



THE Palette

www.manotickart.ca

Newsletter of the Manotick Art Association

Box 1167 MANOTICK, ON K4M 1A9

September 2008

In this issue

- Welcome to September! 1
- A logo for MAA 1
- Ideas for Workshops 1
- Speakers, demonstrations 1
- Kitchen co-ordinator needed 1
- September's guest speaker: Robert Hinchley 1
- Discovery Tour in North Gower 2
- Plein-air painting 2
- New sound system for the MAA meetings 3
- From the MAA Spring Show 3
- Put your work on the Internet! through the MAA Website 4
- Opportunities to Show 4
- Member Galleries on the MAA Website 4
- Please contribute to the Palette! 4
- MAA Workshops 4
- MAA member News 4
- Robert Genn writes ... 5
- Canadian Brushstroke Magazine 5
- Contributors 5
- The MAA Executive 5
- The MAA Executive 6

Welcome to September!

I guess by now we can put away the pumps, sandbags and boots, and look forward to an actual summer ... provided things warm up a bit.

Welcome back to the folds of MAA. Much has been happening and continues to flower and bloom it's way into the second half of the year ...

A logo for MAA

There has been some discussion about creating a logotype for the MAA, a visual image that immediately says *MAA* and *art*. In this day and age of competing brands, it is suggested that a symbol can be an effective and esthetically pleasing way of broadcasting the MAA ideals and its membership.

As of today, there are no firm plans about how to create a logo. We could

- have a design contest, with a winner receiving a prize
- create a logo design group to create the logo and present to the membership for review and approval

What do you think? Please speak to or write to the editor or any member of the executive with your ideas and we can present them to the membership at a future 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 know 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 the membership, either during the meetings, or through the MAA executive.

Kitchen co-ordinator needed

Help : we need a member to coordinate the workings of our kitchen at our church meeting hall. Duties will include arranging for the meal items (cookies and such), handling the coinage from the thirsty bunch that we are.

Please contact a member of the executive.

September's guest speaker: Robert Hinchley

on an Abstract Approach to Landscape Painting

Dear MAA Members:

It is that time again: after a long and hopefully prolific summer of

painting, we gather again as a community of collegial artists to support one another and learn together.

We have a special guest for September. Robert Hinchley is a graduate of the Ontario College of Art 1993 with honours in painting and printmaking. Rob describes his background as follows: Informed by the "Toronto School" of abstract painting, Rob worked with Graham Coughtry and Gordon Rayner. Since that time, he has continued to follow a painterly, abstract approach to imagery and the Canadian Landscape. Rob can be found painting throughout the Ottawa Valley or in his Arnprior studio. His creative pursuits continue to explore ideas associated with the nature and materials.

Rob teaches at the Ottawa School of Art and Algonquin College. Rob Hinchley is represented by Galerie St-Laurent+Hill. Visit <http://www.galeriestlaurentplushill.com/>.

This demonstration will take a look at a painterly abstract approach to landscape painting. Rob will show how the expressive forces of nature influence colour, format, and surface treatment. Examples of his work will be shown along with historical and contemporary influences. Acrylic paints with various tools and mediums will be used.

Hoping to see you in September,

Yours in art,

Danielle Nahon
Program Chair

Discovery Tour in North Gower

**September 13
and 14,
from 10 to 5**

2

There are open art studios, garden tours and artisan shows, but rarely can you visit them all in one area, on one weekend. The Discovery Tour in North Gower/Kars offers all of this on September 13 and 14, from 10 to 5.

Admission free. Door prizes.

Six MAA members are participating: Ann Gruchy, Barb Desroches, Nancy Burke, Marie Paquette, Rosalie Todd and Sheila King. Brochure/map www.northgower.ca/events/2008/discovery_tour.pdf (Ann Gruchy anngruchy@yahoo.ca or 613-489-3748)

Plein-air painting

Charlie Spratt writes

It is interesting how painters go about their art. Some start with careful preparatory drawings, others with a blank canvas and an open mind and in between there are as many different approaches as there are artists. Many choose to paint from real life. To me, all avenues are valid but as far as painting outside goes, why would anyone risk sunstroke, freezing, wild animals and mosquitoes to paint in the blinding sun and changing weather?

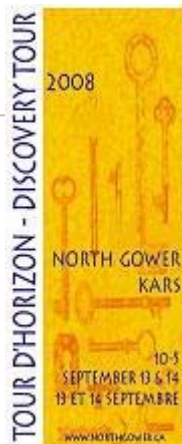
The answer is not a simple one but having explained my version of "Mad dogs and Englishmen" or "Why I paint from nature" countless times at workshops, I thought it might be worth repeating here.

