

MONTGOMERY ART ASSOCIATION

MAA News

Urban Art In Jerusalem

Planning for a recently completed trip to Israel opened the door for exposure to the exotic and the unfamiliar through different foods, different culture, different customs and, certainly historic and archeological experiences. All of that was true as was exposure to the art of the Middle East. Following the approach taken by Sharon Callagy's recent article on the art of St. Petersburg, I thought it would be interesting to share my art experiences while in Israel.

Our visit to Israel began with a tour of the mountainous northern part of the country where the art reflected the largely agricultural and undeveloped nature of the area. Paintings in the galleries were mostly landscapes depicting the natural beauty of that region. The mountains and adjacent Mediterranean Sea or the Sea of Galilee seemed to influence the local art. Because of the fabulous historical character of the area that has been inhabited by Romans, Egyptians, Jews, Arabs, Crusaders, Turks and others, the depiction of historical scenes was not uncommon either. In the small town of Tzfat, (also known as Safed) we met a local artist whose glasswork



The Machane Yehuda Market

and watercolor paintings were on display in her gallery. Her work tended toward the abstract but she also had an interest in portraiture that was very loose and painterly. We discussed different painting techniques including pouring of watercolor onto the paper to create special effects. She had not heard of the technique so we exchanged business cards

and I promised to send her some information. She saw it as a possibility for incorporating the technique into her work. We purchased a giclee print of one her paintings and anxiously await its arrival in the mail. It was a productive afternoon for all.

After completing four days of touring the north, we began to make our way south and

MAA FEBRUARY MEETING

By popular vote, the February monthly MAA meeting will be a gallery visit. We will go to the National Gallery of Art on Saturday, February 19 to view the Chester Dale Collection. We will meet at the West Building Information Desk at 10:30 A.M.

(See page 4.)

began our drive up the hills into Jerusalem where the contentious nature of all of the religious and archeological history of that small piece of land comes to life. Not surprisingly, the art in the local galleries focused upon the Old City, its architecture and its historical, religious significance and the vast cultural diversity of the city. The walled city and, more specifically, the Western Wall, the Dome of the Rock, and the Church of the Holy Sepulchre are prominent subjects. The art displayed in the local galleries included modern abstract interpretations, familiar religious imagery, and historical record paintings mostly in oils and acrylics. One family of artists we encountered in a local shop

(See page 2)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I hope all of you are holding up well this winter. For me, January is always the longest month. Now we're into February so I know that spring is not too far away!

We had a busy January—the meeting on January 12 with the Skip Lawrence video, the new shows at the Gallery and at Table and Chairs, and the reception at the Gallery on the 16th.

It was also busy on the PR front. Our Facebook page now has an official url: [/www.facebook.com/MontgomeryArtAssociation](http://www.facebook.com/MontgomeryArtAssociation).

This is a big accomplishment. Thanks to Victoria Squire for her hard work in making this happen! We will be working with Victoria to include more information about MAA news and events. This is an important communication tool for the members.

Laura-Leigh Palmer continues to make improvements to the MAA website. And, the MAA Gallery was featured on the front page with a color photo in the Gazette for Silver Spring, Burtonsville, Takoma Park, and Wheaton! If you haven't seen the article, you can find it at:

www.gazette.net/stories/01192011/takonew211726_32533.php

We are definitely seeing the impact of the article with folks coming into the Gallery saying they were visiting because of it—and with some sales and promises to be back! We have also had at least one new member join when she learned about MAA and the Gallery from the Gazette article.

As we look to February, we have another busy month ahead. I really want to encourage you to come to our first social get-together at the Gallery on February 9, 6:30 – 8:30 pm. For those of you who have not gotten to the Gallery before—here is a special chance! And feel free to bring a friend, member or not!

Maybe they will join like the person mentioned earlier.

Besides the meet-and-greet social get-together, we'll have two activities—a valentine card contest and the drawing for the Gallery's featured artist for the months of March and April. So bring your valentine card to the meeting and make sure your name is in the "featured artist drawing box" before we do the drawing that evening. See the sidebar to learn more about the Gallery's Featured Artist opportunity.

