

# MAA NEWS

JANUARY 2012

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*The Anniversary party, MAA  
Gallery*

## The MAA Gallery: Celebrating A Vision

Sometimes an event happens that completely brightens one's day. Well, that happened on Wednesday, December 7, 2011 when several dozen intrepid MAA members braved the wretched weather to attend not only the annual MAA Holiday Party but also the first anniversary of the MAA Gallery at Westfield Wheaton Mall. It was a wonderful evening.

The Gallery officially opened for business on December 7, 2010 with a helter-skelter reception paid for by Westfield Wheaton Mall. At the time, the space provided support for MAA's Holiday Art Show and Sale that was being held in the public space just outside the Gallery. Oh—we have come a long way since that day! Yes, we talk about the Gallery a lot in this newsletter, but that's because it is such a unique opportunity for YOU—the members of MAA. More on that later.

Like most things in life, it is helpful to reflect once in a while on how you got where you are in order to better appreciate what you have. That is certainly the case with the MAA Gallery. Fortunately for us, the people who are charged with managing Westfield Wheaton Mall had a vision in the Fall of 2010 about what might happen if they offered an empty and abandoned storefront in the Mall to a bunch of local artists. They thought we would just do some "artsy"

things with the space but they were shocked to find that we are serious people who know a good opportunity when we see one. When asked if they expected MAA to produce such an attractive space, the response was—"Never." There is certainly precedence for what was done at Wheaton with other under-used space in shopping centers and formerly thriving urban centers across the country. The most notable of those

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# The MAA Gallery

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efforts is the SoHo neighborhood in New York City. What had been a derelict area of Manhattan for many years was taken over by artists and artisans and converted into popular and profitable space. In the 1960s, after many years of neglect, the area was to be the location of two new elevated highways. Preservationists objected to the road projects and protested the destruction of valuable architectural history in that part of Manhattan with its large inventory of flat-iron buildings that had previously been manufacturing centers.

Following the abandonment of the highway project, a large number of historic buildings were left to face an uncertain fate. At the time, the space

was not viewed as an attractive location for growth in commerce and manufacturing. The vacant buildings were filled with large open areas that became attractive to artists for use as studios. So the artists moved in. The city was not pleased but looked the other way because it was a time of economic distress and the spaces would have just deteriorated if left unoccupied. There were problems with com-



*Far left: Elizabeth gets paint on her shoes*

*Left: Covering the yellow paint*

*Above: Dirty carpet and the blinds*

mercial space being used for residential purposes—a clear violation of local zoning laws. However, around 1971, the city finally decided to issue permits for artists to work and live in the “loft” space. By 1973, the area was given an historic district designation. It is now a trendy area of shops and boutiques. Those artists had a vision and they made it happen.

Clearly, there are parallel lessons to be learned from MAA’s experience in Wheaton although on a much smaller scale. Sadly, the tough economic times and the cyclical decline of shopping malls created the environment

that ultimately produced the MAA Gallery. When The Hecht Company went out of business in 2006, the enormous space they occupied as one of the mall’s anchor stores sat vacant. With the demise of the anchor store, shoppers had no reason to venture down the corridor to what amounted to a dead-end. The portrait studio and photo processing shop located adjacent

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## The MAA Gallery

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to Hecht's also went out of business not long after Hecht's demise. The space then sat abandoned and abused for several years. The Mall management was so embarrassed by the condition of the space that the windows were painted over with dark brown paint and the entry covered with a black, highly opaque cloth so that no one could see inside.

The work that went into restoring the space is well-documented as the accompanying photographs show. What is important is the process that we have gone through as an organization working together to make the Gallery a success. When we re-opened after the holidays in January of 2011, we were novices at running a gallery or a business of any kind. We had members who wondered, and rightfully so, "what the heck are we doing?" We

faced the upcoming months with uncertainty but in the confidence that we could make it work. We had a vision, too, and we were determined to make it work.

As the months went by, more and more members became believers in the value of showing their artwork to the public. From straining to get enough volunteer members to keep the Gallery open Thursday-Sunday, we have developed a core of loyalists—many of whom are brand new members who joined because of the Gallery—and who make our continued operations possible. In fact, almost 50 new members have joined MAA since the beginning of June, 2011 solely due to the attraction of the Gallery.

