

MONTGOMERY COUNTY ART ASSOCIATION

# MCAA News

## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

# Elizabeth Stecher

## *Realism in Watercolor*

It was a delight to catch up with long time MAA member and current show registrar, Elizabeth Stecher. As many of you know, Elizabeth is generous with her time and extensive knowledge of art techniques in watercolor.

"Watercolor does surprising things and is unpredictable, but sometimes spontaneous effects can be incorporated into the painting," says Elizabeth. She chooses landscape subject matter based on her personal attraction which is typically mountains and Colorado scenery. While she often works from the photographs she takes when she travels, Elizabeth feels they do not capture the "interesting" part of the scenery. Because of this, she goes back and reinvents the initial attraction. Even though Elizabeth does not paint when she travels, she does compose sketches since it is easy to pack up. She seeks out scenery that creates interesting compositions for potential paintings. Her still life paintings are ordinary day-to-day subjects created from life such as food and shapes of environmental subject matters. At the end, she uses photo-



*Cabbage* by Elizabeth Stecher

graphs to refine the painting. Elizabeth calls herself "compulsive" and a "perfectionist." It is exactly these qualities that give her paintings a high degree of refinement and polish.

Elizabeth prefers paintings that are 16"x 20" or smaller. She says they are easier to manage and store. Elizabeth also does her own matting and framing using interchangeable frames for her pieces as they go on exhibit. American Frame Company is her favorite source for framing and Plexiglas. The Plexiglas is lighter than glass from the hardware store so it makes transportation easier.

Plaza Art on Rockville Pike provides most of her matting. As for paper, Elizabeth prefers Arches blocks for convenience. The blocks come in different sizes and they are painless to carry. Elizabeth uses different brands of paint, but Winsor & Newton is her favorite. Elizabeth feels she struck a balance with two classes at a time. She believes it gives her the discipline to ensure she always has something to work on. According to Elizabeth, taking classes gives you access to different approaches not only from the teacher but the other  
*see page 2*

## NOVEMBER MEETING

Wednesday  
NOVEMBER 12, 7:00 PM

**Emerging Trends in the Visual Arts-presented by Amanda Storzum.**

Amanda is on the faculty at Good Counsel High School's state of the art facility in Olney, Maryland. She has been teaching art students for six years. She attended Loyola College and received a BA in Studio art with a double minor in Math and Art History. Amanda also received an MA of Leadership in Teaching at the College of Notre Dame in 2006. Good Counsel High School takes education in the arts very seriously as noted in these excerpts of the Fine Arts philosophy and mission statement.

**GC Fine Arts Philosophy and Mission:** We believe it is imperative that we inspire our students to read, interpret, and make the things that express what cannot be experienced through any other means. That is art. Our mission is to offer academic classes and activities that create an environment in which every Good Counsel student can find rewarding and engaging work which provides the opportunity to grow and develop as the creators and consumers of art.

The December member meeting occurs during the Holiday party on Saturday, December 6th.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

**A**s the weather has turned colder and the colorful leaves are falling our attention is shifting to end of year activities. Your Montgomery Art board met this past Monday and had a great (and fun) meeting planning and discussing issues. We are in the final stages of drafting the new Montgomery Art publicity brochure. The brochure will be available soon for use in promoting our organization. Highlights of the items discussed at the meeting are contained within this month's newsletter.

The November meeting promises to be an interesting presentation from a local high school art teacher named Amanda Stortzum, who surely has her finger on the pulse of what young artists are doing today. Artistic teenage kids certainly will have plenty of influence on the trends in the visual arts of the future. The interests of young and emerging artists shape the direction of focus and style that will produce the most innovative and engaging artwork in years to come. The talent of these student artists in the younger generation is incredible. We can learn a lot from them including what to expect as tastes change and interest in new mediums evolve. I am looking forward to hearing about where the emerging trends are headed and using the information to influence my own style development. Amanda taught a hand building with clay class that I very much enjoyed along with other Good Counsel parents.

