



Perspectives

grandvalleyartists.com

February 2020

The Art of Change

Congratulations to GVA members Doug Klemm, Sri Soekarmoen McCarthy, Diann Bartnick, DeLaine Klar, Wesley DeVries, Mary Reusch, Hannah Apps, Bill Ingraham, and Evie Carrier for their acceptance into the current exhibit at LowellArts: *The Art of Change*. Hopefully nobody was omitted! You'll find images of their work in the pages of this newsletter.

Artists from Michigan were eligible to submit artwork in any media that addressed themes such as human rights, social justice, gender equality, and environmental stewardship. Entries promote awareness, create dialogue, and serve as a call to action to ultimately create change for the common good. You have until February 15 to catch it.



The Price of Chocolate, by DeLaine Klar



California Tide Pool Animals, by Mary Reusch

Celebration of the Arts is Almost Here!

Artwork drop-off: January 31 and February 1, 10:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.

Find your [entry form](http://www.theCelebrationoftheArts.com) online and visit www.theCelebrationoftheArts.com.

New Year, New Name

Submitted by Mary Marin

Thank you to all who submitted suggestions for a new name for this newsletter! We received over 50 suggestions! As you can see, the winner was "Perspectives"!

I think this is a great choice, as it encompasses all manner of visual art, 2D, 3D, representational, abstract, photography...you name it! Good job, gang! Now I wish I could remember who submitted it!

The Reeds Lake Art Festival Needs You!

Submitted by Marty Klar

WARNING! For the next five months each GVA newsletter will be seeking volunteers to make the 55th annual Reeds Lake Art Festival a huge success. The sooner you sign up to fill the myriad of volunteer openings, the sooner we will stop lovingly, but nevertheless, firmly and annoyingly, pestering you. Let's be honest. For the past five years Bob Kraai has almost single-handedly wrangled the entire lead-up to the event. Have you seen Bob lately? He's only 35 years old but he looks to be in his 70's! Bob has happily passed the baton.

Linda Scarborough has taken on Bob's role. She looks way better than Bob and we don't want what's happened to Bob to happen to Linda! So please mark the date: June 20, 2020. Watch for emails about signing up to help.

DID YOU MISS IT?

Submitted by Larry Blovits

It has come to my attention that a number of people couldn't attend the December Art Chat on Friday afternoon and would like another opportunity to visit my personally designed studio. I have scheduled another opportunity on Saturday afternoon, February 15. My studio/residence is near Lake Michigan Drive and 8th Avenue (on the way to GVSU). The address is 1835 Luce St. SW, Grand Rapids, MI 49534.

At the open studio, I will discuss the reasons behind the design of the studio, my artwork, oil and pastel work stations, and my painting procedures. I will have a sign reading "Blovits Studio" at the beginning of my driveway. I have adequate parking spaces, but carpooling would make it easier. Hope you can make it this time!

GVA Gallery

Submitted by Jim Johnson

GVA GALLERY FOR FEBRUARY 2020 / Genre Art

Art that depicts scenes of everyday life. From the pre-historic cave paintings at Lascaux (lasko) France to the *Saturday Evening Post* cover illustrations of the 1940s genre art has left the world a visual record of what daily life looked like to an artist. Now we're asking you to give us a glimpse of how everyday life looks to you. You can express this with your drawings, paintings, prints, sculpture, photography, digital works, or mixed media. This exhibit is not juried and the works do not have to be framed, only hangable. Please remember to sign your paintings. Thank you Debbie Bell for the suggestion.

Hang: January 27 / Monday

Strike: February 28 / Friday

GVA GALLERY / MARCH 2020 / Fantasy, Fairy Tales, and the World of Make Believe

After last month's tribute to everyday life, I couldn't resist the idea of creating a theme for this month that was exactly the opposite. So now, if you will, explore worlds that don't really exist. Your fantasy art might reflect the imagination of a child or that of an elderly person. And is there really any difference in that world of make believe? All 2D and 3D art is eligible, including drawings, paintings, prints, sculpture, photography, digital works, mixed media, etc. This exhibit is not juried and the works do not have to be framed, only hangable. Please remember to sign your paintings.