During the past year, we refined our operations and



*Above: A One Horse Open... MAA members at the mall trompe l'oeil floor painting*

*Right: Sidney Woods, Matt Barry and Cathy*

improved member opportunities with the implementation of the "Featured Artist" program. Expanded activities include a monthly show of member's artwork along with very successful receptions for our Featured Artist not to mention regular social gatherings in the Gallery such as our Holiday Party. We expanded our Gallery offerings to include sculpture and ceramics created by our members. We have improved our lighting system so that the artwork shows well. We have

improved our cost accounting and record-keeping and have purchased the equipment we need to run a sophisticated and efficient business. But, most of all, we have created an attractive and welcoming environment not only for our customers but for our members who happily work in the Gallery in support of their art association. As Cathy Hirsh points out in her monthly message, we have been very fortunate to benefit from the guidance offered by Sidney



Woods and Matt Barry of Westfield Wheaton. They have steadfastly supported our operations and given us valuable advice on marketing our products to the public. They have told us that we have added a valuable piece to the reshaping of the Mall and given it an attraction that had not existed before. The feedback on our gallery has been very positive. Our vision has become a reality.

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## The MAA Gallery

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A few weeks ago, I was in Westminster, MD to participate in an art studio tour of the town. While there, I met quite a few local artists who were very envious of our gallery. In fact, one of them thanked me for giving her the idea. She said that there are a number of vacant stores in the local malls and she would pursue a similar arrangement with a willing partner.

That brings me back to where I started this article. I thoroughly enjoyed our anniversary celebration. It was an exciting event with lots of great food and creative people. The MAA Gallery is a unique opportunity in the Washington DC area for you to show your artwork on



*Above : The Gallery*

*Right: The Anniversary Cake*



a regular basis. Obviously, from the volume of new members, it is an attractive proposition.

So, as we begin a new calendar year and our second year in the Gallery, I offer you a challenge.

If you have not been to the Gallery, take some time to go and see what a wonderful environment your fellow members have created for you. You owe it to yourself to at least see what everyone is talking

about. Hey—maybe you will get so excited by it that you will call me and ask “How do I get on the Yahoo Calendar to enter my gallery sitting times?” Come and share the vision that has evolved over the last twelve months.

I hope to see you at the Gallery very soon—not just as a visitor, but to bring us your work for display in the next show. Your buyers are waiting!!! ▲

— **Michael Shibley, Editor,**  
**MAA News**

# President's Message

It's hard to believe that 2012 is almost here, and as exciting as 2011 has been, I'm sure we'll find 2012 equally exciting with lots of interesting MAA events and accomplishments.



*Cathy announces awards at the anniversary party.*

Before we look forward to 2012, I want to spend a few moments celebrating 2011—truly a year of firsts for the organization—our first year of having an MAA Gallery (thank you Westfield Wheaton!), our largest Labor Day Show ever (thanks to **Debra Halprin** and all the volunteers!), and, at over 150, our largest membership ever. We were a strong organization before, but no doubt we're stronger at the end of 2011 and with lots of possibilities to consider as we think of 2012 initiatives.

The weather was terrible, but despite that, we had lots of attendees in the Gallery December 7 where it was warm and merry for our annual holiday party and celebration of the 1st anniversary of the Gallery. **Sara Becker** and her team did a great job decorating and ensuring that we had lots to eat and drink. It was also very nice to be able to recognize four special individuals. **Sidney Woods** and **Matt Barry** of Westfield Wheaton, the key folks responsible for our having the Gallery, each received our thanks plus the very first two MAA gift certificates. We also celebrated two of our own members who have gone above and beyond in contributing to MAA—**Jacques Bodelle**, our former Treasurer (for 6 years!), and **Laura-Leigh Palmer**, a past President (multiple times!) and our current webmaster. They

each received engraved clocks and much well-deserved applause.

Looking now to 2012, I'm pleased to announce that MAA has established a special Student membership category. Individuals who are 18 and over and enrolled in a full-time degree program at an accredited institution may now join at half of the price of our regular membership (\$15). I know many of you take or audit classes—so please let your class colleagues who are full-time students know of this great opportunity. We will also be visiting the art departments of the many colleges and universities in the area to ask them to let their students know as well. We have membership forms in the Gallery and they can also be downloaded from the website, [www.montgomeryart.org](http://www.montgomeryart.org).

Last month I announced we would be re-setting the Gallery Featured Artist box for 2012. The box is now empty and back in the Gallery ready for new slips! If you would like to be a Gallery Featured Artist, and have, or will have, the requisite four months of Gallery participation experience, please put your slip in the box. We will be doing the next drawing for the months of April through August at our February Social Get-Together, February 8, 6:30-8:30 pm at the Gallery.

