



THE Palette

www.manotickart.ca

Newsletter of the Manotick Art Association
Box 1167 MANOTICK, ON K4M 1A9

March 2009

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Annual General Meeting in March 2009

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) is coming up on 3 March 2009. There are two major events

planned for the meeting:

- Election of members of the MAA executive
- Annual critique of member artworks

Elections

Ann Gruchy and Joan Stapleton have canvassed the MAA membership, seeking candidates to run for the three executive positions:

- Vice President (no candidate yet)
- Treasurer (Carole Malcolm has been nominated)
- Secretary (Catharine Clarke has been nominated)

If you would like to stand as the Vice-President, please contact Ann, Joan or a member of the executive. The vice-president

- Performs the duties of the president when president is absent
- co-ordinate reporting and operation of sub-committees
- collection of ballots and presentation of voting results

If only one candidate stands for a position, that candidate is considered elected by *acclamation*.

By our constitution, the executive is empowered to appoint an MAA member to an executive position, as required.

Balloting



If no other MAA members come forward as nominees, balloting is suspended: it

becomes un-necessary. As of the publication date for the *Palette*, there are no other nominees.

It's not too late. You have a chance to stand for office during the AGM meeting.

Annual critique

After the AGM, our guest artist **Tim des Clouds** will provide a critique of the work brought by members attending the meeting. (see separate article on Tim). Experience has shown that our guest critics are very much our peers, as they have travelled many of the same paths we have, and can relate directly to the difficult decisions that an artist faces.

Some people believe that one should bring their "best" work. While positive, it will not help those works that we struggle with, or help give us courage and direction for new vistas.

There is no obligation: we all learn from the work of others too. If you do bring work, **bring only one work**, to allow our guest to give enough attention to each work, within our meeting time.

Douglas Laing

Spring Art Show

Our Spring Art Show set for 1,2,3 May 2009 at the Manotick Curling Club.

If you wish to participate in the show, you must be an **active MAA member**, and a **signed participant** in one of the groups for setting up, running or taking-down the show.

Members will receive show registration forms by e-mail; others please call 613-692-6281 and a form will be mailed to you.

If you have not signed-up, contact the show co-ordinator Sheila King at president@manotickart.ca.

MAA needs a program chairperson



As you know, Danielle Nahon is no longer able to act as our

Program Chairperson.

What? you say ...

The Program Chair performs the vital task of finding and engaging the guest speakers we have at our meetings. We need someone with a wide ranging knowledge of art who regularly attends art shows or art gathering places for artists and artisans of all varieties.

Guests in the past have included our own members demonstrating techniques, professional artists (and philosophers on art), teachers, photographers, printmakers, sculptors ... we will need a lot of space to list them all.

In order to carry on this fine tradition, we need someone to be MAA's contact with the world of art, and encourage artists to come forth and share their view of the world.

Our guests are paid an honorarium. Any special set-up or transportation can be arranged

through contact with the MAA executive.

Member news

Jenn Raby

PLEASE COME AND CELEBRATE WITH US AS WE PRESENT

Jenn Raby
AND HER ART

WATERCOLOUR

BATIK

When:
VERNISSAGE Friday, March 13th 2009, 7 p.m. – 9 p.m.
Reception, Refreshments and Live Entertainment.

BRUSHSTROKES Featured Artist from March 7 to April 3, 2009

Where: BRUSHSTROKES
art supplies and studio
129 Bridge Street
Carleton Place, Ontario
613-253-8088

Please extend this invitation to your friends and family

February guest speaker: Vic Dohar and Digital Images Made Simple

Our Treasurer Vic Dohar made a computer projection presentation about understanding of basics of digital images, how to best capture them, and use them for various purposes. The complete presentation is available on the MAA member website at http://www.manotickart.ca/cmsma-desimple-1.2.3/index.php?page=past_guest_speakers

Even for us hardcore digital users, there was much yet to learn, some secrets exposed, and a lot of terms and ideas that once seemed so mysterious. Vic grabbed this devil by the thorny bits and provided a delightful evening of demystifying the magic of the pixel.