The following weekend is also busy. Saturday, February 12 and Sunday, February 13 we'll be offering a "young artists valentine activity" outside the Gallery from 12 noon to 5 pm. Please volunteer to help. We'll have two, 2 ½ hour shifts each day. Just send me an email (hirshcathy@aol.com) to sign up.

Sunday, February 13, from 5:00 to 6:00 PM will also be the first drop-off/pick-up time for the February Gallery show. A second window will be available on Monday, 10 am to 12 noon. We'll hang the show Monday afternoon and the opening reception will be the following Sunday, February 20, 1 to 5 pm.

If you haven't shown in the Gallery yet, make February your month to do it. It's a great venue and a wonderful opportunity for MAA members!!

Also, later in the month, we'll have our annual field trip to a downtown museum. The gallery event will be Saturday, February 19 at 10:30 AM at the National Gallery of Art. See the announcement from Sara Becker elsewhere in the newsletter for more information. This is always a fun time and an opportunity to share insights with other artists as you view an exhibit together.

Stay warm, and I'll hope to see you at one of these events!!

Cathy

Urban Art

(From page 1)

produces very detailed paper cuts of Jerusalem scenes. The father does the designs and the intricate laser cutting of the delicate watercolor paper. The daughter paints the designs in watercolor while the mother runs the gallery. You won't be surprised to learn that we purchased a paper cut design and will find a good place for it in our home. The other predominant technique seemed to be digital art applied to large canvases. I must say that the approach left me somewhat unmoved but I mention it

because it seemed to be fairly popular with other tourists.

The most interesting approach to me, however, was the use of the "trompe l'oeil" technique by an artist from Lyon, France to depict scenes of Jerusalem in very large urban art murals on the sides of buildings in both the old and the new city. Some of them are as much as five stories high. The realism and level of detail is amazing. I saw the first one on a casual walk through the neighborhoods. While participating
(See page 3)



Stocking Up

Urban Art

(From page 1)

participating in a walking tour of the Old City, I learned that a French artist from Lyon—Gilbert Codin—and his group known as “Cite de la Creation” has produced several similar scenes that connect the past and the present with the future.

The “trompe l’oeil” artistic tool is used by the “Cite” group to blur the lines between imagination and reality. What appears to be architectural reality is a complete illusion painted on the walls. After doing some research, I found that the process of producing the murals is quite interesting. The painters work with local residents on site selection and discuss how the murals will depict the resident’s daily lives and how it will affect them on a daily basis. Some residents are actually painted into the murals to give them a sense of ownership of the murals. The murals are so popular that the original of one of them has been relocated to the



The Cardo In The Old City
Right: Detailed Insert of the Cardo

Israel Museum in Jerusalem. It was my good fortune to see three of them up close as I walked the neighborhoods. Let’s look at each of them.

No visit to Jerusalem would be complete without a visit to the “suk” (pronounced “shook”).



This urban market located in the Machane Jehudah neighborhood is a reflection of the pace of life in Jerusalem. It serves as the supermarket and general store for many local residents. Fresh produce, meats, breads and pastries, exotic spices and nuts, fruits both fresh and dried, cosmetics, flowers, and even small household appliances can be found there along with the finest fresh shawarma and felafel anywhere!! Of course, as the week draws to an end and

the Friday Sabbath begins, the pace of the market quickens as local residents do their Shabbat shopping preparations. The mural of the “suk” is five to six stories tall painted on the end wall of a neighborhood apartment building that serves as the boundary of the suk. Looking at the mural, the viewer is deceived into thinking that he or she can hear the sounds and smell the exotic smells of spices—not to mention the
(See page 4)



Jaffa Street Future

February MAA Meeting

Sara Becker, MAA Vice President for Programs

The February monthly MAA meeting will be a gallery visit. We will go to the National Gallery of Art on Saturday, February 19 to view the Chester Dale Collection. We will meet at the West Building Information Desk at 10:30 A.M.