Also, at the February 8 event in the Gallery, we will be holding a Valentine Card Contest. You must attend the Get-Together to participate. So save the date, get those valentine cards ready, and remember you can enter more than one card. We will have prizes!

For more information about events and future Gallery shows, always remember to look at the Upcoming Dates article that appears in every newsletter. It provides all of the due dates you need to know about for showing your work in the Gallery.

Finally, I want to remind you about our upcoming monthly membership event at Rockville Plaza Art on January 11. We will have a social and snack time beginning at 6:30 pm with the program beginning promptly at 7:00 pm. Our speaker will be Susan Herron, and you can read more about her and what she will be presenting elsewhere in the newsletter.

Hoping you had a wonderful Holiday season, and wishing you and your family the very best in 2012,

**Cathy Hirsch**

# MAA MEETING

## January 11, 2012

Please be reminded that the next MAA meeting will be held at Plaza Art on Rockville Pike on Wednesday, January 11, 2012. The socializing will begin at 6:30 followed by business at 7 PM and then a presentation by guest speaker/artist **Susan Herron**.

Susan is a Washington, D.C. area artist who has been exhibiting for more than twenty-five years. Her award-winning paintings can be seen in numerous private and corporate collections including those of Hewlett-Packard, Hughes Network Systems, George Washington University, and the Virginia Dominion Power Company. In addition to teaching watercolor for the Art League of Alexandria and the Yellow Barn Studio & Gallery in Glen Echo, Susan is a signature member of the National Watercolor Society, Southern Watercolor Society, the Baltimore Watercolor Society, and the Potomac Valley Watercolorists and has received numerous awards in national and regional exhibitions. Her work has been featured in *"Splash 5: The Glory of Color"* and *"The Artistic Touch 4"* by Chris Unwin. She enjoys experimenting with various media and feels comfortable using acrylic as well as watercolor. Her paintings are known for capturing light and mood. Recently she has experimented with layers of paint to reveal lush and complex textured surfaces. Susan will be doing a demonstration of her acrylic painting technique. Be sure you put this important event on your calendar.

Our recent artist demonstrations have been very well attended so plan to get there early to secure your seat.

Plaza Art 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 Fuddruckers. Phone 301-770-0500. Ample parking is available. ▲

**Deadline for submissions for the February MAA News is January 15,**



## New Year, New Look

**B**y now, you've already noticed the change in the *MAA News*. The beginning of the New Year seemed like an appropriate time to introduce our new look. In the past, the design was driven by the idea that the newsletter would be printed. An informal poll of several members indicated that most are reading the News on screen. With the current emphasis on "keeping it green" and reducing paper waste, we think that this is worth encouraging. So to make the newsletter

more user-friendly, we have gone to a landscape format to fit the aspect ratio of your computer screen. To accommodate those who still like to print it out, we have kept the size 11 x 8.5. Additionally, we have adopted a more neutral color palette for the spot colors. Our publication is about artists and art and we would like the emphasis to be on them and their creations. The more neutral colors will not compete for attention with the photos, MAA-member artwork, or

the work of other artists. The *MAA News* is a publication that strives to serve and inform MAA members. We would like our members to be able to participate. If you have ideas for articles or have written an article that you feel might be of interest, please send it to **Michael Shibley**, editor, at [mfs-art@comcast.net](mailto:mfs-art@comcast.net). The deadline for inclusion is the 15th of the previous month. We will strive to be as inclusive as possible, but due to restrictions of

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## New Look

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time and space, we cannot guarantee inclusion.

Additionally, we would like to establish an “evergreen” file of member’s art. We would use your art rather than clip art, when space and layout dictates. If you are interested in having your work included, please send one or two high-resolution (300 dpi) jpegs to **Natalie Falk**, newsletter designer, at [nmfalk@comcast.net](mailto:nmfalk@comcast.net). Please label the file with your name, title and medium. Submission does not guarantee inclusion. We will strive to present as broad a selection of member art as possible, but our choices will be driven by the space allowed.

We hope that you continue to find *MAA News* an informative and useful benefit for MAA members. ▲

—**Natalie Falk, Graphic Designer, MAA News.**

## Member Shows, Exhibitions and Opportunities



**Sara Becker** would like to thank all those who expressed interest in exhibiting at MAA’s show at the Tables and Chairs store in White Flint Mall. Store owner, Melvin Bazensky said, “It’s always amazing to me how every time a new show is hung, it seems to be the best one yet.!” Well, that may not

**Sara Becker and Melvin Bazensky**

be an exact quote, but he is always happy to see our new artwork up on his walls and enthusiastically compliments us every time. And we are just as happy to have this venue to get our artwork out there to as many Mont-

gomery County areas of shopping traffic as possible.