Preparation is ongoing for our annual holiday party which will again, this year, be combined with a month long show at Kensington Framing and Design. It was a lively party last year and we will again celebrate the close of 2008, and soon to begin, 2009. As always I look forward to seeing you at our next member meeting and at the holiday reception on December 6th.

All the Best,  
Sara

## Membership Renewal Time

A few members still have not renewed and we'd like to keep sending you the newsletter if you would like to maintain your Montgomery Art membership. Please send your renewal to MCAA Membership Chair Sandy Cepatis, P.O. Box 2154, Kensington MD 20891

## Elizabeth Stecher

### *Realism in Watercolor*



*Figs* by Elizabeth Stecher

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students as well. Additionally, she will take the same work to different teachers for critique. This strategy helps Elizabeth to step back, take a break, and really evaluate her progress and mistakes. However, Elizabeth says, "Everyone comes at it from their own point of view. While an instructor can give a critique to be followed, you still have to use your own judgment whether to listen. If the suggestion is so different from what you have in mind, then you need to make a decision whether to use it or not. It is important to try to understand what the critique is saying, but that doesn't always mesh with my personal expression."

Currently, she is studying with Jeri Smith and Firouzeh Sadeghi. Other teachers that have had an impact on her are Michael Harrington, Margaret Graham Kranking, Phil Metzger, and Jack Dillinger. She also

reads many art books in her spare time. Elizabeth is always finding something new to incorporate into her work. In addition, to our organization, Elizabeth is a member of the Rockville Art League and the Senior Artist Alliance.

Elizabeth also enjoys painting miniatures. Good light and focus are necessary when producing a 2"x 2" painting. She enjoys the challenge and though the competition is fierce, there are many miniature collectors looking for a special painting. Last year Elizabeth showed and sold a painting at the Strathmore's annual Miniature Painters, Sculptures, and Gravers Society of Washington D.C. show. There is a strict size requirement including the frame for all entries. This year, two of her paintings were accepted into the show and she won first prize in the Still Life category for her "Figs" painting. There will be 678 works on exhibit. After two showings, an invitation can be issued to join the prestigious society. Congratulations, Elizabeth, Montgomery Art Association is proud to have you as one of our very talented members.

## Nods to Newcomers

**Margie Richards** works mainly in acrylics and pastels. She has always enjoyed landscape painting. Her recent works include experimenting with mixed media and different supports. Margie has exhibited at the Brookside Gardens Volunteer Art Shows. She is looking forward to participation in the MAA art shows. Margie can be reached at 301-933-7423 or bill1185@msn.com



## December Show and Sale at Kensington Framing and Design

10805 Connecticut Ave.  
Kensington, MD 20895  
Owner: Jason Miller  
Tel: 301-933-6806, email [KFD@Millerland.com](mailto:KFD@Millerland.com)

All members are welcome to participate once again in the Holiday Show and Sale at Kensington Framing and Design. If you are interested in exhibiting please email Elizabeth Stecher at [estecher7@verizon.net](mailto:estecher7@verizon.net) with the following information:

Name of Artist,  
Title or work (2 max.),  
price, size, medium  
and your choice of volunteer help which is required to participate in the show.

We need volunteers to help with show preparations, publicity, registration, delivery, hanging, decoration, reception, inventory and take down at the end of the month.

Any questions, please contact our V.P. of Shows, Edelweiss Calcagno, [edelweiss101@yahoo.com](mailto:edelweiss101@yahoo.com) 301-256-7561. Space is limited so, the sooner you sign up the better to ensure a successful show.

There is no fee to enter however, **Kensington Framing and Design will get 20 % commission from each painting sold.**

Work in bins can be left for the duration of the show, but artists should ensure they bring a listing of all bin works with titles and prices.

**Delivery is Monday and Tuesday, December 1st and 2nd.**

Holiday party and opening Reception, Saturday, December 6th, 2008 from 6pm-9pm. Reception is pot-luck and there will be a Holiday card contest and we will be honoring some long time Montgomery Art members.