Chester Dale's magnificent bequest to the National Gallery of Art in 1962 included a generous endowment as well as one of America's most important collections of French painting from the late 19th and early 20th centuries. This special exhibition, the first in 45 years to explore the extraordinary legacy left to the nation by this passionate collector, features some 83 of his finest French and American paintings.

Among the masterpieces on view are Jean-Baptiste-Camille Corot's *Forest of Fontainebleau* (1834), Auguste Renoir's *A Girl with a Watering Can* (1876), Mary Cassatt's *Boating Party* (1893/1894), Edouard Manet's *Old Musician* (1862), Pablo Picasso's (1905), and George Bellows' *Blue Morning* (1909). Other artists represented include Paul Cezanne, Edgar Degas, Vincent van Gogh, Henri Matisse, Amedeo Modigliani, and Claude Monet.

Dale was an astute businessman who made his fortune on Wall Street in the bond market. He thrived on forging deals and translated much of this energy and talent into his art collecting. He served on the board of the National Gallery of Art from 1943 and as president from 1955 until his death in 1962. Portraits of Dale by Salvador Dali



Edgar Degas
Four Dancers, c. 1899, Chester Dale Collection

and Diego Rivera are included in the show, along with portraits of Dale's wife Maud who greatly influenced his interest in art.

The exhibition is on view in the National Gallery's West Building. Again, the group will meet at 10:30 AM at the West Building Information Desk to tour the exhibit. Additional information on the museum visit will be sent out via email to MAA members as we get closer to the date. We hope to see you there.

Urban Art

(From page 3)

shouting of the merchants calling to the customers. The accompanying photograph doesn't do justice to the level of detail but it gives you an idea of how effectively the artist has depicted the neighborhood and its residents. The street was previously a dedicated bus lane but will be soon be used strictly by the sleek new trains that were being test run while we were there. Service is due to begin in April. The mural was done to convey how the new train will affect the neighborhood and get secure local resident's support. The photograph shows the mural that is located on the side of multi-story apartment building. In a quick glance it's difficult to separate the actual balconies from the painted surface.

The third mural that we saw is

located in the Old City on the street known as "The Cardo". The painting bears that name. It runs 20 feet below the current street in Jewish Quarter of the Old City. It is the reconstructed street of Byzantine Jerusalem in the 6th century. Ruins of the earlier period can be seen below the reconstructed street. But what is really interesting about this painting is the clever attempt by the artist to bring the past into the present. As you can see from the full sized image of the painting, it is a depiction of the market that existed in the Cardo thousands of years ago. The insert is from a scene in the lower right side of the painting where a little girl from ancient times is handing a pomegranate to a young boy in running



Spices

shoes and a backpack. It is a jarring but effective way to connect the past to the present.

I hope you have enjoyed this brief to Israel through my eyes. If you would like addi-

tional information about the artist, Gilbert Codin or his group Cite' de la Creation go to: <http://www.cite-creation.com/eng/whoarewe.php>.
— **Michael Shibley, Editor,**
MAA News.



January MAA Meeting a Big Success

We hope you enjoyed the Skip Lawrence video at the January MAA meeting. Here are some notes from the DVD—*"The Secrets of Color: Value, Hue & Intensity."* The design tool—contrast of color—was divided into three aspects: Value, Hue and Intensity.

Color contrast of Value:

- Contrast of value is often used to create a sense of 3D space but is also effective when used to convey a feeling.
- Keeping color use to a minimum will ensure that the painting will primarily be about value contrast and not hue contrast.
- Feel free to use any colors for value contrasts just make sure your main focus is on the differences between light, medium and dark values of the colors you choose.
- The fewer colors you use the easier it is to single out value changes.

Color contrast of Hue:

- You can create contrast of hue by placing pure colors next to each other.
- Contrasting pure hue may be used to express a sense of excitement or create a feeling of happiness in your paintings.
- Don't worry too much about choosing "correct" colors but rather choose colors you think will look good.
- Keeping colors clean and pure will ensure that the painting's main focus will be contrast of hue and not value or intensity.

