would have to be sorted out, and the area might not work for everything, but that is an idea that should be explored.

Perhaps a “paint out” in the mall? Artists could be located in the outside space or elsewhere throughout the mall. An auxiliary sales area could be set up to handle paint out pictures and other potential products.

Art activities for children (elementary to junior high) have also been suggested. These could be regularly scheduled with different or similar activities each time. They could be classes or simply fun times.

Again, let’s think broadly about how our artistic skills and interests can be used to benefit the Gallery, the mall, the larger community, and ourselves through our personal contributions. And have fun doing it!!

As we move forward, more questions will arise. We will attempt to answer them quickly. If there is a question you want to raise, please email Cathy Hirsh at hirshcathy@aol.com.

Art bins in the Gallery. ►



Painting Opportunities

Painting classes by Firouzeh Sedeghi

Watercolor and water media are available that give you the opportunity to take your painting to new levels. Firouzeh holds her group classes in several area locations. She has Saturday openings. Call her at 301-493-8322 or 1-301-266-5849. She is available via email at firouzadeg@aol.com.

Art:Oil Painting from A to Z, Instructor Vivienne Cho

Are you looking for a group to paint with on a weekly basis? Vivienne Cho, who has been teaching for many years has a devoted following of students but always has room for more. Vivienne received her Master's degree at the Rhode Island School of Design and is a wonderful and patient teacher. Beginners are welcome as well as more experienced painters who work on individually chosen projects. Here's the information to sign up. Tuesdays, Jan 11th

through March 8th, 2011 from 12:30 - 2:30 P.M. Bauer Drive Community Center, 14625 Bauer Dr. Rockville, MD 20853

All levels are welcome. Beginners explore structured lessons in composition, value, color mixing, different ways to start paintings, and exploring various oil painting techniques and materials; experienced painters can work independently. Individualized attention will be given in order to refine techniques and develop a personal style. Beginners bring sketchpad and 4B pencil or charcoal to first class. Materials discussed in the class. Experienced painters bring projects they choose to work on. Montgomery County Resident fee \$145.00 for 9 sessions. Class # 293402. Register online with the Montgomery County Recreation Department or call 240-777-6840. <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/siteHead.asp?page=http://cweb.MontgomeryCountyMD.gov/Start/>

Welcome New Members!!!

Since the publication of the December Newsletter, MAA has recruited **TEN** new members. Wow, that's amazing! We would like to welcome our many new members to the MAA community of artists. A number of existing members have renewed their memberships and we are delighted about that. Welcome back. For existing members, please remember that the life-blood of any association is its membership. Without a growing membership, we will be limited in the programs and opportunities we can offer to our mem-

bers. So, please talk to your artist friends and tell them about the wonderful opportunities like the MAA Gallery and all the other terrific MAA benefits. You would be surprised how effective you can be in getting people of like mind to join MAA. And now you have a huge recruiting tool in the Gallery. But it starts with you—the existing member. Let's see what we can do as we begin another year. *MAA—serving its members since 1954.*

Valthea McGee Fry

15149 Winesap Drive
North Potomac, MD. 20878
Iris355@hotmail.com
301-926-7084
Watercolor/fluid acrylics

Katy Hunt

10112 Meadowneck Ct.
Silver Spring, MD. 20910
katystu.hunt@gmail.com
301-565-0545
Clay and glass
Volunteered to help with shows

Susan Meyer

1013 Windmill Lane
Silver Spring, MD. 20905
susanmeyercpa.@verizon.net
301-384-4777
Watercolor

Firouzeh Sadeghi

10631 Montrose Avenue #103
Bethesda, MD 20814
firouzsadeg@aol.com
301-493-8322
Firouzeh is a watercolor teacher in the area.

See a class description elsewhere in the newsletter

Carol Knott

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cmknott1@verizon.net
301-933-0434
Watercolor

Anne Carroll

538 Beall Avenue
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301-251-9485

Lori McQueeney

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301-330-9385
Watercolor

Eileen Wilson

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Jim Burks

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jburks8@aol.com
301-231-7144
Watercolor

Suzanne Carbone

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suzanne.carbone@gmail.com
301-384-1923
Watercolor
Willing to help with shows

EDITOR'S NOTE: Due to the focus on the MAA Art Gallery in this issue, the *Famous Artists of the Month* and the *From My Perspective* features have taken a vacation but will resume in February.

Art News and Gallery Notes

This part of the newsletter is designed to provide you with art news and information about interesting shows at the many local art galleries.

Because none of the museums plan to open any new exhibits, there are few changes from last month with the exception of exhibits that have ended since December's publication. We have reprinted the list in the interest of keeping everyone informed.

If you are aware of an event, news or an exhibit, large or small, that you think would be of interest, please send an email to JULevineRN@aol.com. If going to one of the galleries you have not been to we urge that you contact the gallery or its web site to ask about directions and transportation. Many of the galleries in DC are accessible via Metro and parking can be a problem. Unless otherwise noted, admission is free.

