



Grand Valley Artists On The Move

The GVA Board wants to inform our members we are moving our building site from Monroe Street to 1695 Service Road. We have narrowed our search to this one particular site, yet terms need to be established and papers signed.

At this time, let me share with you the events leading to our search for a new site. Our lease terminates December 31. On August 3, Dave Bazen, Bob Kraii, and I met with the owner of DeVries properties to learn the cost to continue renting at Monroe for 2018. Bottom line – GVA cannot afford the rise in cost. We have had a very good relationship with Ed DeVries throughout the years and he has tried to accommodate our “purse strings.” However, he has been operating at a loss in regards to our rental payments.

We delivered this news to the board and they immediately began to plan. A motion was made to form a research committee to search for available and affordable rental properties. Dave Bazen was elected to direct the search and formed a committee. We have visited 9 sites. While visiting these sites, we came to the conclusion that remaining in the downtown area was going to mean a substantial rise in rent. This increase is an expense that we will not be able to absorb along with our normal expenses.

At this time, we want you to know that we are working diligently to provide a great new space for our members. Many of you place great importance to your GVA membership and we are cognizant of your love for and the importance our organization plays in your lives. A great deal of planning has ensued and we are trying to “get all our ducks in their correct order.” We have a number of our members who have given us great advice in regards to finding a place for us to relocate as well as design space for our needs. Our search has involved many of the members in our artist community as well it should. We can’t thank them enough for the hours they spent traveling to different locations.



We are so excited!!! We can design our new space at Service Road to accommodate our particular needs. Service Road is newer, lighter, has more space to offer for sketch, great wall space to hang our work, and will be less expensive to rent. Can't wait for you to see it.

Sincerely,
Carol Lurn

Tribute to Jim Markle

This November GVA will be honoring one of our outstanding artists, Jim Markle. There will be an exhibition of his work throughout November and a special tribute to Jim on Program Night, November 9th, at 7:30 p.m.

Jim has been a member of GVA since 1994. He is a Signature Member of the PSA, Master Member of the Great Lakes Plein Air Painters Association, and member of the "The West Michigan Eight." His plein air and figurative pastel paintings have been exhibited and collected throughout the U.S. Canada, Europe and the Far East.



In conjunction with this exhibition of Jim's work, we are inviting GVA members to submit their favorite portrait of Jim to be displayed in the kitchen area of the gallery. All works must be original and ready to hang. Because of the limited hanging space, there may not be room to hang all submitted works.

Reeds Lake Poster Contest Details

The poster can be original art or a digital file. A digital file image must measure 8" x 12" at 300 ppi (2400 x 3600 pixels). Submit to rkraai@ameritech.net no later than December 14th. An original piece of art must measure 12" x 18" and can be placed in the board room at GVA no later than December 14th. Images do not need to include the wording, which can be added electronically. If you wish to include wording describing the event, include the following:

Grand Valley Artists presents
The 53rd Reeds Lake Art Festival in Gaslight Village
East Grand Rapids
Saturday, June 16, 2018
9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Have questions? Call Bob Kraai at 616-956-7734.

GVA on TV

On **September 29** at 11:00 a.m. our own Joanne Swann will be appearing live on WOOD TV. WOOD TV broadcasts live from their satellite studio in the GRAM. Joanne will be talking about GVA's ArtPrize involvement and showing photos of our studio and gallery as well as samples of our members' work.

Clark Retirement Community Invitation

Call for Artists! You are invited to participate in an upcoming show at the Donna Chase Gallery at Clark Retirement Community in Grand Rapids, at 1551 Franklin Street SE. The show will take place from October 24 to December 3. Clark is an exciting venue, with an extensive art collection on view; there are works by many renowned artists, including an impressive Armand Merizon collection, along with art by other members of GVA and artists in the West Michigan community. Many of the residents are artists who are able to make use of the arts and crafts studio, as well as participate in workshops offered by the Clark Arts Council.

A reception will take place on Saturday, November 4, from 3:00 to 4:30 p.m., and light refreshments will be served by the venue. In addition, Clark is holding a bazaar on Friday, November 17, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at which attendees will have the opportunity to purchase works from the show. Artists are welcome to be there to speak with residents and guests.

You may enter up to two pieces of art. No giclées or commercial reproductions, please. There is no accommodation for exhibiting sculpture in the round. All work will hang on walls and must be ready for presentation. No exposed glass edges or saw-tooth hangers are allowed. Pieces may not exceed 36" on any one side. If you have any questions in regards to these regulations, please email GVAsubmissions@gmail.com.