Hang: February 28 / Friday

Strike: March 30 / Monday

The Value Of Displaying Your Work

Submitted by Marty Klar

One of the many FREE extras a GVA membership affords is the opportunity to display your work around town. In late summer of 2019, Dana Donnell asked me to join her in a show at the Trinity United Methodist Church. I was flattered because her work is so incredible. With coaxing from her and my wife DeLaine, I agreed. The hang date was set for early December, so I had months to drag my feet, fret, wring my hands, lose sleep, and, oh yeah, paint! The date finally arrived and we hung the show. Phew! I mixed in some of my better photographs with my paintings, and you know what, Dana's work and mine blended nicely and I came away feeling better about my work and myself. Seeing your work framed and hanging in any venue is a real ego booster. Dana's request forced me into a different mindset. Get serious, get going, and get painting.

GVA members are given opportunities like this all year long at many venues. All you have to do is read the newsletter and visit the GVA website to learn about all the venues seeking work. Your work! Hanging on a wall or on display! Showcased! Like, ya know, an artist!

For many of our members, all of the above is second nature. Showing their work is like rolling out of bed. It's a daily occurrence. However, for our newer members and/or our less seasoned artists, displaying work is a frightful experience. Stop it! You paint, draw, sculpt, create, and shoot for lots of reasons. Why not let one of those reasons be to share your vision and talent with others, and maybe, just maybe, sell something!

To get your feet wet, start by putting your work on the GVA website. There's an easy to follow, step-by-step "how to" on our website. Need a little help with it? At the Program Night on February 13, Randy Nyhof will explain resizing and cropping digital files, and he will explain how you can put your work on the GVA website.

I sign-off all my emails with a list of sites where my work can be seen. The more of us that do that, the more people will learn about GVA. It never hurts to advertise yourself and GVA.



GVA Welcomes

New Members

Deborah Wicking, Beverly Kerwin,
Marie Schweitzer,
Bill & Deb Christiansen

Returning Members

Elaine Duemler, Sharon Snoeyink

Call for New GVA Hospitality Host or Hostess!

Submitted by Peg McKeown

I can honestly say I have enjoyed being Hospitality Hostess for the past 4ish years (I really don't remember how long it's been). However, I feel it's time to relinquish my duties to a new host or hostess. (Yes, a man can do this job!) As Sarabeth told me when I started, "There's really nothing to it." And she was right—once you get into a routine it takes very little time.

Basically, it's a matter of arriving at Critique a little early to set up the snack table. Our members are very generous when it comes to bringing in desserts and appetizers to share. After Critique, it's nice to give people time to socialize a bit before cleaning up. Periodically, it's good to take inventory on supplies (plates, napkins, service ware, cups, coffee, creamer, and sugar). Lloyd Wheeler (lbwheeler518@gmail.com) now does the purchasing, so just let him know what is needed.

The Hospitality Host/Hostess also organizes our annual Holiday Party, and I've always had several volunteers offer to help out with this big event.

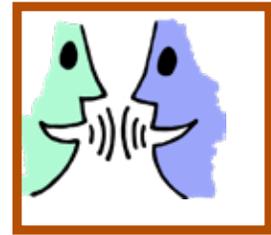
Interested parties should contact Joanne Swann at joswann@sbcglobal.net.



The Disappearing Boy, by Sri Soekarmoen McCarthy



Burned Out and Forgotten, by Hannah Apps



ART CHAT!

We look forward to seeing you on February 7 at 1:00 p.m. in our studio for a lively discussion.

Newcomers are always welcome. Please join us!

Ripple Effect, by Bill Ingraham

Photo Group

Submitted by Randy Nyhof

The Photo Group met for their regular meeting on January 7 and a second meeting on January 21 where Mike Mitchell conducted a photography workshop with oil & water.



Our next meeting will be on February 4 for the usual critique and announcements.



Remembrance, by Hannah Apps

Program Night

Submitted by Randy Nyhof

For our January Program on Thursday the 9th a film was shown called *West Wind, the Vision of Tom Thomson*. Tom Thomson is one of Canada's most famous artists. His vibrant landscape paintings helped define a young nation in the early 20th century and have become iconic symbols of Canada. His mysterious death on Canoe Lake at the ascendancy of his career has made him an object of fascination for many. Shot in the areas of Canada he painted, it includes newly discovered interviews and letters from family and friends. Thomson had a significant influence on Canadian artists known as the Group of Seven. One member wrote that Thomson was "a part of the movement before we pinned a label on it." Although Thomson died before the formal establishment of the Group of Seven, he is often considered an unofficial member.

