



THE Palette

www.manotickart.ca

Newsletter of the Manotick Art Association

Box 1167 MANOTICK, ON K4M 1A9

November 2008

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November meeting: 4-Corners

The November meeting will be a bit different, with four workshops presented by MAA members. After MAA business information is presented by the executive (and coffee break!), members are invited to attend the workshop or workshops of their choice.

Due to limited space, we ask that MAA members only attend. If you get to the meeting early, please pitch-in and help the workshopers to set-up.

Corner ONE : Mat cutting and watercolour framing

Ann Gruchy will be demonstrating how to frame a watercolor painting. This will include selecting a mat then measuring, marking and cutting the opening.

WE will cut a single mat as well as a double mat and a "V" groove. The framing will be finished so that the artwork is ready to hang.

If you have a painting that you would like matting or framing advice on please bring it along to that corner.

Ann will be bringing her mat cutter and corner samples of matting.

Corner Two: Graphite and charcoal sketching

Dianne Partlo will be here. During the past Summer Dianne could be seen making wonderful graphite and charcoal sketches of scenes, fern leaves and flowers in close detail. She really came into her own at our Saunders Farm venue capturing some delightful animal faces. Dianne will bring her sketch books for show and tell, and will be doing a demo or two.

Please bring your sketch book ready to give it a try, some pencils of various values hard and soft Charcoal, waterproof pens, and eraser.

Corner THREE : Making printing stamps

Carol Purdy will be producing

some printing stamps from polystyrene meat trays and will print onto cards adding various embellishments. Bring along some prepared cards and lots of meat tray material (cut off the edges so you have flat sheets to work with.)

Bring some scratching pressing tools like pencils of different leads, ballpoint pens, and Carol will bring a few different things for you to try.

Also bring permanent markers.

See below on making blank cards.

Corner FOUR: Making small art and greeting cards

Sheila King will demonstrate how to make small artworks or greeting cards using collage techniques.

Bring along some blank cards or small pieces of watercolour paper.

Also bring along some *things* to collage.

Colourful used postage stamps, pieces of found paper, small bits from magazines, bits of ribbon, threads and treasures but best of all tissues that you have stained yourself. Bring extras to swap and share.

Permanent markers are useful here two, plus one or two colours of acrylic paint and a brush or two. If you have a brayer tool that would be useful, and a couple of *used* brushes.

How to make blank cards

First of all find a few suitable

envelopes then using scape watercolour 90lb or 140lb paper, cut and fold the card to FIT the envelope, much easier than trying to find an envelope to fit the card.

There will be a paper cutter for your use.

How to stain tissue

Using 1/2 sheets of white tissue lay onto opened up white plastic bin bags.

Fine spray tissue with water, drop blobs of thinned acrylic paint onto tissue, see how it runs, you can add a second color for great effects, let them blend together, remember red and yellow make orange, blue and red make purple etc etc etc....

Do a few sheets using different colors, try flicking some white or even black gesso onto the wet stained paint.

Here is the hard part...DO NOT EVEN try to remove the stained paper until it is completely dry as it will tear.

Do several sheets and put some in the "pot" for all to use or swap some of your stash.

Be patient leave overnight to dry.

Garage Sale Table

If you have art books, magazines, supplies, any art related stuff to sell, please bring it along. There will be a table at the back of the hall to set it on.

Please clearly label with a price and your name if you wish to be paid for the item(s).

Other option is to price the item and ask the buyer to put the donation into the box for our chosen charity for the year: The Beth Donovan HOSPICE

The ten bed hospice will be built on donated land just west of Riverside Park in Kemptville.

This Hospice will serve our area

More info can be found at <http://www.bethdonovanhospice.info/>

We hope this will be a great caring and sharing evening for all.

Sheila King

2008 MAA Christmas Party



The 2008 MAA Christmas Party will be held at our meeting hall in the basement of the church.

The date is December 2, 2008, 6 to 10 pm. We will have a license for wine only, so BYOB please.

Sign-up sheets will be available at the November meeting.

Ideas for Workshops

Over the years, MAA has held a number of workshops ranging from plein air adventures to intense one-on-one sessions with well-known artists.

If you have any suggestions for workshops, please make them known to the membership, either during the meetings, or through the MAA executive.

MAA can provide some of the funding for these ventures – such as paying for a venue – to help with the overall cost of the workshops.

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 our Program Chair Danielle Nahon during the MAA meetings, or through the MAA executive.

Our October speaker:

Suzanne Warren-Powell

Our October speaker was Suzanne Warren Powell, providing a talk and demonstration of "A Journey in the Life of the Artist".