This show will be juried by a committee of GVA members, and application is to be submitted online. Last day for submission is October 6, 2017. Selections will be completed and artists will be notified by October 13. There is no charge to enter this show, and no prizes will be awarded. There is no commission on artworks sold. Accepted works cannot be substituted, and must remain up for the duration of the exhibit. Selected entries are to be dropped off at the front desk of Clark Retirement Community on October 23, between 11:00 a.m. and noon, and must be picked up on December 4 between 10:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

Please email the following information to GVAsubmissions@gmail.com, with 'Clark Retirement Submission' in the subject line, and attach images of work(s) being entered:

Title – Medium – Price (or NFS)

Name – Street address – Phone # – Email address

GALLERY OPEN HOURS: Daily, 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

LIABILITY POLICY: Entries will be handled with all possible care. However, neither GVA nor any member of GVA will be responsible for any loss or damage to an artist's work. The artist must agree to allow photographs or reproduction of any of the work for the purpose of publicizing the event.

Did you sign up for AmazonSmile yet? When you do, GVA Wins!

We are now listed as a non-profit in the AmazonSmile list, which means that any time you order from Amazon, assuming you choose to order via AmazonSmile instead of plain old Amazon, your purchase will result in a small donation from Amazon to GVA if you designate GVA as your Amazon Smile charity. If you are an Amazon Prime member, you will simply order via AmazonSmile to still get the same free shipping and other benefits that come with Amazon Prime membership. Purchasing through AmazonSmile doesn't cost you a penny, and it helps us!



Learn more here: smile.amazon.com

“I hope you like it”

by Steve Scarborough

I was at Monday sketch a couple weeks ago and the topic turned toward artist statements and how ‘out there’ they can get. Marty Klar suggested the perfect one, “I hope you like it.”

If it can be so simple, why do so many artist statements go on and on and on?

By now, most of you have been to ArtPrize and have read numerous statements that do a really good job of explaining the process the artist goes through in creating their work. More likely, though, you’ve been forced to read paragraph after paragraph of ‘art speak,’ some completely alien language.

If you see one that starts out “I attempt to create fictional narratives and present them as verifiable truths, questioning both fact and fiction...,” then you are allowed to stop reading and move on to the next piece of art. Am I terrible at making fun of hardworking artist who by the nature of being an artist, communicate best through visual means rather than using words?

Maybe.

By now you may gather that bizarre artist statements are a pet peeve of mine. They are. But the artist is not the only one to blame. It seems like you need to come up with something deep to say about your work to get it hung in the best galleries and exhibits, even if it isn’t true. Some of the words of choice are ‘recycling,’ ‘sustainability,’ and my personal favorite, ‘anti-fracking.’ It seems like no one wants a beautiful work of art anymore. Your art work had better be conscious of the challenges the world faces, politically, socially, and morally. Maybe this is a good trend, or maybe not, but to make up a reason why your work is relevant is probably not a good approach either.

I don’t have an answer to any of those questions, but maybe you will. As artists, you have the task of writing about yourself when it’s such a difficult thing to do. I must admit here that I have been guilty of some of what I’m complaining about. My worst offense was when I included something about how my Native American ancestry gave me a unique point of view in which to relate to nature and its vulnerability. That was bad, wasn’t it? I’ve learned my lesson, I hope!

So I respectfully offer a few suggestions in writing a good artist statement.

Don’t praise yourself. That’s just wrong. Don’t make it too long; just hit the important points. Make yourself seem real. Don’t speak over non-artists’ heads. Say something about why you do what you do – don’t be vague. Be excited about what you do. If you don’t care, neither will anyone else. Also welcome the viewing public to find their own interpretation to your work.

Be humble. This is a good way to admit you don’t know everything, even if you are the artist.

Or if you’re really stumped, just write “I hope you like it.” That pretty well sums it all up.



From the New Yorker

October's Program

Submitted by **Randy Nyhof**

The Film "Tim's Vermeer" will be shown. It is a documentary film about inventor Tim Jenison's efforts to duplicate the painting techniques of Johannes Vermeer, a 17th-century Dutch painter, in order to test his theory that Vermeer painted with the help of optical devices. Entertaining and profound in equal measure, Tim's Vermeer uses its seemingly esoteric subject to pose fascinating questions about art and obsession.



We're All Leaning In by Dana Donnell

Dana Donnell at Field and Fire

12 of Dana Donnell's paintings are currently being exhibited at Field and Fire Cafe, 820 Monroe NW. They are open weekdays 6:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m., Saturday and Sunday 8 a.m.–3 p.m. Stop in!