Now I have nothing against painting from photographs or other reference material per se but when I choose to paint outdoors my goal is to express with paintbrush some thoughts about the landscape I see. Think of the difference between how a camera takes a photograph and what an artist sees. In general,

when a camera is clicked it records all of the information passing through the viewfinder in one frozen moment. The built-in light meter adjusts to an average reading, the lens adjusts for a general focus area and bingo you have an image recorded by a one-eyed machine. Before I start to paint my mind's eye takes in all kinds of images while I'm looking around and as a result an impression is formed. I look up into the sky and sense the dark branches against moving clouds, I look down into the shadows and as my eyes adjust to the dark, I see deep saturated colours, colours the camera can't see using an average light setting. I focus on one detail after another, squint to see patterns and values, listen to the wind and smell the earth. As I begin to sketch out a plan for a painting I move details around, eliminating some, changing others until a pattern and an idea begins to form. You see, I believe that art is not as much about detail as it is about self-expression. To quote an old saw "Don't let the facts get in the way of the truth".

Plein-air paintings aren't always successful; there are, in fact, many failures mainly as a result of too many elements from which to choose. But often enough I get a painting that speaks to me about the exhilaration I experienced when I started to paint. Without exception my plein-air paintings, good and bad, have more life and vitality by far than any photographic record I may have taken at the time. That is why I keep returning to the outdoors with my paints.

There are plenty of options for the outdoor painter. Thumb-nail sketches, small paintings and yes, photographs are good resources for studio painting. I, myself, prefer to get a start at my



painting on site (up to say 20x24) catching the nuances of colour and light in the sky, shadows etc. Generally speaking 2-3 hours is all the time I have for one painting before the sun's path has changed the landscape.

Two of the numerous groups of artists that enjoy the company of others while facing the challenges of outdoor painters are; The Manotick Art Association (MAA) that meets Tuesday mornings in the Manotick area and the East Central Ont. Art Assoc. (ECOAA) which coordinates paint-ins throughout Eastern Ontario. Why not give it a try? Anyone interested please call me for more information.

Charlie Spratt, 613-692 2485
July 2008

New sound system for the MAA meetings

MAA has purchase a professional sound system, manufactured by Peavey Inc. It is both a wireless and wired system, allowing our guest speaker the choice of a lapel lavalier or headset microphone, allowing them complete freedom to use their hands in their demonstrations.



The sound system has :

- two large speakers on

adjustable towers

- two hand-held (wired) microphones for members of the audience to speak, ask questions, eschew and whatever else we do
- a wireless transmitter worn on the speaker's belt or waistband, or on a neck loop
- a wireless receiver/amplifier to connect everything together

The system is portable, and can be used on other MAA outings such as our Spring Show.

We hope that what we see our guests doing is well accompanied by what they are saying!

From the MAA Spring Show

A little late (darn those deadlines), but always welcome

...

As a whole the show was great.

Thanks to all the organizers for a terrific job. The booth looked very good and the openness added a very professional touch to everything.

As the hanging space went I think it was good that those of us who liked were able to add the grid in the center of the two booth. It did not take away from the open concept but I believe added some individuality to the otherwise uniform look. I think the open space below the rear grid was great. Everybody could arrange this space as they pleased and the cables and storage items did have a place other than part of the booth.

As for the cashier situation I rather pay an extra \$10.00 for my booth than missing my friends or even worth potential buyers which came to see me

and did not find me.

Not only did I miss the sale that day. But the MAA missed the commission on this sale because the painting will be sold at a later date.

The food was fantastic. We just need a little less and some just down to earth food.

A suggestion for next year:

How would it be if we arrange the food on the tables as we did with the cheese and crackers. This way people can nibble without looking for someone with the right stuff. Also the food can be set up prior to opening and it takes a bit of stress away. Platters only need to be replaced nothing needs to be passed around.

As for the wine, reading all the comments I think the 3 stubs to a ticket idea is great. Three glasses of wine is plenty for anyone. And some people will give a stub away if they don't like that much anyway.

The wrapping table could be on the upper level and I think we could turn the upper level at least in part into a gallery area for large paintings this space could be rented for a nominal fee by the artists who think they like to show more paintings as well as the space in the main hall before you go upstairs. It was not right that only some could display their work there since it was limited space. Everyone should get a choice if they like to show there or not. With some lighting and a sign in the windows I think it would add to the show.

In the whole the show was a great success.