After the presentation, Vic took pictures of some paintings brought by members. Vic has since posted these images on

part of the MAA website at http://www.manotickart.ca/cmsma-desimple-1.2.3/index.php?page=gallery_members

Vic's presentation is timely, as many galleries and juried shows want electronic images to assess the work of an artist. Vic reminds us that scanning facilities for existing photographs (or the actual work itself!) can be found at technology service centres such as Staples.

Thanks Vic.

Guest critique for March: Tim des Clouds

Our guest speaker, and critique leader for the March meeting will be Ottawa artist Tim des Clouds. The *Ottawa Citizen* has said of Tim:

Des Clouds is Ottawa's chief wizard of whimsy and whirligigs. You have undoubtedly seen his 1994 work, *Cows Fly Home on Sunday*, in front of the Aberdeen Pavilion in Lansdowne Park. That is a winged cow with wheels atop a tall pole. Or maybe you have seen his more recent fantasy sculptures, designed to stimulate dementia patients, inside the long-term care facilities on Porter Island.

For most of his adult life, des-Clouds has been like some overgrown elf with long, wispy hair manufacturing winged cows, flying bicycles and other strange creations in his attempt to make Ottawa a more memorable city, a place in which a fairy tale universe akin to Tolkien's Middle Earth operates in tandem with the more staid world of government buildings and bureaucratic boredom.

We look forward to Tim's critique and of his experiences in bringing forth a rather *different* style of art

into the mainstream of juries, galleries, and boldly into the public eye.

Speakers, demonstrations

No, no ... not the placard-waving variety (though that might be a hoot).

Please suggest names of artists and artisans who might be of interest to the MAA membership, to speak on art or art-related topics, or demonstrate a technique or rare skill that makes everyone want to stay up late at night, and do it!

Please make your suggestions to the MAA executive.

Put your work on the Internet through the MAA Website

Visit the MAA website. Place your works online. Go online www.manotickart.ca and follow the links.

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

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 (contact Heather Presley)
- Manotick Library (contact Sheila King; in February there is a joint exhibition by Sheila King and Susan Dennett)
- Brown Bag Sue (Contact Susie Shapiro directly, at 5562C Main St. in Manotick, 613-692-7375. Please note that this space is not exclusive to MAA members)

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 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.

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.

New workshop space

MAA Tuesday morning *drop-in 'n paint* at the Community Room at

Manotick Library until end of March. 9.00 am - 1.00pm. No charge for members.

We have been nine for the last two weeks and there is room for more. Call Sheila for more details 613-692-6281

Please contribute to *the Palette*

Please contribute to the Palette. Our deadline is the 15th 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

Opinion pieces are also sought. For example, what do you think about Robert Genn's article in this issue? He's saying, in effect, that art is essentially a frivolity, more of a bling thing in keeping up (and surpassing) the Joneses! Say it isn't so!

Next month, your editor shall start an Perspectives by-line, and express some perhaps controversial views on the matter of simultaneous sales of gicclees and greeting versions of original works.

Watercolour workshop with Serge Nadeau

There will be a watercolour workshop with Serge Nadeau, SCA on the weekend of May 9 and 10th from 9 to 12 and 1 to 4 pm., Pierces Corners Hall, North Gower.

Serge paints wonderful, loose, colourful and fun Quebec houses and landscapes. He also wants us to bring one or two of our works for critiquing. Total cost is \$155.

You can check out his website at www.sergenadeau.com

Maximum of 12, minimum of 8.
We have eight at the moment.
For more information call Pat Park at 489-2292 or MAA member Ann Gruchy 489-3748.

Gold Float Frames for sale

Hi all (from Jay Anderson):
I have some gently used (and 1 brand new) gold float frames (Wallack's) custom ordered and standard, that I want to sell at a reduced price and no tax.

- 11 x 14 (2) \$20 each
- 30 x 24 (2) \$45 each
- 24 x 24 (1) \$40 brand new still in packaging
- 10 x 20 (1) \$25
- 6 x 12 (2) \$15 each
- 8 x 10 (1) \$15

Regards

Jay (613) 822-0751
jayandersonartist@rogers.com

Fine Art Workshop with Fernando Freitas of the Academy of Realist Art in Toronto

The MONART Art School of Ottawa is sponsoring a Fine Art Workshop with Fernando Freitas of the Academy of Realist Art in Toronto.