### December MEETING

We have the Millers Gallery in Kensington for another MCA-Holiday Art Show during the whole month of December. The monthly meeting will take place at the party which will be pot luck. Saturday Dec. 6, 2008, 6 pm \_ 9pm

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

# Potential Venues for Future Shows

## From Edelweiss Calcagno

**Gaithersburg Visual Arts** — Edelweiss has been able to contact the coordinator for this organization about potential shows. They require a group application with a CD of sample art works. Edelweiss will complete the group application but needs artwork images on CDs no later than Jan 31. She is requesting each member to send images of 5-10 "best" paintings/artwork on a CD to her home (9502 Hale Place, Silver Spring, MD 20910). Also, each image should be accompanied with information about the piece (name of artist, name

of work, size of work, media). For those who need help in getting good digital images of their work, Edelweiss offered to take pictures at her home. If you are interested in this help, please call Edelweiss to set up an appointment (301-256-7561).

**Pyramid Atlantic in Silver Spring** — this gallery exhibits works like graphics, prints, art books, monotypes, etchings, sculptures, and hand-made papers—no paintings. If anyone does this type of work and is interested in showing there, they should contact Edelweiss for more information.

## Policy Changes for Future Labor Day Shows

### IN RESPONSE TO CONCERNS RAISED AT THE OCTOBER MEETING, THE BOARD AGREED TO THE FOLLOWING POLICIES:

**Awards:** For the show's standard categories (Kensington, Portrait, Landscape, Still Life, Experimental), there is to be a maximum of 1 award/person within a category and a maximum of 2 awards/person across all categories. This change brings the award policy to be more in line with past show practices and will result in a broader array of award winners across show participants. A total of 6 awards will continue to be awarded for each category regardless of the number of works submitted. This policy does not affect the awards given by Plaza Art or for the "plein air" competition.

**Judging:** There will be 2 paid judges for the show. One judge will do the "plein air" competition and the Kensington category. The other judge will do the Landscape, Portrait, Still Life, and Experimental categories. Each judge will be paid \$100 for the judging and another \$50 to attend the reception and make comments.

**Judge Selection:** To reduce the burdens of the show chair, the selection of the judges will be done through a committee process. Committee participants and ideas for potential judges will be solicited from the membership in the months preceding the show.

**Registration:** Specific mechanisms will need to be determined, but it was decided that during registration, the registrar needs to ensure: one, submitted paintings have not been in the show before, and two, that the participant has signed up for the required volunteer support. Paintings that appear to have been shown in previous shows should, after consultation with the artist, be rejected. If an artist is unable to volunteer in support of the show, then their entire registration should be rejected and returned.

## 2008 Labor Day Show Money Management

: Laura-Leigh apologizes for the length of time it has taken to distribute the monies received at the show for art purchases. She has never had such problems with collection from purchasers, and it has taken a great deal of effort by her. In some cases, problems occurred due to what appears to be sloppy record-keeping or errors at the desk while others were due to misunderstandings by the purchasers about the charge

from "ASAP Graphics" on their credit card bills. She is working through the issues and hopes all will be resolved soon.

From this experience, however, it is clear that changes must be made for future shows. Laura-Leigh and Jacques will determine needed money management changes and ensure that the new practices are implemented and communicated.

## updates

**Chris Luckman** has changed his e-mail to [chris.luckman@verizon.net](mailto:chris.luckman@verizon.net).

**Sherene Nagarajah** has changed her e-mail to [sherenmail@gmail.com](mailto:sherenmail@gmail.com).

**Connie Ward** wanted to clarify a few points related to her interview last month. The painting used as a fundraiser for Georgetown Prep was

"Doorways of Prep". The painting was of doorways, not windows. While Connie was an officer of the Rockville Art League, Washington Watercolor Association, and the Chevy Chase Branch of the League of American Pen Women; she was only a member in the other associations listed. The title of the rendering of the Little Tavern in Wheaton is "Club Little T No More".



# Exhibits & Member Shows

**Sandra Cepaitis'** painting "Summer in Sonoma" was accepted for "The Miniature Painters, Sculptors & Gravers Society" of Washington, D.C.'s "Diamond Anniversary 75th Annual Exhibition of Fine Art in Miniature" show at Strathmore Mansion. The show is open from November 17 until January 3, 2009.