Put your work on the Internet! through the MAA Website

Visit the MAA website. Place your works online. Go online www.manotickarts.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
- Manotick Library

Please contact a member of the MAA executive for information.

Branch Restaurant in Kemptville

Dear Member,

Catharine Clarke has kindly arranged for hanging space in the Branch restaurant in Kemptville for the month of September.

Show dates September 2nd till 29th.

There would be room for about four or five approx 16 x 20" artworks from five artists.

If you are interested please reply to both Catherine and myself. ASAP.

Other requirements for exhibitors chosen will be a bio and some small financial donation towards a vernissage at the restaurant.

The restaurant does not charge commission on sales but will add the visa charge if they arrange a sale.

Sheila King

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.

MAA member News

Charlie Spratt

Charles Spratt will be having a solo exhibition of new acrylic paintings at the Omega Gallery, 4290 Dunbar Street, Vancouver for the month of November 2008. Charles' work was discovered by the Omega Gallery in 2007 when a reproduction of his painting in a gallery advertisement was spotted in the Canadian Art Magazine.

Glebe Fine Arts Show & Sale

Several members of MAA are exhibiting ion the 2008 Glebe show.

Glebe Fine Arts Exhibit & Sale
Glebe Community Centre
690 Lyon Street
(between Second & Third)
Ottawa
10:00 a.m.
Free admission 4:30 p.m.
Saturday & Sunday
27 & 28 September 2008

Over 20 artists and their works:

Pina Ranzick	Doreen Hardman
Melissa Milman	Wendee Dalton
Shirley Moulton	Joanna Beachlen
Heather Bain	David Houston
Tricia Wilcox Saville	Linda Boudage
Genta Woller	Nancy Burke
Linda Loder	Leslie Hunter
Sheila King	Norm Goodard
Ann Gaudry	Patricia Kirby
Beata Jahnke	Jaqui O'Leary
Paul Schill	Stephanie Wellman
Miki Brunell	Erwin Mielandinger
Roxy Somerville	Anne Marie Bougeois
Dorina Lynch	Carol Miller
Lynette Chubb	Janis Fulton
Anne Harmer Thompson	

Call or write Linda Boudage for more information 613 731 9863, linda.boudage@symperion.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.

Art and Happiness

May 27, 2008

In the recently published "Against Happiness," popular writer Eric Wilson disparages our current love affair with putting on a happy face. With our "feel good" culture and the widespread use of happy drugs, everybody's trying to be cheerful and there are no decent dollops of melancholy and sadness, he says. When this happens, art becomes bland, unchallenging and redundant. Dr. Thomas Svolos of the department of Psychiatry at Creighton University School of Medicine thinks Wilson is right. "When you're melancholy, you tend to step back and examine your life," he says. "That kind of questioning is essential for creativity."

What these guys are talking about is a redefinition of happiness, and I think they're onto something. Life's not about getting free of pain, but rather finding happiness through service to some process with links to a higher ideal. A state of thoughtful melancholy and sensitivity breeds an elevated creativity and a more profound happiness. Here are a few of my own keys:

- Work alone and be your own motivator.
- Take time for private wandering and nature's gifts.

- Dig around and explore purposefully.
- Serve others as well as your own passions.
- Look for potential in all things and all beings.
- Face life's deeper meanings squarely and truthfully.
- Move through thoughtful understanding to pervasive action.
- Know you are partner in a great brotherhood and sisterhood.
- Accept sadness as part of the human condition.
- Know that in the big picture you are not important, but what you make and do is.

Currently, 11 percent of American women and 5 percent of American men take antidepressants, the magazine Scientific American reported in February. A high percentage are prescribed ad hoc by family doctors, without benefit of thorough analysis. Does anyone prescribe a host of golden daffodils, a mountain stream, or a robin's nest on which to contemplate? Perhaps it's too "do it yourself" and non-profit to be considered. But it seems to me that's where happiness lies and dreams are made. Just try painting that nest. It's a spiritual act, loaded with joy. "The world," said Robert Louis Stevenson, "is so full of a number of things, I'm sure we should all be as happy as kings."

Best regards,
Robert

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

Canadian Brushstroke Magazine



Serving the Canadian art industry • www.brushstrokemagazine.com

The July/August issue is now available at:

http://www.brushstrokemagazine.com/issues/2008/hires/2008_07_hr.pdf

Contributors

Sheila King, Charlie Spratt, Rosalie Daly-Todd, Danielle Nahon, Robert Genn and Douglas Laing have contributed to the June 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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