Details are posted on our website at <http://www.vickysartstudio.com/fineArtWorkshops.html> and the poster is attached on page 5 of the Palette.

Thank you.
Victoria Collins
(monart79@magma.ca)

Market Readiness workshop

This one day workshop is designed for artists and artisans who are interested in expanding their markets to include retail shows and trade shows.

Topics include:

- Creating a brand for your work
- Visual merchandising
- Preparing a show package
- Pricing and product quality
- Production schedules
- Understanding each show and its market
- Customer service, payment and packaging
- Preparing a show checklist

Presenter: Paul Portelli
www.paulportelli.com

Date: March 6, 2009
Time: 9:00 am to 3:00 pm,
Registration begins at 8:30 am

Location: Cornwall Business Enterprise Centre, 144 Pitt Street

Fee: \$10, lunch and workbook included

Registration Information: To register for this workshop, please call 613-932-7925 or email us at ablais@cornwall.ca.

For more information, please visit our website www.BusinessEnterpriseCentre.ca

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.

Conspicuous consumption

When Wisconsin-born economist Thorstein Veblen coined the term "conspicuous consumption," he was reacting to the over-the-top wastefulness of a gilt society. Veblen died in Palo Alto, California in 1929, just three weeks before the stock-market crash and the onset of the Great Depression.

Veblen had plenty to say about the arts and the reasoning behind their support. He thought our ideas of beauty were inextricably tied to rarity and expense. He compared art to diamonds. While similar in many ways to common glass, diamonds are rare in the earth's crust and difficult to dig out. Seen under these contexts, they become beautiful. Further, while a Picasso oil might be worth big bucks, it's also big bucks that make a Picasso worthy. Veblen noted that frivolities and false values came about due to the human need to demonstrate wealth and to establish status.

Veblen was also aware that attitudes evolved and that social mores changed over time. Such pressures exist today. In our rapidly greening world, Hummer ownership is now uncool. In some places these wide-stance, gas-guzzling SUVs have become embarrassing to have in a driveway. You're going to find this difficult to swallow, but the expensive and impractical Hummer's demise bodes poorly for art.

Whether it's a Joe Bloggs watercolour purchased for home use for \$200, or a \$140 million Jackson Pollock dripper purchased for a public gallery, art needs the frivolity of conspicuous consumption to make things happen. If the market were to turn around (the way it has for Hummers) and the need to display expenditure becomes

diminished, we're in big trouble.

In our current economic climate, economists and politicians are anxious that we begin spending again. In these days where money is not just fluttering down Main Street, I've noticed that some collectors are being more careful. "Canny" is the operative word. They're looking for real quality and in some cases they're looking for discounts. These days it's not so cool to blow the big bucks in front of others. It's become unfashionable to spend.

Veblen argued that wealth display and the squandering of money on what he considered to be pointless possessions was a component of human nature. Just think what might happen if this didn't exist.

Best regards,

Robert

By Robert Genn
edited (lightly) and reprinted with
his permission

PS: "Beauty is commonly a gratification of our sense of costliness masquerading under the name of beauty." (Thorstein Veblen, 1859-1929)

Esoterica: What's an artist to do in times like this? The answer is that art goes on no matter what's happening in fashion or economics. But getting an understanding of what's going on never hurt anyone. Picasso, Michelangelo and Salvador Dali were not denied the curiosity. Picasso taught himself to be canny. Michelangelo stood up for himself. And Dali reacted with enriched playfulness, humour and insight. "I am not an artist," said Dali, "I'm a manufacturer of wealth."

To subscribe to Robert's newsletter, click
<http://painterskeys.com/pal/>

Canadian Brushstroke Magazine



Serving the Canadian art industry • www.brushstrokemagazine.com

The Jan/Feb 2009 issue of Canadian Brushstroke Magazine is available at

http://www.brushstrokemagazine.com/issues/2009/hires/2009_01_hr.pdf .