Color Contrast of Intensity:

- Create contrast of intensity by using clean or bright colors next to dirty or grayed colors.
- When working with intensity subtly is key. Work on smooth transitions between colors rather than stark contrast.
- Intensity contrast is perfect for creating atmospheric effects such as fog, rain and sunsets.
- Start your painting by arranging the clean, bright colors first then add gray colors. It is easier to take bright colors out than put them in later.
- Contrast of intensity works best where there are few value changes. Keep values fairly even to achieve better results.
- Subtle changes can have a huge effect when working with intensity contrast. A little bit of mixing can go a long way.

Why be an MAA Gallery Featured Artist?

Benefits of being a featured artist of the month are:

- Special area to display works along with signage within the Gallery—a mini-solo show!
- Mention, and where possible, an image of an artwork in Gallery P/R materials.
- A place within the featured artist area to display a 1-page artist's statement and bio.

Obligations of being a featured artist of the month are:

- Promote the event with the featured artist's list of contacts to bring customers to the Gallery.
- Provide refreshments for the reception (simple refreshments/wine is not necessary)
- Tend the Gallery for 1 four-hour shift each week that the artist's work is on special display

Art Show Deadline

MAA members are reminded that the deadline for submitting your artwork for Strathmore's 20th Annual Strathmore Artists Exhibition is Tuesday, February 22, 2011 from 2:30 to 6:30 PM at the Mansion located at 10701 Rockville Pike, North Bethesda. This is an annual juried show for artists who belong to the Strathmore Artist's program. Those whose artwork is accepted for the show will be notified by Friday, February 25. Work not accepted must be picked up by Monday, February 28 between 10 AM and noon. The exhibition opens to the public on Saturday, February 26 and closes on April 2. There will be a reception held at the Mansion on Thursday, March 17 from 7:00 – 9:00 PM. Artwork must be picked up at the Mansion on Monday, April 4 between 2:30 and 6:30 PM. A number of MAA members were selected for last year's show. Let's see what we can do in 2011.

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

Member Shows

MAA Board Member and long-time Registrar, **Elizabeth Stecher** will be one of six artists showing at the Ratner Gallery from February 2-27, 2011. The Dennis and Phillip Ratner Museum is located at 10001 Old Georgetown Road in Bethesda. The phone number is 301-897-1518. The opening reception for the show entitled, "Six Expressions—Six Visions" will be held on Sunday, February 6 from 1:30 pm to 3:30 PM. The Museum hours are Sunday, 10:00-4:30; Monday-Friday, 12 N to 4:00PM. The Gallery is closed Friday and Saturday. Elizabeth invites all MAA members to join her at the reception.

Congratulations to MAA Member **Lois Levitan** who had two very nice events in her art world recently. First, her sculpture



"Gaia" got accepted into the Rockville Art League juried show that ran through January 4 at the Glenview Mansion. The other is the installation of her 2-piece outdoor sculpture, "Unbridled Optimism", that is located in front of the Fine Arts

Building at Montgomery College in Rockville. It is about 51/2' tall and made out of insulation foam and the building material known as Dryvit. It took about two years to complete. Lois's news reached us too late to be included in the January issue



but it's never too late to recognize the achievements of our members. Again, congratulations to Lois.

Left: Lois Levitan, "Unbridled Optimism"

Right: Lois Levitan, "Gaia 4"

REMEMBER THESE UPCOMING DATES

February Social Get-Together

February 9, 6:30 – 8:30 at the Gallery

February MAA Young Artists Valentine Activity

February 12 and 13, outside the Gallery, noon to 5 (please sign-up to help)

February Visit to Downtown Gallery

(See notice from Sara Becker, page 4)

Future Gallery Shows

FEBRUARY

Information about pieces (title, media, price) to Elizabeth Stecher no later than Monday, February 7

Drop-off (or pickup for the previous show)—Sunday, February 13, 5-6 pm and Monday, February 14, 10 am – noon.

Show hanging – Monday afternoon, February 14.

Show opening celebration – Sunday, February 20, 1-5 pm

MARCH

Information about pieces (title, media, price) to Elizabeth Stecher no later than Monday, March 3.

