



# THE Palette

www.manotickart.ca

Newsletter of the Manotick Art Association

Box 1167 MANOTICK, ON K4M 1A9

April 2008

## In this issue

- In this issue 1
- Annual General Meeting 4  
March 2008 1
- Critique Night 2
- The Palette 2
- Put your work on the  
Internet! through the MAA  
Website 2
- New executive members 2
- Help wanted! 3
- MAA Spring Show 3
- Opportunities to Show 3
- Coming events 3
- MAA Membership List 3
- Member Galleries on the  
MAA Website 3
- Please contribute to the  
Palette! 3
- MAA Workshops 3
- Membership dues 3
- Coming to the April  
meeting: David Jones 3
- Robert Genn writes ... 4
- Contributors 4
- the MAA Executive 5

## Annual General Meeting 4 March 2008

The annual general meeting of the Manotick Arts Association was held on Tuesday, 4 March 2008. It was also a Critique Night, hosted by artist Jim Weller.

### Business

The minutes of the 2007 AGM were accepted by the membership. Thank goodness they have long memories.

### New members

New members Lise and Carol were announced, and they made brief forays into boiling down so much feeling and creativity into a few short sentences. Welcome Lise and Carol.

### Financials

Vic Dohar, the MAA Treasurer, presented the Financial statement for 2007, plus the budget for 2008. The budget calls for at least 3 projects: what is needed are ideas. Please contact any member of the Executive, or bring your idea forward during the monthly meeting. Of note for 2008:

- MAA will pay for workshop venue costs, though the participating artists must pony-up for the instructing artist
- A brochure is needed
- Name tags are suggested for monthly meetings, to help resolve the "I know you from somewhere" feeling that we have
- An MAA logo is a grand candidate for a competition, with a prize to boot!
- An optical projector is needed for computer slide presentations
- A new grid storage location is needed: know of any cool, dry place available?

The 2007 financial report was approved by the membership. The budget for 2008 was also approved. Thanks Vic: well done.

### Membership

Memberships dues are now past due (don't you just hate it when that happens?). Outgoing Membership Co-ordinator Sheila King reminded us that a \$5 late fee will now apply.

We have 12 new members, giving us a current total of 86 paid memberships. There are 3 Life Memberships now active. By contrast, there were 120 paid memberships two years ago.

### The Spring Art Show

The show is now full, well ... sort of. An e-mail has been circulated to ask if any exhibitors might consider changing from a full 8 x 8 feet booth, to a half booth (8 x 4 feet), especially if you do a lot of smaller works. Please contact the show co-ordinator Sheila King (613 692-6281, [springshow@manotickart.ca](mailto:springshow@manotickart.ca)) if you wish to change your display size.

All artists registered for the show will receive instructions regarding set-up times and related show information.

The show title is "A Brush with Art". It was suggested – and accepted – that a local company *Simple Pleasures* would provide and install the décor, without charge. Instead of a fee, they will place business cards and other small advertising in the décor to advertise their services.

A special spot on the website is reserved for artists who are participating in the Spring Show. Contact Vic Dohar, our webmaster person

([webmaster@manotickart.ca](mailto:webmaster@manotickart.ca)).

The Accounting group needs people. These are the people who man the credit card and other accounting instruments to formalize a sale. Friends and neighbours would be good candidates.

Catharine Clark is co-ordinating the placement of signage. She needs assistance to place and later remove the signage: please contact Catherine (613 258-9706) or speak with her at the 1<sup>st</sup> April meeting.

The Vernissage is an important social event in the presentation of an Art Show. We all need to do what we can to make it successful. The food aspect was co-ordinated by Barb Deroches in previous shows; our co-Prez Mary has agreed to do the co-ordination, but will need our assistance.

The ticket design will be based on the Poster and other advertising design. Some ideas for ensuring the return of unsold tickets were discussed, especially a plan where ticket sellers actually use a post-dated cheque to in effect purchase the tickets, and return the unsold tickets before the date on their cheque! Draconian maybe: but a good idea perhaps?

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## Critique Night

We invited Jim Weller back, this time to provide a critique of member work.

Jim is an affable fellow, easily accepted as a peer within our group. He spoke with the assurance of long experience in the art world, and was especially adept at dealing with a wide range of art topics. Jim was comfortable dealing with the array of pitfalls and their resolution, whether classic errors in composition or how a simple tweak or slight change in colour could make a vast improvement.

Thank you Jim.