Our program for February will be a presentation on uploading copies of your artwork to the GVA website gallery and also instructions on sizing and cropping your digital files.

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Wenxi Gu

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Seasonal Anomaly, by Doug Klemm



Alabaster Sargasso Sea, by Evie Carrier

Never Judge a Book by Its Cover

Submitted by Steve Scarborough

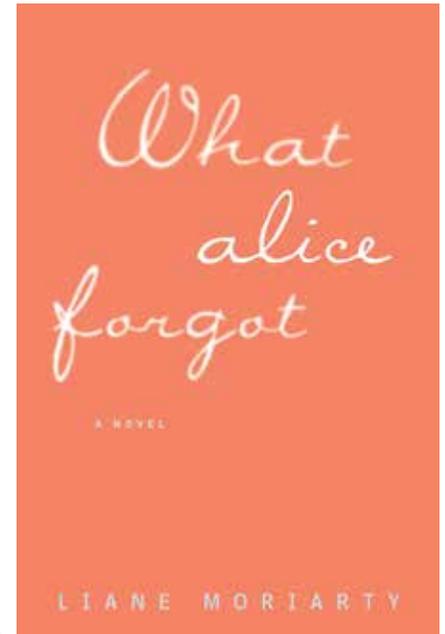
I've been reading a book to Linda that I picked it up at the library, and I chose it mainly because of the book jacket, which is bright orange with white script across the front, making me assume that it's a fun book, no doubt humorous and light-hearted, something I can read to help us unwind.

However, there is not a whole lot of humor in this book. It's about amnesia, divorce, etc. I've got about 80 pages to go, and while it could surprise us both with a burst of good cheer, I'm thinking it's not going to.

Doesn't the person assigned to design the book cover realize what they've done, how they've deceived us? Do they even care? I mean, a pretty cover or picture would mean the subject matter is happy, right?

This got me thinking. I remember seeing *The Wave*, the beautiful woodcut print by the artist Hokusai that's become an icon. It's definitely a beautiful piece, right? If you look closer, though, you'll notice that there are several boats being mercilessly tossed about, close to meeting their doom. Using their size against the wave, you can see that this is one epic storm!

I began to think of other works of art that aren't what they initially seem to be, like Bruce Springsteen's song, "Born in the USA." It has a catchy beat and happy sounding chorus that repeats "Born in the USA, Born in the USA" several times, and it's easy to get swept up in its happy message. If you listen closely, though, you will hear from a songwriter who is trying to figure out what it means to be a young man in a turbulent time. It's anything but "happy." Most people don't really listen carefully to the lyrics and, as a result, never know how deep the song is. It took me 30 plus years to get it! Ignorance is bliss.



The popular painting *The Scream* by Edvard Munch is right in the middle of this topic. Done in 1893, it depicts a person on a long dock, a fence on one side, separating a figure from what is on the other side. It could be water flowing to the right of the painting, or maybe it's a road, I'm not sure. The figure has hands over his/her ears, and his/her mouth is open impossibly wide. There are two figures way back in the distance on the walkway, oblivious and calm. Perhaps the figure is upset at being left alone.

Reading about what the artist's intentions were when it was created, I get lost in the lengthy description. The figure has been distorted, agonized by how nature is threatening to cross the fence, how its presence is bending and distorting the figure, taking away his/her gender, maybe even his/her sanity. The fence is not keeping the human from disturbing nature; it's the opposite. The fence is there to protect the person from nature. The painting is far from simple and not at all what it first seems.

Sometimes I'm cautious about assuming what an abstract piece means. Can I trust the colors to give me an idea of what the state of the subject matter is (happy or sad, frightened or content), or does it matter what the artist has intended at all?

Am I bound by rules when I do a work of art, or are there really any rules to break? There are so many states of being to convey. How I represent them is personal, and sometimes I might use a happy color in a painting or an upbeat tempo in a song to tell a story in a different way than what is expected. The saying "you can't judge a book by its cover" is true.