If you would like to be on the email list to get the first notification of our next show please email Sara at [thebeckers6400@verizon.net](mailto:thebeckers6400@verizon.net). This is a popular venue and is filled on a first come first served basis. Early sign-up is a must and helps with determining the number of pieces each artist can contribute. The show length aims to be about 4 months for each exhibit. There are so many great things going on with MAA, we wanted to make sure everyone is aware of the various opportunities available to them for shows, networking and meeting your newest fellow artist members.

Feel free to stop by and see the Bazensky’s and our current show and the beautiful tables and chairs they have for sale!

**The Laurel Art Guild** has issued a Call for Entries for their 43rd Annual Open Juried Exhibition to be held March 4 through April 1, 2012 at the Montpelier Arts Center. The show is open to any artist residing in Maryland, Virginia, or the District of Columbia who is over 18 years old. Each artist may submit two entries. There will be six cash prizes: 1st Place/\$250; 2nd Place/\$200; 3rd Place/\$150; plus three Merit Award of \$75 each. All entries will be reviewed by CD only. Images must be 300 dpi in jpeg format and no larger than 5 x 7. Entries must be postmarked no later than January 30, 2012. The entry form along with your CD should be mailed to Laurel Art Guild, c/o Diane Shipley, 3600 Dunnington Road, Beltsville, MD 20705. A list of accepted entries will be posted at [http://](http://www.laurelartguild.org/12-annual-show-accepted.htm)

[www.laurelartguild.org/12-annual-show-accepted.htm](http://www.laurelartguild.org/12-annual-show-accepted.htm) after February 19, 2012. A \$20 hanging fee is due upon delivery of accepted works. Delivery will be Tuesday, February 28, 2012 between 12-2 PM and 6-8 PM. All accepted works must be hand delivered. For further information and secure an entry form, contact Diane Shipley, Exhibit Coordinator at [lagopen@laurelartguild.org](mailto:lagopen@laurelartguild.org). The prospectus is available online at [www.laurelartbuild.org](http://www.laurelartbuild.org).

**Christina Haslinger** is participating in a four-artist Exhibit as the Kentlands Mansion in Gaithersburg. The Mansion is located at 320 Kent Square Road. The Exhibit began in December and runs through January 16. Check with the Mansion for hours for viewing the artwork at 301-258-6425.

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**If you are interested in having your work included in *MAA News*, please send one or two high-resolution (300 dpi) jpegs to Natalie Falk. (See “New Look” article for details.)**

## Shows, Exhibitions, Opportunities

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*Bella Luna, by Christina Haslinger*



*Above: Whispering Secrets, by Elizabeth Steel  
Right: In Perpetuity, by Lois Levitan*



**Lois Levitan's** sculpture entitled "In Perpetuity" won first place in the sculpture category of the Rockville Art League's Juried Show at the Glenview Mansion. Also, **Elizabeth Steel** was awarded an Honorable Mention for her alabaster pedestal sculpture, which is entitled "Whispering Secrets". The exhibit concludes on January 3, 2012.



*The Resilience of Hope, by Moira Ratchford*

**Moira Ratchford** had her painting entitled "The Resilience of Hope" juried into the 2012 Friends of the Yellow Barn Art Show. The show is held annually and is open to all 600+ Friends of the Yellow Barn.

**Julie Smith, Debra Halprin, Michael Shibley, Marian MacKerer, Mizi Kiper, Pat Mulvenna, and Carol Bouville** who are members of the "Pate Painters" have a group show at the Brookside Gardens Visitor's Center that

will run through February 6, 2012. The show encompasses all of the display space in the Visitors Center including the Library and includes over 70 paintings in oil, acrylic, pastel and watercolor. ▲



## Featured Artist of the Month: Ruja Shemer

By Judith Levine

**R**uja Shemer is the Featured Artist in the MAA Gallery for the January show. This artist with an easy, frequent laugh, moved with her husband and four children to the DC area 42 years ago, locating in Silver Spring in 1969. She and her husband just relocated recently to Leisure World to a lovely home filled with family antiques and Ms. Shemer's vibrant paintings. She told me that she is the only one in her family involved in the arts. She grew up in Baltimore and after graduating high school, her father encouraged her to continue her education at the Maryland Institute of Art. It was, unhappily, a different social reality in the 1950's and Ms. Shemer saw no future for herself as an artist who was a woman—certainly not one that included making a living for herself. In 1976, she studied graphic design at Montgomery College which led to several jobs in graphic design and advertising. She eventually left this field and went on to manage several dental offices before finally retiring.