This issue marks the start of some new features geared towards collecting of Canadian art. We have more classifieds with workshop information, calls for submissions, studio rental space, etc.

And, this issue has the winners of Canadian Brushstroke Magazine's latest competition - Portraits and Figurative, as well as stories about two 'loose artists:' Paul Healey of New Brunswick and Val Hinz of Saskatchewan. We've also got lots of coverage of the Canadian Portrait Society 'Miracle of the Portrait' Festival and competition.

The upcoming competition is 'Landscapes' and the deadline is March 31, 2009.

Contributors

Robert Genn, Ann Gruchy, Vic Dohar, Jenn Raby, Sheila King and Douglas Laing have contributed to the March 2009 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, 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.

The MAA Executive

Co-Presidents

Mary Sonnichsen 613 692-8690

Sheila King 613 692-6281

president@manotickart.ca

Vice President:

Douglas Laing 613 774 5180

vicepresident@manotickart.ca

Treasurer

Vic Dohar 613 825-7328

treasurer@manotickart.ca

Secretary

Peter Ide 613 692-4875

secretary@manotickart.ca

Membership Coördinator

Susan Dennett 613 258-9916

membership@manotickart.ca

Member-at-large

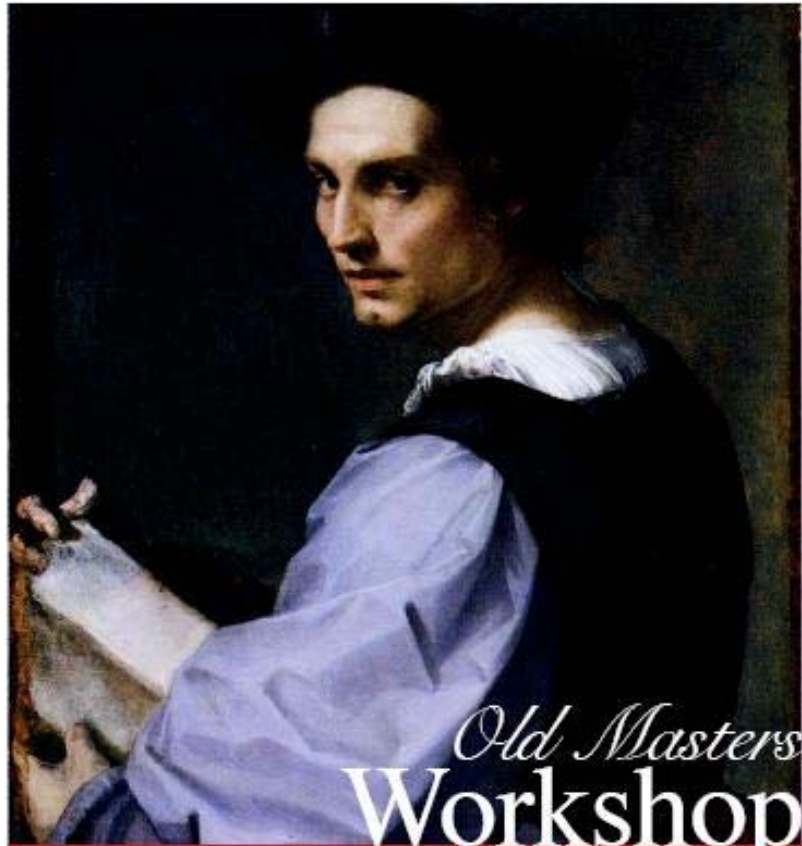
Susan Dennett 613 258-9916

memberatlarge@manotickart.ca

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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Learn to paint from the old masters.

Utilizing a copy of an old master painting you will learn the step-by-step academic process that leads to an exact copy. You will gain a clear understanding of the traditional materials, techniques and principles of oil painting. You will learn the important concepts of massing of tonal values, planning light and dark values (chiaroscuro), selective focus and the technique of layering. Used together, these make a luminous painting. Previous participants have been astounded at the professional appearance of their finished work!

Instructed by **Fernando Freitas** - Academy of Realist Art Toronto

www.AcademyofRealistArt.com

March 7-14, 2009

2445 St. Laurent Blvd, Ottawa

To register contact MONART@ 613-260-0483