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### Jim Weller



Jim describes his background as follows: as a student at the University of Toronto School of Architecture, he was asked to draw, sketch and design on a daily basis. Five years of this as well as courses on colour theory constituted his *boot camp training* in the visual arts. This was reinforced by an annual two week sketch camp in the fall. While he was at the University of Toronto, Jim was also the cartoonist for the student paper, The Varsity.

By 1985, the demands of professional career and family had eased sufficiently for Jim to be able to take up painting in a more serious manner. He embarked on the path of transparent water colour- a medium that has enormous personal appeal to him, because of its spontaneity and difficulty. Since then, he also taken up oils and acrylics.

Jim has had many exhibitions of his work, including:

- City of Ottawa, Atrium Gallery 2007
- Judith Moore Gallery Show 2007
- Algonquin Park Juried Show, East Central Ontario Art Association 2006 & 2007
- Ottawa Watercolour Society 2007 30th Anniversary Show, Cube Gallery
- Ottawa Art Festival 2005 & 2007
- Merrickville Artist's Guild Studio Tour 1996 to 2007

He has received numerous awards including a Fellowship in the Ottawa

Watercolour Society, 2006, the ECOAA Blue Ribbon Award, Algonquin Park Show, 2006, and several OWS Juror's awards. Jim is also a past president of the Ottawa Watercolour Society and the Merrickville Artist's Guild.

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## The Palette

The Palette is published every month, and made available on the website. The deadline for submissions is the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month, and publication around the 20<sup>th</sup>. An e-mail notice is issued to our online members with a link to the site, and a paper mail-out is made to our unline members!

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## Put your work on the Internet! through the MAA Website

Visit the MAA website. Place your works online. Go online [www.manotickarts.ca](http://www.manotickarts.ca) and follow the links.

For members who do not have electronic access, contact one of the members of the Executive.

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## New executive members

At the March AGM, three executive positions were up for election: President, Membership Coordinator, and Member-at-Large. All positions were filled by acclamation.

Sheila King and Mary Sonnichsen have joined forces as co-President. New on the executive are: Ann McDonald, taking on the responsibility as Membership coordinator, and Susan Dennett as Member-at-Large.

We thank Carol Jolie and Sheila King for their fine work in the previous executive. A full listing of the Executive is provided at the end of the Palette.

## Help wanted!

We need coördinators for the spot light artist, the gallery at the Manotick Branch of the Ottawa Public Library, the gallery at the Miller's Oven Restaurant, and the monthly meeting hospitality manager. The coördinators organize a schedule of exhibiting artists, and the hospitality manager is responsible for refreshments and snacks at the monthly meetings. These vacant positions require very little time and the executive encourages you to get involved.

## MAA Spring Show

The MAA Spring Show is well underway. Our dates are May 2 to 4, 2008 at the Manotick Curling Club, with a vernissage on Friday evening, May 2<sup>nd</sup>.

There is much to be done to promote, set-up, cater, sell, collect monies, and take-down.

Co-president Sheila King is chairing the effort and has created a number of working groups to organize, and muster the work.

Please contact Sheila and sign-up for the work groups if you have not done so already. Members are expected to participate if they wish to show their work.

## Opportunities to Show

As a member of the MAA, you have the opportunity to exhibit your work in the Manotick area:

- The Miller's Oven
- Manotick Library

Please contact a member of the MAA executive for information.

## Coming events

The following guest speakers and events are planned:

### April

David Jones; see the article

"Coming to the April meeting: David Jones".

### May

Andrea Mossop Green, on Cezanne.

### June

MAA summer party for members.

Our thanks to Danielle Nahon, Program Chair, for her efforts on behalf of MAA.

## MAA Membership List

An MAA Membership has been compiled and will be available to MAA members shortly. The list is for the convenience of our membership only. The list includes only the information that the member has permitted to be advertised. See our Privacy Policy at the end of the Palette.

## Member Galleries on the MAA Website



We invite all members to submit images of their work for display on the MAA website.

Go to the site [www.manotickart.ca](http://www.manotickart.ca) and click the Galleries button. .

When the Gallery is displayed, you are instructed to send an e-mail to the MAA webmaster for instructions on how to post images of your work and other information such as a biography, artist's statement, and other important information for members and the public alike to get to know you the artist.

To get some idea about what to say, CHEAT by looking at the artist pages already displayed!

For members without computer access, please contact a member of the Executive and instructions will be mailed to you to create your web page.