Ms. Shemer, however, never stopped painting. For 17 years, she has been in a Saturday morning class with Firouzeh Sadeghi, painting in watercolor and exploring different techniques. She has worked occasionally in oil, and tried acrylics but did not enjoy that medium. Additionally, she is a member of the Rockville Art League and the Washington Metropolitan Artists Society. Most recently,

Ms. Shemer began a class in drawing. Working with Bonny Lundy "en plein air" is also a new adventure. Her paintings have almost always been landscapes and still lifes and Ms. Shemer has decided that she is "...trying to get away from painting from photographs...that is why I took the plein air class." Lundy told the artist that as she keeps doing her plein air work it will also make her paintings looser and more free as she gains confidence in her ability to create a painting rapidly. "She is helping me loosen up. She is inspirational."

I asked Ms. Shemer who



*Fall Harvest, Ruja Shemer*

she gravitates towards regarding other artists and who her inspirations have been. "I like the Impressionists... Monet, Sargent, Cassatt... [and] I can go to the galleries and not know the artist and just like them." It is interesting that she leans towards this movement as watercolor was not a major medium for the Impressionists. As I looked at her own work, I think the reason she loves the Impressionists is because of their treatment of light. She said that watercolors appeal to her because "...

of the way they flow, the translucency, the sparkle of the light and the way the white paper shows through." The biggest drawback the artist noted is that you can't do much in the way of reworking a painting or you will end up with mud. Ms. Shemer said that she can layer but it needs a very light touch. Once a painting is dry, "You can add a little dark here and there but not really rework it. It is not like pastel, for example, where you can do multiple layers without ending up

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## Ruja Shemer

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with a dull painting.” Her love of light is evident in her choice of material and equally so in her choice of subjects. I noted that most of her works seemed to be set in summer and early fall. I looked at a painting of ripe pumpkins that glowed (and it made me taste pumpkin pie). Another painting was set in what seemed to be summer just after a rain. I could almost smell the rain and hear the water as it rushed over the rocks in the stream. Ms. Shemer is not afraid of color, and, like her teacher Firouzeh Sadeghi, she saturates her paper with it. The artist is also not a slave to ‘if that is the color of the piece of fruit, that



*Garden Path, Ruja Shemer*



*Music, Ruja Shemer*

is what I must paint it’ school. She is not afraid to try something different. Her pumpkins were bril-

liant orange, green, and they were even pale blue. Best of all, it works beautifully.

What about the future? “I can always get better. There is so much to learn I haven’t learned yet.” She would be happy to sell some of her work. She is enjoying the new challenges she is encountering in Bonny Lundy’s plein air class. “In ten years, I will be still painting—I hope.” I hope so, too, because she looks eagerly forward to seeing what new art will flow from her brushes. ▲

## Welcome New Members!!!

**A**s we close out 2011, MAA’s membership numbers continue to climb!! We have continued our pace of growth and want to recognize those who have joined since the December issue. Our new members are: **Elizabeth Steel, Desiree Sterbini, Jennifer DeWeber, Elizabeth Nicholson, Nannette Melnick, Diane Rudzinski and Deborah Powell.** Please give each new member a warm welcome to the MAA artist community.

*Remember, there is no better membership deal in the Washington area art association market than MAA!!!!* And—you get 28 hours a week of MAA Gallery exposure for your artwork. But as we all know, growth in membership starts with the existing member—that’s YOU! Let’s continue to move forward towards our goal of 200 and see if we can reach that goal by May 1. We are getting closer all the time. Let’s see if we can make a push to get it done by May. Ask yourself—have I recruited a member lately? It’s an easy sell. Try it!!

We apologize to any members whose names are not listed. We will catch up with you next month.

### **Elizabeth Steel**

841 Bowie Road  
Rockville, MD 20852  
301-279-2249  
elizabeth.steel@verizon.net

### **Elisabeth Nicholson**

411 Kerwin Road  
Silver Spring, MD 20901  
240-413-4045  
LIZNICH@hotmail.com

### **Diane Rudzinski**

226 Hillsboro Drive  
Silver Spring, MD 20902  
202-744-7618  
DRudzinski@msn.com

### **Desiree Sterbini**

208 Red Tail Court  
Silver Spring, MD 20905  
Dezart444@gmail.com

### **Nannette Melnick**

9610 Dewitt Drive #307  
Silver Spring, MD 20910  
301-328-7357  
VLNteacher@hotmail.com

### **Deborah Powell**

3509 Sheffield Manor Terrace  
Silver Spring, MD 20904  
816-304-9959  
dap0175@yahoo.com

### **Jennifer DeWeber**

4917 Walkingfern Drive  
Rockville, MD 20852  
240-342-2563  
joyfulinthelord@comcast.net

**MAA—serving its members since 1954.**

REMEMBER  
THESE:

# UPCOMING dates

## Jan 11, 6:30 – 8:00 pm.

The next monthly membership event at Plaza Art, Rockville. Social time starts at 6:30 with meeting portion starting promptly at 7:00. Speaker is Susan Herron discussing and demonstrating her techniques.

## Feb 8, 6:30-8:00 pm.

Social Get-Together at the Gallery with Valentine Card Contest and Gallery Featured Artist drawing for the months of April through August.

## GALLERY SHOWS AND DATES

The Gallery is open Thursday – Saturday, noon to 8 pm, and Sunday, 1 – 5 pm. To show in the Gallery, you need to be a current MAA member and be willing to “Gallery-sit” two 4-hour shifts. If, in addition to framed pieces, you would like to display bin works and cards, there is an additional \$50 fee for the period from now to September 30, 2012 (to help pay for Gallery bins and display racks). For works sold, MAA takes its standard 25% commission. If you’ve not previously shown in the Gallery before, you will need to get instructions on how to use our online calendar (to sign up for Gallery-sitting times). Just email Michael Shibley (mfs-art@comcast.net) to ask for the instructions. Send your label information to **Elizabeth Stecher** by the dates shown below at [estecher7@verizon.net](mailto:estecher7@verizon.net).

## JANUARY

### Featured Artist—Ruja Shemer

Information about pieces (title, media, price) to Elizabeth Stecher, Friday, December 30  
Drop-off (or pickup for the previous show)—Sunday, 1/1, 5-6 pm or Monday 1/2, 10-noon  
Show hanging – Monday 1/2 afternoon  
Show opening day – Thursday, 1/5  
Show opening celebration– Sunday, 1/8, 1 – 5 pm  
Last day of show—Sunday, 1/29

## FEBRUARY

### Featured Artist—Roxanne Ando

Information about pieces (title, media, price) to Elizabeth Stecher, Friday, January 27  
Drop-off (or pickup for the previous show)—Sunday, 1/29, 5-6 pm or Monday 1/30, 10-noon  
Show hanging – Monday, 1/30 afternoon  
Show opening day – Thursday, 2/2  
Show opening celebration– Sunday, 2/5, 1 – 5 pm  
Last day of show—Sunday, 2/26

## MARCH

### Featured Artist—Victoria Squire

Information about pieces (title, media, price) to Elizabeth Stecher, Friday, February 24  
Drop-off (or pickup for the previous show)—Sunday, 2/26, 5-6 pm or Monday 2/27, 10-noon  
Show hanging – Monday, 2/27 afternoon  
Show opening day – Thursday, 3/1  
Show opening celebration– Sunday, 3/4, 1 – 5 pm  
Last day of show—Sunday, 3/25



# GALLERY NEWS AND 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. 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 St NW, Washington, DC (202) 639-8574

### 30 Americans October 1, 2011-February 12, 2012

This is a powerful and provocative show. Many of the most important African American artists of the last thirty years are included. This insightful exhibition addresses issues of racial, sexual, and historical identity in contemporary culture. It also looks at the influence of artistic predecessors and community across generations.

Claire Healy and Sean Cordeiro: Are We There Yet? December 3, 2011-March 11, 2012

*From 30 Americans: iona rozeal brown, Sacrifice #2: It Has to Last (after Yoshitoshi's "Drowsy: the appearance of a harlot of the Meiji era"), 2007*

## The Phillips Collection

1600 21st St., NW, Washington, DC 20009 Information- 202-387-2151 \$12 -adults, \$10 -62 and over and students, free for members and visitors 18 and under

### Eye to Eye: Joseph Marioni at the Phillips

October 22, 2011-January 29, 2012 Maroni's mostly monochromatic works are clearly influenced by Mark Rothko



but have their own unique vision.

### Intersections

Intersections, a series of projects explores the way two, sometimes radically, different objects relate and join together. Each project explores new traditions, modern and contemporary art practices, and museum spaces and artistic interventions. It branches into both traditional and non-tradition exhibition spaces with some surprising and intriguing results.