**Dianne Crosby's** mosaic, "Chanteuse," will be included in the show, "Inspired By . . . Contemporary Mosaics and the Historical Tradition" at the duPont Gallery of University of Mary Washington in Fredericksburg, Virginia between October 17 and December 7, 2008. Her work employs a modern image, but uses an ancient Greek method of outlining the form with lead strips. There will be a preview reception on October 16, 2008 from 5 - 7 pm. Address: 1301 College Avenue, Fredericksburg, VA 22401

**Beatrice Mellinger** will be exhibiting her artwork at the 2008 Caribbean International Art Fair in New York, from November 6 to November 9, 2008. The Art Fair will be held at The Waterfront in New York, NY. Information about her work can be found on her website at [www.belafineart.com](http://www.belafineart.com)

Address: The Waterfront- 269 11th Avenue, New York, NY 10001

**Sue Moses** will be having a solo exhibit and sale, as a member of Rockville Art League, in one of the upstairs galleries of Glenview Mansion from November 1 to November 30, 2008. A reception will be held November 2 from 1- 4 pm. The exhibit is open Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 9 am - 4:30 pm as well as Tuesday and Thursday from 9 am - 9 pm. The Glenview Mansion is located at Rockville Civic Center Park. For further information call 240-314-8660 or visit their web site at [www.rockvillemd.gov/glenview](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/glenview).

Address: Glenview Mansion- 603 Edmonston Drive, Rockville, MD 20850

**Dan Ranhardt** is exhibiting three pieces at the Woodlawn Conference Center. Judy Henks-Henn was the judge and chose one of Dan's paintings for the Winsor-Newton Prize for best watercolor. The exhibit runs from November 8 through November 16. The artist reception will take place on Sunday, November 9 from noon - 4 pm.

Address: 16501 Norwood Road, Sandy Spring, MD

**Elizabeth Stecher** won first place for her painting "Figs" in the still life category in "The Miniature Painters, Sculptors & Gravers Society" of Washington, D.C.'s "Diamond Anniversary 75th Annual Exhibition of Fine Art in Miniature" show at Strathmore Mansion. In addition she has another painting accepted in the show. The show is open from November 17 until January 3, 2009.



*Lough Inagh Valley Bridge* by Sue Moses

**Jackie Hoysted**, had one of her large digital prints, (44"x40"), titled *The Approach* accepted into the regional show ArtMD2008. The show is organized by the Howard County Arts Council and juried by Dr. Leslie King-Hammond, Graduate Dean Emeritus, Director, Center of Race & Culture, MICA. The show runs from October 31st - December 12th. Reception & gallery talk by Dr. King-Hammond on December 5th 6-9pm. Please call Jackie for more information. In addition, her artwork was juried into the Open Studio Press national publication, *Studio Visit Magazine*, to be printed in Spring 2009. The Juror, Michael Klein, is an Independent Curator and private dealer. Mr. Klein is the former Director for the International Sculpture Center and Curator for the Microsoft Collection.

## Call To Artists

### The Adult Program Committee at Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church in

Bethesda is looking for a watercolorist who would like to volunteer for a MEET THE ARTIST evening. The juncture will be about 2 hours long. The content will be open. The artist could do a demonstration of techniques, share some of their own work via slides or the actual pieces, and/or talk about their own artistic process. This latter point could include what drew them to painting to begin with, the path they took, how they studied- self taught or schooled, and how their life is structured to include painting. The premise is that usually people get to visually enjoy works of art, but few get a chance to meet him or her and

here their experience. This would be a great opportunity to share experience and works with an interested community. If you are interested please contact Eileen Hailey at ehailey@mindspring.com

**The American Academy of Ophthalmology's** lobbying office in DC has a need for art-work – governmental buildings, political scene, eye related paintings, etc. Please forward any digital photos or slides to: Christina Haslinger, American Academy of Ophthalmology 1101 Vermont Avenue, NW, #700, Washington, DC 20005

Indicate medium, price, size, framed/non-framed. Include address for returning slides. Deadline: Dec. 15th.

## MCAA Board for 2008-2009

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