The Corcoran Gallery of Art
510 17th Street, NW,
Washington, DC
Information: 202-639-8574

Spencer Finch: My Business, with the Cloud
September 11, 2010–January 23, 2011

Washington Color and Light
November 20, 2010–March 6, 2011
This show shines a light on the artists who comprised the Washington Color School and their contemporaries. This movement, based in Washington DC, and active between the 1950's through the

late 1970's, focused on color, abstraction, and experimentation with new materials. The first show in 1965 included Gene Davis, Thomas Downing, Morris Louis, Howard Mehring, Kenneth Noland, and Paul Reed, all of whom are included in this show. Gene Davis' enormous and exciting stripes paintings vibrate with life, Downing explores the relationships between color and space, and Reed, Mehring, and Nolan work in hard edge painting. In addition, the exhibition includes sculptures by Rockne Krebs, Ed McGowin, and Anne Truitt, Leon Berkowitz, Willem de Looper, Sam Gilliam, and Alma Thomas.

The Phillips Collection
1600 21st St., NW, Washington,
DC 20009
Information: 202-387-2151

Side by Side: Oberlin's Masterworks at the Phillips
September 11, 2010–January 16, 2011
Twenty-five significant works from the rich collection of the Allen Memorial Art Museum at Oberlin will be presented with selections from the Phillips's permanent collection. Many of the Oberlin's paintings have not been out of its collection for more than 50 years. This exhibit will allow visitors an exiting challenge

Truth/Beauty: Pictorialism and the Photograph as Art, 1845-1945
September 2010-January 9, 2011
This exhibit includes works by Stieglitz and Cameron. It looks at the changing view regarding the photograph as an art medium.

The National Gallery of Art
4th and Constitution Avenue,
NW Washington, DC
Information: 202-737-4215

The Body Inside and Out: Anatomical Literature and Art Theory
Selections from the National Gallery of Art Library
July 24, 2010–January 23, 2011

Arcimboldo, 1526–1593: Nature and Fantasy
September 19, 2010–January 9, 2011

The Pre-Raphaelite Lens: British Photography and Painting, 1848–1875
October 31, 2010–January 30, 2011

Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden
Independence Avenue at
Seventh Street SW, Washington,
DC
Information: 202-633-1000 or
202-633-5285 (TTY)

Guillermo Kuitca: Everything—Paintings and Works on Paper, 1980–2008
October 21, 2010 to January 16, 2011
Kuitca's first comprehensive survey in more than ten years is a joint effort by the Hirshhorn, the Albright-Knox Art Gallery of Buffalo, NY, and the Miami Art Museum. The show explores Kuitca's continuing growth and change from 1980 through 2008. It spans the spectrum of Kuitca's thirty-five year career; beginning with early pieces inspired by his experiences in theater, to recent complex

abstractions that show his fascination with spatial and mapping motifs. Included are pieces from all of Kuitca's major series as well as a range of his works on paper, which have played an important role in the evolution of his painting.

Directions: Cyprien Gaillard and Mario Garcia Torres
November 10, 2010 to March 27, 2011

Gaillard and Torres Mexican are conceptual artists who examine what they refer to as "the architectural and artistic "ruins" of the recent past". They investigate idealistic historical movements, exploring questions regarding convictions and achievements of today's artists, architects, and theorists and asking the viewers if they feel that these movements will prove any more enduring than those of previous generations. Both men use slide shows and videos along side of installations to present their works

The Sackler Gallery/The Freer Gallery
100 Independence Avenue, NW,
Washington, DC
Information: 202-633-1000

Shahnama: 1000 Years of the Persian Book of Kings
A retrospective of Persia (Iran) prior to the arrival of Islam.
September 2010- April 17, 2011

Fiona Tan- Rise and Fall
September 2010-January 16, 2011

Perspectives: Hai Bo
March 27, 2010–February 27, 2011

Chinamania: Whistler and the Victorian Craze for Blue-and-White

August 7, 2010–August 7, 2011

Ancient Chinese Jades and Bronzes

November 20, 2010-indefinite
Freer Gallery of Art (Galleries 18 and 19)

This collection is among the largest outside of China and has been out of public viewing for almost 10 years. It includes more than 60 astounding jade pieces from the Liangzhu Culture (ca. 3300–2250 BCE) and demonstrates its influence on other Chinese Neolithic and Bronze Age civilizations. Visitors will also be treated to more than twenty ritual bronze vessels, as well as bronze and jade works from the late Shang dynasty (ca. 1300–1050 BCE) and early Western Zhou dynasty (ca. 1050–900 BCE).

National Museum of the American Indian

Fourth Street & Independence Ave., S.W. Washington, DC 20560
Information: 202-633-1000

Vantage Point: The Contemporary Native Art Collection

September 25, 2010-August 7, 2011

This exhibit offers the public an opportunity to see the views of past and present through the eyes of Native Americans. It is a contemporary view by young artists from across the United States.