We are happy to have such a unique topic with well-respected and celebrated artist and teacher-mentor, Suzanne Warren-Powell, who will be exploring her life journey as an artist. To cite Suzanne, "As Leonard Cohen says about poetry – 'it's a verdict' – in many ways I feel the creative life has chosen me!"

In her presentation, Suzanne explored the events, people and ideas that have influenced her career as an artist. She emphasized those personal and unpredictable encounters with art that have shaped her career. As part of this evening presentation, she offered a demonstration in Mixed Media, showing how her life journey is interwoven with her work.

About Suzanne

For twenty years, Suzanne has taught art to Ottawa area students, passing along her love of nature, music, contemporary



art and art history. With a strong background in watercolour, experimental acrylics, collage, soft pastel and other art techniques, Suzanne offers her students a real mixed bag from which to create.

With a Bachelor of Arts and a Diploma in Education from McGill University and a Master's Degree in Educational Technology from Concordia University, Suzanne's many interests have led her down a multi-disciplinary route, earning her many awards in creative writing, poetry, music and the visual arts.

Suzanne's background includes many diverse activities, such as teaching English as a Second Language, developing Ontario's first Early Childhood Education French Immersion program, singing in a liturgical band, making glass jewelry, knitting and designing stained glass patterns. For several years, Suzanne wrote an arts column for a Kanata newspaper featuring prominent artists, such as conductors, comedians, singers and visual artists, most notably Henri Masson and Ken Danby. At the moment Suzanne is studying jazz vocals.

Suzanne's proclivity towards Oriental philosophy has informed her expressive work and was the source for the naming of her business, So Zen Art. Her studio/gallery is located on 50 acres of beautiful hilltop property with miles of inspirational hiking trails. From this picturesque spot, Suzanne tutors privately and conducts workshops and Master classes year-round. She also frequently lectures for area organizations and has been teaching for the City of Ottawa since 1988.

As a founding member and Mentor for the Ottawa Mixed

Media Artists (OMMA) Suzanne's eclectic, liberating approach has influenced many fledgling and experienced artists. Examples of her work can be found on OMMA's website, <http://www.omma.ca/>

Yours in art,

Danielle Nahon, Program Chair

November workshop

The MAA is delighted to announce that renowned Toronto artist Brian Smith is giving a two-day workshop for MAA members on the weekend of November 15 and 16.

The workshop is now FULL.

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)

Please contact a member of the MAA executive for information.

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.

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

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.

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.

Back to basics

September 26, 2008

If your intention is to make unique, somewhat abstracted works with a distinctive style and a unique personality, you may not be able to go directly there. Indeed, some accomplished artists insist that you can't reach a significant level of distinction without a solid grounding in the basics. By basics we mean that a person is comfortable and somewhat proficient with academic drawing, composition, colour control and other technical skills. This means the development of processes and techniques where design achievement works hand in hand with applied knowledge of perspective, aerial perspective and other devices, as well as familiarity with concepts of form, colour selection and the confident understanding and application of light and shade.

To go directly to the works of our dreams can be like trying to shove a piece of string up a pipe. Weak abilities and floppy understandings constantly contrive to set one up for disappointment. The cry, "I don't know what I'm doing," is generally the sign of academic shortchanging. And when a work, or an area of a work conceived under this admission turns out well, it's largely a fluke. But flukes of a more unpleasant kind tend to outnumber the

pleasant flukes, and the artist becomes mired in an interminable and unredeemable gumbo of painterly problems.

The widespread distaste for going back to basics has always been of interest to me. It seems that many young artists have a fear of producing something too standard or ordinary. They fail to understand that by producing a few academic exercises they might put themselves on a swifter path to their creative dreams. It may be that some are intrinsically lazy or just buying the promise of automatic inspiration that's so common nowadays. They may also be suffering some form of poisonous pedagogy or the presumed expectations of the avant garde.

And in some ways you can't blame them for trying the direct path. Academic mastery is hard won. Many fail at it. I continue to feel that it's more difficult to produce work with strong academic qualities than it is to produce your average abstracted or "modern" piece. On the other hand, when I look at what I consider to be masterful abstraction, I also see an underlying understanding of conventional academics--in other words, a hard-won grasp of the basics.

Best regards,

Robert

PS: "Genius is the capacity for receiving and improving by discipline." (George Eliot)

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

Contributors

Danielle Nahon, Sheila King,

Mary Sonnichsen, Robert Genn and Douglas Laing have contributed to the October 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:

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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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