## Please contribute to the Palette!

Please contribute to the Palette. Our deadline is the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month for items to appear in the Palette. Items of interest can be:

- art shows you are in
- courses you are teaching
- awards you have received
- courses you have taken and recommend

## MAA Workshops

The Manotick Art Association attempts to host approximately three workshops per year, presented by well known and respected professional and established artists in various mediums. Workshops generally take place at Carsonby Hall providing a cozy and productive venue. Members in good standing can participate in any of the workshops delivered and organized by MAA. Suggestions for workshop themes can be directed to any member of the MAA executive.

## Membership dues

Memberships are now past due: a \$5 late fee applies. Membership forms and fees can be mailed to the MAA Membership Coördinator:

Ann McDonald  
1016 Boucher Cr Manotick  
ON K4M1B3  
[membership@manotickart.ca](mailto:membership@manotickart.ca)

## Coming to the April meeting: David Jones

We are thrilled to announce that David Jones will be our speaker in April. David is a well-known Canadian artist and teacher. David describes his background as follows: He has exhibited extensively throughout Canada, Japan and US. For example, he

has shown at the Winnipeg art gallery, the National Museum of Nature, and the BC Provincial Museum. In March 2003, he was invited to paint on stage with the NAC Orchestra. His works are also found in the National war art collection.

David teaches with the Ottawa-Carleton school board, and will be the featured teacher for their spring issue with a cover photo; he will bring copies of this to the presentation.

On April 1<sup>st</sup>, David will bring back the age-old craft and passion on plein air painting. He will discuss the wondrous experience of standing in front of what has inspired landscape painters throughout history to create art. David will also offer us a demonstration and share with us images of his works.

Come on out to what will prove to be a truly exciting presentation. You can see David's art work at: <http://www.davidwjones.ca/>

Yours in art,  
Danielle Nahon, program chair

## Robert Genn writes ...



Canadian artist Robert Genn writes regular online articles (some call it a blog) directed at

artists, about art and especially about the profession of being an artist. From time-to-time, a copy of a topical article is reproduced in The Palette.

Recognized as one of Canada's most accomplished painters, his work is well known internationally. While his subjects are universal (he has painted in many countries), he excels in portraying Canada. He is

perhaps best known for his work on the West Coast and in the Rocky Mountains.

### *Grabbing the heart*

Recently I had an opportunity to watch people buying my

paintings. It was a solo show where people were coming in and interacting in a friendly, social environment. By watching people's faces, I noticed something I hadn't quite seen before.

Many buyers appeared to me to just glance at a work and make up their minds then and there. This blink-of-an-eye was of course followed by the regular rationalizations that buyers (particularly couples) go through when they're considering something: "Is it too big?" "Where will we put it?" "How do you feel about it, dear?"

New research in neuroscience seems to indicate that advertising is most effective when some sort of desire synapse is triggered in a nanosecond. By covering volunteer heads with EEG sensors, using eye-tracking techniques and galvanic skin responses, researchers such as Dr. Robert Knight of the University of California, Berkeley trace the emotional roots of decision making.

In applying this stuff to art, it would have nothing to do with the sort of buyer who looks at a work and thinks he needs it because he needs to look smart or intelligent. Or the buyer who recognizes a farm he's been on or a mountain he's climbed. It applies to an open-minded person who simply and instantaneously feels good about something.

The advertising business (US\$600 billion this year), dealing as it often does with visual stimuli, pays big bucks to people like Robert Knight to tell them what's happening in people's heads. I've never heard of anyone doing this in our business.

A clue to Knight's thinking is his disdain for focus groups. By rationalizing everything, focus groups often come up with the "wrong" (and unemotional) decision. When you think about it, a couple anguishing over the purchase of a work of art is like a small focus group. Often as not they talk themselves out of it.

At the same time, some works just seem to walk out of galleries. Are these works talking on an emotional level to the folks who can't resist them? And what is it about these works that they can't resist? No matter what type of art you're looking at, at the top of the list I'd put "Unusually satisfying pattern."

By Robert Genn  
reprinted with his permission

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## Contributors

Danielle Nahon, Vic Dohar and Sheila King have contributed to the April issue.

Please plan to contribute your personal news and items of interest to the membership by e-mail to Douglas Laing (the editor) at [thepalette@manotickart.ca](mailto:thepalette@manotickart.ca), or by mail:

Douglas Laing  
The Palette  
P.O. Box 659  
WINCHESTER Ontario K0C2K0

You can also reach Douglas by telephone at 613 774 5180.

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## the MAA Executive

### *Co-Presidents*

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### ***Information privacy*** \_\_\_\_\_

Under the privacy policy of the MAA, e-mail & geographic addresses and telephone numbers of members are private information, and are not to be used or broadcast for any purpose without the consent of the member.

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