### Current Projects:

**Lee Boroson:**  
**Lunar Bower**  
May 26, 2011-May 27, 2012

## The National Gallery of Art

4th and Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20565 General Information: (202) 737-4215

### Picasso's Drawings, 1890-1921: Reinventing Tradition

January 29-May 6, 2012 This show includes drawings from the 1890 through the 1920's. It demonstrates Picasso's mastery and his impeccable draftsmanship. It will allow the viewer to see the progression from pure representationalism to cubism.

**Antico: The Golden Age of Renaissance Bronzes**  
November 6, 2011-April 8, 2012

Pier Jacopo Alari Bonacolsi, known as Antico (c. 1455-1528) specialized in works that built on classical sculpture. His technical expertise allowed him

to refine and develop more effective methods of using many metals including bronze.

### In the Tower:

**Mel Bochner**  
November 6, 2011-April 8, 2012 Bochner, one of the early forces in conceptual art, used combinations of words painted to make the viewer think in terms of relationships as they viewed each painting. Through vibrant colour and placement he forces the eye to keep moving around each work.

**Harry Callahan at 100**  
October 2, 2011-March 4, 2012

Callahan, 1912-1999, was a major influence on modern art photography. Showcasing his wife, Eleanor, and daughter, Barbara, and the streets, scenes and buildings of cities where he

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## GALLERY NEWS AND NOTES

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lived, he provided new and innovating way of taking pictures. Callahan, inspired by a talk by Ansel Adams, embarked on a long and illustrious career that culminated in his establishing and teaching the photography program in 1961 until his retirement in 1977.

### Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden

Independence Avenue at Seventh Street SW Information: 202-633-1000 or 202-633-5285 (TTY) This gallery focuses on contemporary artists.

#### Black Box: Ali Kazma

December 19, 2011 to April 2012

#### Ai Weiwei: According to What?

October 2012 to February 2013

"This major survey of his work will include examples from the broad spectrum of his artistic practice, from sculpture, photography, and video to sitespecific architectural installations, and aims to

reveal the rich and varied contexts that he has continuously interwoven." , Hirshhorn Museum. Please come and see why the government of China is so afraid of this remarkable artist.

### The Sackler Gallery/ The Freer Gallery

1050 Independence Avenue, SW. 202-633.1000 The joint galleries house one of the world's great collection of Asian arts.

#### Silk Road Luxuries from China

November 5-no end date noted-Freer Gallery of Art

#### Cranes and Clouds: The Korean Art of Ceramic Inlay

November 5-no end date noted-Freer Gallery of Art

#### Chinese Ceramics: 10th-13th Century

November 5, 2011-no end date noted-Freer Gallery of Art

### National Museum of the American Indian

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

#### Behind the Scenes: The Real Story of Quileute Wolves

January 13, 2012-May 9, 2012

Many people only know of the Quileute people as the tribe in the Twilight series. This exhibit will allow the visitor to experience the actual Quileutes. This people who are both Native Americans and Canadian First nations have a history that spans more than 3000 years.

### National Museum of African Art

950 Independence Avenue, SW Washington, DC (202) 633-1000 (voice/tape)

#### Central Nigeria Unmasked: Arts of the Benue River Valley

Current- March 4, 2012 A collection of 150 objects, many almost abstract,

represent this Sub-Saharan region of Africa

### The Walt Disney-Tishman African Art Collection Highlights

Current- April 15, 2012 This 60 object exhibition includes objects from all over the African continent, and spans 500 years of masterworks.

### Renwick Gallery

1661 Pennsylvania Ave NW, Washington, DC (202) 633-7970 The Renwick's main focus is on the decorative arts.

### National Portrait Gallery/Smithsonian American Art Museum

8th St. at F St., NW, Washington, DC (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 Institution, form a national treasure of American paint-

ings and sculpture. The buildings just reopened recently after a nearly 6 year renovation which has restored them to their original states. This included restoration of the exquisite stained glass windows in both ceilings and walls, **SEE PAGE FOURTEEN**



*Female Figure: from the Walt Disney-Tishman African Art Collection*

## GALLERY NEWS AND NOTES

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of the beautiful floor and wall tiling.

### **Juliette Gordon Low and the 100th Anniversary of Girl Scouts**

January 13, 2012 through January 6, 2013

### **Recent Acquisitions**

current-November 4, 2012  
This is an exhibit that highlights the 40 newest acquisitions includes Hirschfield, Chuck Close, and Zaida Ben-Yusuf, and Philip Grausman.

### **Multiplicity**

Current-March 11, 2012  
83 works by modern print making masters including Close, Smith, Walker and Baldessari.