Drop-off (or pickup for the previous show)—Sunday, March 13 from 5-6 pm and Monday, March 14 from 10 am – 12 noon

Show hanging – Monday Afternoon, March 14.

Show opening celebration – Sunday, March 20 from 1 – 5 pm

APRIL

(note dates are earlier in order to avoid religious holidays later in the month)

Information about pieces (title, media, price) to Elizabeth Stecher no later than Friday, April 1

Drop-off (or pickup for the previous show)—Sunday, April 3 from 5-6 pm and Monday, April 4 from 10 am – 12 noon

Show hanging – Monday afternoon, April 4

Show opening celebration – Sunday, April 10 from 1 – 5 pm

Welcome New Members!!!

Since the publication of the January MAA News, we have recruited two new members. One of them, **Rozanne Ando**, joined MAA when she learned about us through the recent Gazette article about the MAA Gallery at Wheaton Westfield Mall. The other new member, **Susan Duren**, joined us via a gift from a friend who obviously knows a good thing when she sees it. We would like to welcome them to the MAA community of artists.

Membership in MAA has such wonderful benefits for a very reasonable price. As you can see from the article elsewhere in this edition of the News, we are working on growing our membership by promoting the value of membership. Obviously, the Gallery is a unique benefit that no other local artist group can offer.

So talk to your artist friends about MAA. You would be surprised how effective you can be in getting people of like mind to join MAA. Growth in membership starts with you—the existing member. Let's see what we can do as we move further into the new year. year. MAA—serving its members since 1954.

Susan Duren

9900 Georgia Avenue Apt. 714
Silver Spring, MD. 20902
240-429-3476
duren_susan@yahoo.com
acrylics and oils

Roxanne Ando

Silver Spring, Maryland
penandpaintbrush@yahoo.com
watercolor

NEW MEMBERSHIP CHALLENGE

We reported in the January issue that several of our new members had joined MAA solely because they saw the benefit of the MAA Art Gallery at Westfield Wheaton Mall. As one whose pre-retirement job included managing the membership numbers for a major trade association, what I see is an unbelievable membership recruitment tool that has been handed to us by Westfield Wheaton Mall

We all have artist friends who should be members of MAA but have not yet made the decision to join. Just think what could happen if each existing MAA member recruited ONE new member in the coming months. The answer is easy. It would double our current membership!! Increased membership means increased revenues and increased opportunities for members to grow as artists by learning from others.

No other local art group has its own gallery. And for \$30 per year—it's a bargain that can't be refused!!

So, as of this issue, the challenge has been thrown out to each of you. Recruit one new member in the next two months.

MAA Board for 2010-2011

President:

Cathy Hirsh
hirshcathy@aol.com

1st Vice President, Programs:

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

Secretary:

Margie Richards
bill1185@msn.com

Treasurer:

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

Membership:

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

e-Newsletter Editor:

Michael Shibley
301-807-6890
mfs-art@comcast.net

e-Newsletter Editor (design):

Natalie Falk
nmfalk@comcast.net

e-Newsletter Reporter:

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

Publicity:

Vicky Surles
vsurlesGraphics@comcast.net
240-604-5377

Show Registrar:

Elizabeth Stecher
estecher7@verizon.net
301-593-8305

Hanging Shows:

Edelweiss Calcagno
Edelweiss101@yahoo.com

Hospitality Committee:

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

Telephone Committee:

Dorothy McIntyre
301-530-0001

Website Manager

Laura-Leigh Palmer
ASAP Graphics
301-942-1121
laura.leigh@asapgraphics.com

Facebook Page Manager

Victoria Squire
victoria_squire@yahoo.co
or email@victoriasquire.com

MONTGOMERY ART ASSOCIATION



P.O. Box 2154 • Kensington, MD 20891 • www.montgomeryart.org

Remember—one phone call, one email or one casual conversation can convince an artist that they should join. It's an incredibly easy sell. Let's see if we can reach 200 by April 1. It's a goal that can be reached.

The real challenge is that we all have to do it. So, please—make the commitment. Make the call. Talk to an artist friend about joining MAA. They and YOU won't regret it.

—Michael Shibley, MAA News, Editor