R.C. Gorman: Early Prints and Drawings, 1966–1974

January 13, 2011–May 1, 2011
NMAI on the National Mall, Washington, DC

Twenty eight drawings and lithographs by Navajo artist R.C. Gorman (1931–2005). The

exhibition includes the artist's early work with the nude, and foreshadows the "madonnas" that would bring Gorman international acclaim. "I deal with the common woman who smells of the fields and maize. She lives and breathes... My women work and walk on the land. They need to be strong to survive. They have big hands, strong feet. They are soft and strong like my grandmother who gave me life".

Renwick Gallery

1661 Pennsylvania Ave NW, Washington, DC
Information: (202) 633-7970

A Revolution in Wood: The Bresler Collection

September 2010-January 30, 2011

Features 66 works by noted wood carvers from a collection presented to the Smithsonian by Fleur and Charles Bresler.

The Art of Gaman: Arts and Crafts from the Japanese American Internment Camps, 1942-1946

March 5, 2010 - January 30, 2011

The National Portrait Gallery/Smithsonian American Art Museum

8th and F. Street NW., Washington DC
Information: 202-633-1000 (voice tape)

The National Portrait Gallery (NPG) and the Smithsonian American Art Museum (SAAM) both contain many permanent exhibits that easily allow for many visits. These two connected galleries, which are part of the Smithsonian Institute, form a national treasure of American paintings and sculpture. The buildings just reopened recently

after a nearly 6 year renovation which has restored them to the original states. This included restoration of the exquisite stained glass windows in both ceilings and walls, and the repair of the beautiful floor and wall tilings.

**Hide and Seek: Difference and Desire in American Portraiture
October 30, 2010 - February 13, 2011**

This exhibit follows the changing attitudes towards sexuality and gender in the United States as it related to making portraits. The collection opens in the 19th century paintings by Eakins and Sargent and continues through the end of the 20th century with portraits including such noted artists as Haring and Hockney. It is the first exhibit of its kind and is backed and supported by an indemnity from the Federal Council on the Arts and the Humanities.

**Alexis Rockman: A Fable for Tomorrow
November 19, 2010 – May 8, 2011 -3rd floor North,
American Art Museum**

Rockman has been fascinated by and painting the natural world for over two decades. In the 47 works in this show, Rockman explores environmental issues, expressing his concern with the effects of everything from genetic engineering to climate change. He uses that range from fact to fantasy, natural history to science fiction films, and his own first-hand field study. The first retrospective of his work extends from his early work in the 1980's to present works.

National Museum of Women in the Arts

1250 New York Avenue, N.W. Washington, DC 20005-3970
Information: 202-783-5000, 1-800-222-7270

Lois Mallou Jones: A Life in Vibrant Color

October 9, 2010-January 9, 2011

This retrospective contains more than 70 works by this exceptional artist. Jones, who was also a professor of at Howard University, used her amazing talent to speak to social issues relating to African-Americans and to Haitians. The works vibrate with her intense colours and the passion of her commitment to the struggles she served during her 75 years.

Other Shows

Black Rock Center for the Arts

12901 Town Commons Drive Germantown, MD 20874
Information: 301.528.2260 (administrative offices)

Regular Shows On Local Artists

Holy Cross Community Art Gallery

Holy Cross Hospital 1500 Forest Glen Road Silver Spring |

Anne Cherubim- The Recycled Art Project

November 2010-January 15, 2011

Glenview Mansion Art Gallery

Glenview Mansion at Rockville Civic Center Park
603 Edmonston Drive, Rockville, Maryland 20851
for information, call 240-314-8682 or 240-314-8660.

Another Successful MAA Holiday Party!!

The annual MAA holiday party was an enjoyable evening and sumptuous pot-luck feast at the Kensington Town Hall this year. Our honorees, **Elizabeth Stecher** and **Harold Davidson** shared some of their past memorable experiences with the Montgomery Art organization. In addition to the door prizes donated by Plaza Art the winners of the Holiday card contest received awards. The winners are **Natalie Falk** and **Vicky Surles** tied for first and **Sue Moses** took third place. Many thanks go to **Marian MacKerer, Marta Teigeiro, Anna Shuman, Natalie Falk** and

Judith Levine for help with the party planning. See you at the next MAA program on Wednesday January 12th.

MAA offers a special thanks to **Sara Becker** for her stellar work in organizing the Holiday Party. It was a lot of work but it paid off in a very successful event. Thanks, Sara!! Happy New Year!!



MAA Member Art Display

Melvin L. Bazensky, owner of Table & Chairs, at White Flint Mall would like to change over the artwork for sale in his store. Requirements are that artwork be of large size, 20 or 24 inches on the shortest side and not priced over \$700.00. There is a contract each artist must sign and his commission will be 25%. If you are interested in this opportunity, contact Sara Becker at thebeckers6400@verizon.net or 301-216-0861.

We will be hanging the

exhibit on a weeknight, most likely in early-mid January. Tables & Chairs is located at 11301 Rockville Pike, White Flint Shopping Center, North Bethesda, MD, 20895.

Tables and Chairs sells high quality dining furniture and has an amazing selection that can be ordered to your personal specifications. Just ask Sara Becker who enjoys her dining set every day of the week. Please tell your friends and neighbors who might be in need of new tables and chairs!

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Submissions for the next MAA newsletter are due January 15th.