Area Art News

Donna Chase Gallery at Clark Retirement Community

GVA artist Jim Johnson's work will be shown from January 7 through March 1. Stop in and see it!

Dominican Center at Marywood

Sister Francetta McCann's work will be displayed during January and February. The reception will be February 9 from 1 till 4. Ruth VanderMeulen's work will be shown during March and April. The gallery is located at 2025 E. Fulton Street, Grand Rapids, MI 49503, and is open Monday–Thursday: 8:00 a.m.–9:00 p.m., Friday: 8:00 a.m.–8:00 p.m., Saturday and Sunday: 8:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m.

Forest Hills Fine Arts Center

H.J. Slider is having a solo exhibition at Forest Hills Fine Arts Center February 4 to 27. The reception is Thursday, February 13 from 6–7 p.m. in the lobby. Exhibit Hours: 9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m. Mon.–Fri. All exhibits are free to the public. Learn more here: <https://www.fhfineartscenter.com>

Frauenthal Reception Gallery in Muskegon

February hosts the beautiful photographs by Randall Nyhof. Randy is known for his striking depictions of scenes that often have a dreamlike quality to them. This show will be up from January 29 through February 29. The Frauenthal Reception Gallery is open during regular business hours.



Rusted Horsepower, by Bill Ingraham

Guardian Gallery Grand Rapids

Essan Sommersell's work will be shown until February 29. Hours: Monday–Thursday 12 noon–6 p.m. at 654 Davis St., Grand Rapids, MI 49504.

Guardian Gallery Lowell

Holly Sturgis' paintings will be exhibited from October 28 through February. The Guardian Gallery is located at the Franciscan Life Process Center, 11650 Downes St., Lowell, MI 49331, (616) 897-7842. Open during regular business hours.

Lowell Arts

The Art of Change runs through February 15. Gallery Hours: Tuesday–Friday 10 a.m.–6 p.m. and Saturday 10 a.m.–5 p.m.

TerryBerry Gallery at St. Cecilia's

Coalescing Colored Components, by Charles LaRue. This show runs from January 3 to February 28. The reception for this show is February 7 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Parking is free next to St. Cecilia. Learn more at <http://scmc-online.org/visit-terryberry-gallery>



Three Animals in Tide Pools, by Mary Reusch

Volunteers Still Needed for Reeds Lake

Additional volunteers are needed to assist each of the committees and to help with vendor relief, setup and clean-up, and other miscellaneous tidbits. **Please contact committee heads or Linda Scarborough** to find out how you can help: lindaascarborough@yahoo.com

EVENT COORDINATOR— Linda Scarborough

VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR—Randy Nyhof

PARKING—Dave Bazen

GVA TENT—Dani Ehlenfeldt

FOOD AND BEVERAGE OFFERINGS—Carol Lurn and Steve Scarborough

CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES—Mary Baine

PRINT MARKETING— Dana Donnell

NONPRINT MARKETING AND PROMOTION—Steve Scarborough

WRAP UP—Sara Youngman

MUSIC—**YOUR NAME HERE?**

Show Your Work at the First Congregational Church in Rockford

Currently **Mary Marin** is showing her work in the church's oft-visited community room. The large space can accommodate about 15 medium-sized paintings.

The church is located at 192 E. Bridge Street, Rockford, MI 49341.

If you want to show your work here, please let Lynn Anderson know. You can email her at Lynn5anderson@aol.com.



Mailchimp Messages: A Special Request

Please do not “reply” to email messages sent to you via our Mailchimp account. The mailbox for that account (gvarartists@gmail.com) is rarely monitored, and we don't want to be unresponsive.

If you want to address something you've received via Mailchimp, please use the email provided in the message rather than hitting the “Reply” button. Or, you can find the email addresses for the board members and committee chairs right here in this newsletter. You can also connect with the appropriate person by using the [Contact Us](#) dropdown box on our grandvalleyartists.com website.



Bliss & Vinegar

Stop in to see GVA member **Randy Nyhof's** work. If you want to show your work at B&V, load some images to our website, as that is where the owners go to find artists whose work they would like to display. Marty Klar coordinates this opportunity for us. Please do not contact the restaurant directly. Questions? Call Marty at 616-813-7921.