Sunflowers in the Kitchen by Dana Donnell



Photo

Group

Submitted by **Randy Nyhof**

GVA Photo Group had its annual picnic at Mary Harbert's place on Lake

Michigan, Saturday, Sept. 9. Everybody had a great time enjoying each other's company, photographing Mary's flower garden, and being on the lakeshore.

The GVA Photo Group will meet with our usual critique on the third Tuesday this month on October 17 because of an ArtPrize conflict. This will be our only meeting this month.



Three Peaches by Dana Donnell

Area Art News

Forest Hills Fine Arts Center

Mike Bryant

September 28–October 26

Reception: Thursday, October 5th, 6:00–7:00 p.m.

Exhibit hours are 9–5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Guardian Gallery Lowell

See the work of Charles LaRue entitled “Detours Opening Up New Vistas” through the month of October. The Guardian Gallery Lowell is located in the Franciscan Life Process Center, 11650 Downes NE, Lowell, MI 49331. The Franciscan Life Process Center is open during regular business hours.

Guardian Gallery Grand Rapids

October features the watercolors of Blythe Metternick Smith and Wilma Knoll. In November: Carol Cole and Sharon Snoeyink. Gallery is open Tuesday–Friday from 9 a.m.–6 p.m.

654 Davis Avenue NW

Grand Rapids, MI 49504.

Terryberry Gallery at St. Cecilia’s

“Fact or Fancy” is the name of the mid-September to end of October show for Holly Sturges and Judy Tummino. Judy has some large fluid landscapes or dreamscapes and Holly is showing smaller intense fruit and vegetable paintings.

The show for November at Terryberry Gallery at St. Cecilia is featuring the beautiful artworks of Judy Maggini and Sandi Lummen. The show runs from October 18–November 25. The reception is Friday, October 27 from 5:30–7:30 p.m.

ICCF

The watercolors and pastel landscapes by Valentina Gregorieva will run through the month of October. ICCF is located at 920 Cherry St SE, Grand Rapids, and is open during regular business hours. This show is on all three floors.

The featured artist for November is Holly Sturges, and the name of the show is “Home At Last,” based on a series of oil paintings of the places she have lived. The reception for this show is November 1, 5:30–7:00 p.m.

Dominican Center at Marywood

Watercolor, Drawing & Oil Painting by Natalie Smith and Lacey Thompson. September 1–October 31.

Reception Date: October 8th, 2017. November and December will be Valentina Gregorieva. Reception is December 10, from 1 until 4 p.m.

Frauenthal Center

Frauenthal Gallery - October brings the beautiful artworks of Mary Reusch and Margaret Kriegbaum. This show will be up through the end of October.

November features the paintings of Kathie Kalinowski and Kathy Bechtel. The show consists of landscapes and still lifes in oil and pastel. The show will be up at the Frauenthal Center until the end of November.

Lowell Arts

LowellArts Exhibition: Between Turbulence and Tranquility. The work by 9 exceptional artists from Michigan, including Casey Bemis, Rose Ellis, Kim Enschede, Hana Girdvainis-Sawyer, Dawn Hollister, Alyson Rodriguez Dells, Ogi Yanakiev, Diane Zoellmer and Cara O’Brien.

September 6–October 28

Cascade Library

The Cascade Library is a beautiful venue that provides a great deal of exposure to GVA artists. From July 24th–October 24th you can see the works of Mary Reusch, Mary Helmic, and Dave Bazen. If you want to share your work at the library, contact Candice Chovanec at candicechovanec@yahoo.com.

Franciscan Life Process Center Workshops

To see the workshops that will be taking place in 2018, go to this link on our GVA website: <http://grandvalley-artists.com/sites/default/files/FLPC%20Workshop%20Lineup%202018.pdf>

LowellArts Holiday Artists Market

November 7 – December 23

At LowellArts, 223 W Main St, Lowell, MI 49331

The annual LowellArts Holiday Artists Market features artwork by over 50 area artists. Gallery hours:

Tuesday - Saturday 10am - 6pm. Details at www.lowellartsmi.org.

LowellArts, 223 W Main St, Lowell, MI 49331

Thanksgiving Is

Approaching

Submitted by Mary Marin

Every year around this time, my mailbox at home is filled with appeals for donations from many outstanding organizations. I like to do my part, but I have to choose from among them, as I can only do so much.