### **Portraiture Now: Asian American Portraits of Encounter**

Current-October 14, 2012-Portrait Gallery  
An insightful look at the way seven contemporary Asian Americans see the American experience. This show includes CYJO (Cindy Hwang), New York, Hye Yeon Nam, Atlanta and New York, Shizu Saldamando, Los Angeles, Roger Shimomura, Lawrence, Kansas, Satomi Shirai, New York, Tam Tran, Memphis, Tennessee, and Zhang Chun Hong, Lawrence, Kansas. Many of these tiny gems are watercolour on ivory. The exhibit contains 25 images. Many were originally painted as keepsakes. A small show with a big impact.



**Exploring the Appeal of Renaissance Statuettes**

### **National Museum of Women in the Arts**

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

### **OTHER SHOWS and GALLERIES**

#### **Walters Gallery**

600 North Charles Street  
Baltimore MD  
(410) 547-9000  
Wednesday through Sunday, 10 A.M. — 5 P.M.

#### **Touch and the Enjoyment of Sculpture: Exploring the Appeal of Renaissance Statuettes**

Saturday, January 21—Sunday, April 15, 2012  
“This groundbreaking focus show explores the implications of tactile perception for enjoying sculpture by melding the research of a Johns Hopkins University neuroscientist studying how the brain reacts to tactile stimuli and a Walters curator interested in the increased appreciation of tactility as an aspect of European Renaissance art—a period marked by a

new availability of small “collectibles” meant to be held. Did artists anticipate a reaction to tactile stimulus in shaping sculpture, specifically statuettes of female nudes? Visitors can hold and register their evaluations of replicas of “appealing” statuettes, as well as variants assumed to be unappealing. Displays illustrate the Renaissance attitudes towards touch, the sensation of touch being stimulated without actual contact and the neural processing and perception of objects during touch.”

#### **BlackRock Center for the Arts**

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

#### **Jorge Bernal**

Encaustic - Terrace Gallery  
2nd Floor  
Friday, December 02, - Monday, January 30, 2012  
Artist Reception: Saturday, December 3. 5:30 -7:30 pm  
“My artwork explores the realms and depths of my

dreams, beliefs, spirituality and my daily life journey. These paintings represent personal archetypes communicated through historical, architectural and mythological symbolism. My goal is for a story to unfold through layered abstractions. I consider myself an abstract expressionist artist. Color is the most relevant element for me, inspired by Rothko, but also by Gottlieb. Form and geometric shapes are essential, inspired by Kandinsky. Architectural imagery helps me create a visual story honoring what is often perceived as ordinary in our day-to-day lives. The art I create is not meant to be literally narrative. It is left open to individual's interpretation and, hopefully, self-discover what is hidden or, conversely, only partially revealed. In art as in life, is not so much what is said, but what is not. I consider my work visual conversations about life, the meaning of spirit, God and faith.”

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## GALLERY NEWS AND NOTES

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### **The Mansion at Strathmore**

10701 Rockville Pike North  
Bethesda MD 20852  
For more information call  
(301) 581-5125. Free and  
Open to the Public

### **Stepping Over the Line**

January 7 - February 4,  
2012

Explore a new way to see  
art works.

Opening Reception-Sunday,  
January 8 from 2-4PM  
Free

Exhibition Hours

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday,  
Friday - 10AM-4PM

Wednesday - 10AM-9PM

### **Glenview Mansion Art Gallery**

Glenview Mansion at Rock-  
ville Civic Center Park  
603 Edmonston Drive,  
Rockville, Maryland 20851  
Information- 240-314-8682  
or 240-314-8660.

**Joseph Giitter –  
photography;Mary  
Kay Kinnish –  
photography;Melissa**

### **Miller – oil/acrylic paintings**

January 8-31, 2012

Meet the Artists & Opening  
Reception

Sunday, January 8, 2012,  
1:30-3:30 p.m.

Sunday Afternoon Concert  
at 2 PM Featuring: Carol  
Bullock Finch. Free

### **Hillyer Art Space Exhibitions**

9 Hillyer Ct. NW, Washing-  
ton, D.C. 20008

Mon 12-5 , Tues-Fri 12-6  
,Sat 12-5 ,and by appoint-  
ment

202-338-0680; gallery@  
artsandartists.org

### **Amy Boone-McCreesh: All Idols Fall Supper**

This young artist combines  
fine art and art craft to  
create her vision of a con-  
temporary and traditional  
combination.

### **Art-collecting.com**

I found this interesting site  
which lists many small  
galleries in and around the  
DC area.

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