Englehardt Public Library in Lowell

GVA member **Sallie Zigterman** is showing 30 pieces of art in a variety of mediums. They are a mixture of landscapes, stills, and portraits which will be on display through January. If you are interested in displaying your work at the library, contact Sandi Brogger at rsbrogger@gmail.com.



Marty Klar and **Dana Donnell** are currently showing their work at Trinity United Methodist Church on Lake Drive. The church is open Monday through Thursday during regular business hours, so stop in and check out this beautiful show!

If you want to display your work at Trinity, contact Sara Youngman at sycre8@gmail.com.



Our friend, Jan McKinnon

Submitted by Gene Sampson

Jan McKinnon passed away on January 15, 2020. She had been a long-time member of GVA and loved the group. She never wanted to miss a session of Critique and was an active participant in the discussions. One of the things I loved about her was that she found the time after Critique to go up to the various artists to discuss their work with them, always finding positive things to say about their art.

Jan attended the GVA Programs often. Although she did not have formal art training, I've never met anyone who knew more about art history than she did. She read prodigiously and knew the life histories of many artists from Rembrandt to Degas to Andy Warhol and David Hockney, and many in between. In the past three years, Jan and I spent many hours together going to art receptions of GVA artists and also traveling often to Saugatuck and Muskegon to see what was showing there. In Saugatuck, we always stopped at her favorite restaurant, Ida Red, where she was a frequent diner, always ordering one of Roy's famous Scramblers. Jan was a stranger to no one—she always asked if Roy, the chef, could come out to talk to us. He and Jan had become close friends over the years.

Jan told me that she had made a New Year's Resolution to paint two paintings a week. On the Saturday before she died, I had been at her house looking at her last two paintings, one of a little girl, and one of a still-life of radishes, which she said was her favorite subject. Then she told me how she loved to eat radish sandwiches!

Jan loved to eat out! She knew about most of the restaurants in Grand Rapids, and also in the Muskegon area where she grew up. Whenever we were in Muskegon, we HAD to go to one of her favorites places to eat, either the Highway 31 Barbeque or Rykes Bakery. She also introduced me to her favorite pizza place next to Nantucket Bakery on Union Street, which was so handy after attending an opening at TerryBerry Gallery for GVA artists.

When on our art explorations, Jan always wanted me to drive, and she would be my "navigator," she said. She loved to help me, especially when we got to that certain street leading into Saugatuck, where she would always say, in her inimitable way, "Make an oblique



right turn here!" Then she'd laugh and say, every single time, "Oblique is my favorite word!" And it was! She often had me make an "oblique" right hand turn in Muskegon, too! Another thing I found out about Jan was that she was a weekly player of pinochle. Who knew? And doing the New York Times crossword puzzle was also in her daily routine!

The position that Jan held right before she retired was as the fund raiser for the Grand Rapids Symphony. As a result, she knew many of the influential people in Grand Rapids. She told me about some of the events that she had attended during that time, and she had great memories to share.

When it was time to do so, Jan willingly volunteered to help to update GVA's constitution and by-laws. She always volunteered to work at the Reeds Lake Art Festival and many other events. As it is to so many of us, GVA was one of Jan's favorites.

Jan and I corresponded frequently on the phone, but also by email. Whenever I received an email from her, she always signed it, "Your Pal, Jan." And so, I end this by saying: Dear Jan, We at GVA are going to miss you so much. Thank you for being such a good friend.
Your pal, Gene.

Grand Valley Artists

1695 Service Road NE, Suite 106

Grand Rapids, MI 49503

FEBRUARY CALENDAR

Board Meeting January 2 at 6:00 p.m.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Sundays Closed

Mondays 10:00 a.m. until noon

Portrait Sketch*

Tuesdays Every Tuesday 7:00 p.m. until 9:30 p.m.
1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month 7:30 p.m.

Figure Sketch*
Photo Group

Wednesdays 10:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.

Open Studio

Thursdays First Thursday of this month at 7:30 p.m.
Every Thursday 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.
Second Thursday at 7:30 p.m.

Critique
Creative Pose Figure**
Program Night

Fridays 10:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.
First Friday of the month at 1 p.m.

Still Life
Art Chat

Saturdays 10:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.

Figure Sketch*

*Member Model fee \$5, Non-Member \$10 , **Members \$10, Non-Members \$15