Some months ago, GVA began the process of obtaining a 501(c)(3) tax status, and we are now a tax deductible organization. I am so glad, since this is the one non-profit organization that has most directly enhanced my own personal life. I honestly cannot imagine my life without it! As the saying goes, "Charity Begins at Home."

If you feel as I do about GVA, I hope that you will include GVA when you are choosing the recipients of your donations. Every penny goes directly to the maintenance of the organization, as we have no paid staff.

To make a donation, simply use the link on our website to contribute via PayPal, drop a check into our suggestion box at GVA, or mail your donation to Grand Valley Artists, 1345 Monroe Ave NW Suite 140, Grand Rapids, MI 49505.

Thank you all so much.

WE MAKE
A LIVING
BY WHAT WE GET,
BUT WE MAKE
A LIFE BY
WHAT WE GIVE.

winston churchill

Classifieds

Free **map case**. Holds 36x48 sheets and makes a great layout table or a buffet bar. Free. Contact robingbowles@gmail.com.



Sigma 150-600mm F5-6.3 DG OS HSM. Like new. Contemporary. Bought at Norman Camera shop. For more info please call 616-669-1231. \$675.00.



French Easel. Full size and almost new. \$75. Contact Jim Markle at jimcmarkle@earthlink.net.



Three 18x24 new **frames**. \$40 each or 3/\$100. Contact Ruth at rsvandermeulen@charter.net.



Portable drawing table. Never Used. \$20. Contact marymarin@comcast.net



Guerilla Box. Used once. Cost \$200 new. Will sell for \$100. Contact marymarin@comcast.net.



ARTPRIZE 2017 STUDIO SCHEDULE

The hours for most of our regularly scheduled sessions have been changed to conform to ArtPrize hours of Noon–8pm / Noon–6pm Sundays.

OCTOBER

1 Sunday
Noon–3 pm Mary Helmick / hands on experience for visitors

2 Monday
Noon–3 pm Monday portrait group
5 pm–8 pm A few artists will come in to work on their paintings

3 Tuesday
Noon–6 pm Kathy Kalinowski's Painting Class

4 Wednesday
2 pm–5 pm Wed Landscape Group will paint outside, weather permitting, or inside if need be.
6 pm–8 pm A few landscape artists will paint inside to finish their paintings.

5 Thursday
2 pm – 5pm Figure sketch
6 pm – 8 pm Critique in studio (not in the gallery)

6 Friday
2 pm – 5 pm Friday still life group
6 pm – 8 pm A few still life artists will return to continue on their paintings.

7 Saturday
2 pm – 5 pm Sat figure sketch / clothed model
6 pm – 8pm A few artists will come in to work on their paintings

8 Sunday
Noon – 3 pm tba
3pm - 6pm tba
6pm - 8pm Off-The-Wall Party



Memories

Do you have old photos of fun times with GVA members that you'd like to share with us? If so, scan them and send to marymarin@comcast.net or let me borrow the photo to scan myself. Here is a photo of Diann Bartnick chatting with Armand Merizon. She figures this is late 70s or early 80s.

Off the Wall Party
6 p.m.–8 p.m.
Sunday, October 8

GVA Artists Knocking Themselves Out for ArtPrize!

In order that we show the world our “stuff,” members have been showing up to paint every day during ArtPrize so our visitors can see actual artists at work. The plein air group set up their easels outside GVA to grab a little attention and almost caused a couple of accidents as curious passersby craned their necks to see what we were doing. Screeching brakes didn't scare us, though...and we stuck it out all afternoon. We even picked up a few new members maybe!





Lindsey by Candice Chovanec

Long Pose Workshop with Candice Chovanec

There are still one or two spaces available in the long pose workshop, October 12th, 19th, and 26th. Learn more at <http://candicechovanec.com/long-pose-figure-painting/>

Doug Klemm

Please stop in for a great salad at Bliss & Vinegar, where you will see Doug Klemm's work. If you want to show your work at B&V, make sure to 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.



Holland Tulip Festival

Are you thinking about entering the 2018 Holland Tulip Festival's annual poster competition? The deadline is **October 6**, and the cost to enter is \$35. You'll find all the info you need at the Holland Area Arts Council website: <http://www.hollandarts.org/art-in-bloom-2018.html>



Board Meeting October 5 at 6:15 p.m.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT: Our schedule has changed during ArtPrize. Please refer to the special schedule of events on page 4. Any updates will also be reflected on our website: www.grandvalleyartists.com. After ArtPrize, we will resume our usual schedule beginning on Monday, October 9.

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