

Perspectives



grandvalleyartists.com

July 2020

2020 Festival of the Arts

Submitted by Joanne Swann

Grand Valley Artists rocked it at the Virtual Grand Rapids Regional Arts Festival. I counted 48 GVA members who have pieces in the Virtual Arts Show, the Regional Art Show and the Photography Show. If you haven't checked out the encore presentation of the festival, grab yourself a cup of coffee or a glass of wine and go to <https://festivalgr.org/virtual-arts-festival/>. You should particularly watch for Steve Scarborough's performance of "We're OK" at about the 4-hour mark. Below is a list of our participating artists. If I've missed someone, I apologize.

Lynn Anderson	DeLaine Klar
Cindy Awrey	Marty Klar
Steve Barclift	Doug Klemm
Alix Bartnick	Edd Kloote
Kathy Bechtel	Michael Koole
CC Berg	Paul Kreutziger
Deborah Bergren	Carol Laurin
Annemarie Biernacki	Nancy MacLachlan
James Bleeker	Mary Marin
Larry Blovits	Sri McCarthy
Jean Allemeier Boot	Randy Nyhof
Diann Borton	Dennis O'Mara
Evie Carrier	Janice Paulson
Anne Crans	Stone Peng
Tom Dandridge	Wayne Pierce
Wes DeVries	Darlene Podpolucki
Henry Droski	Mary Jane Pories
Sue Ellison	Linda Scarborough
Joe Goedel	Steve Scarborough
James Gorman	Doug & Barb Schwentor
Bill Ingraham	Sue Snell
Jim Johnson	Cynthia Wojciakowsk
Kathleen Kalinowski	Sara Youngman



[Click here to see the virtual arts video](#)

[Click here to see the Regional Arts Festival entries](#)

[Click here to view the Photography Show](#)

[Click here to see the Artisan Village](#)

A Letter from Our President

Submitted by Joanne Swann

First of all, I'd like to thank the members who sent donations to help keep GVA going. So far, we've raised \$5,000 toward our goal of \$14,000. We aren't quite halfway, but we still have time. We are beginning membership renewal season earlier this year, so new members will get two extra months. I hope you will rejoin early and that you will consider sending something extra to the fundraiser.

Whew, that part's over. Now on to some fun news. Plans are going forward to hold the first ever GVA Tailgate Party on Thursday, July 23rd, from 7 to 9 p.m. It will be held outside our studio in the parking lot at 1695 Service Road. We are still in the planning stages, so we will keep you updated. Steve and Linda Scarborough have agreed to perform. We will figure out a way for members to show current artwork while maintaining the 6' apart rule. Your job is to bring your own drinks and snacks. No sharing of drinks or food please, but do bring lawn chairs for your comfort if sitting on the tailgate of your automobile doesn't sound comfortable. The plans are weather dependent, so if it looks like rain or extreme humidity, we'll postpone the event until a later date. We want to get together safely and comfortably, so keep fingers crossed for the same lovely weather we're having now.

Plans to begin holding sketch sessions beginning the week of July 14th are also in the works. As of this date we hope to start with the Tuesday and Saturday model sketch sessions. Holding the sessions depends on availability of models and participants. However, there are some rules we're asking you to follow if you plan to attend:

We will have some sort of a sign-up site set up for you to sign up for a sketch session. Additional information will be sent via Mail Chimp on how to access it. Sessions will be limited to 10 artists plus the model. When that limit is reached, no one else will be allowed into the session. I would hate to have someone drive to the studio only to be told they can't come in. If we find that a specific session is very popular, we will consider adding sessions. Please be considerate of your fellow members, if you sign up for a session and then realize you can't make it, please take your name off the list.

Below are procedures that will need to be followed:

The GVA board wants to ensure that the studio remains a safe and clean environment for our members upon reopening. Our current plans include, but are not limited to:

We will have regular deep cleaning of the space, but we request your help in sanitizing the areas you come in contact with: door handles, light switches, easels, tables, counter tops, equipment, restrooms, etc. Disinfectant wipes are provided around the studio.

Before and after using the space, wipe down all frequently touched surfaces. See above.

A disinfectant spray is in the bathroom. Please use it on all surfaces before and after using the room.

Wash your hands frequently and/or use hand sanitizer. There are several bottles provided around the studio.

If you have some sort of gloves, i.e. latex, wear them.

We will limit the number of artists in sketch sessions to provide proper distancing - 6' between easels.

A mask is weird and hard to wear, but it is required.

Don't share tools or supplies.

Don't use the coffee makers or tea kettles. Bring your own coffee, tea, or water in its own container.

Don't bring food to be shared.

Books and magazines in our library should not be used or shared at this time.

If you're sick, stay home.

Be respectful of your fellow members. We are all in this together. Thank you for understanding.

Note from the editor: Until we are back in full swing, we will only be distributing the newsletter online. If you have any news to share, please always feel free to send it to marymarin1285@gmail.com for inclusion.

Bread Art???

Submitted by Mary Marin

What? You have time on your hands? Don't just sit there staring at Netflix! Get that guitar out of the closet. Dust off the fancy SLR camera that you bought when you retired and have only used as a point and shoot (or not at all) ever since...learn what an [F-stop](#) is! (Yeah...I'm talking to myself in both instances.) If you are desperate, there are always those dusty hand weights. You can ignore them. That's what I do.

[Make Flan](#), which also goes by the name Creme Caramel, Creme Brulee, and Vanilla Custard!

Or if you are feeling really creative, just go NUTS [like these folks did](#), making foccacia bread art! Thanks to Mary Helmick for sharing this link with us.



GVA Gallery

Artwork Created During the Quarantine

Submitted by Jim Johnson

Some of our artists are already sharing current artwork on social media, of course, and that's great. But whenever we get the ALL CLEAR, let's put this work up on the wall. One of the wonderful things about creating original art is that the artist always remembers what he/she was thinking and feeling during the creation of the art. I think for this period of time it will be that to the tenth power. Be well, fellow artists. I look forward to seeing you all at our tailgate party.

News Flash

Submitted by Sallie Zigterman

I'm finally eating in a real-live restaurant. YEAH, THIS FEELS GREAT!



Sallie enjoying a frosty mug of root beer at A&W in Manistee.

Join or Re-Join Now!

Submitted by **Mary Baine, Membership Chair**

Grand Valley Artists, like many other arts organizations, is coping with the effects of the global pandemic. Out of an abundance of caution and concern for our members, we have had to cancel events and restructure our usual activities. GVA remains committed to providing support and services—in the form of virtual programs and critiques, a website gallery, members-only social media groups, and social-distanced encounters — so we may continue to connect, converse, and share our artwork safely until we are again able to gather together.

Our organization has thrived for decades. With your continued support, GVA will survive this pandemic and be able to reopen its studio and gallery. In the meantime, our community of artists is strengthened by your involvement and sustained by your dues and donations. The decision to join, rejoin, or renew now will be an investment in the future—and apply to the 2020-2021 membership year. Donations can be added to dues payments; monetary contributions of ANY amount will be greatly appreciated and gratefully accepted. Receipts will be mailed to all donors.

YouTube Videos You

Might Enjoy

Submitted by **Diann Bartnick**

Recently we watched a great series on YouTube: [Portrait Artist of the Year 2020](#). It takes place in London, England where there are small groups of famous artists who paint famous actors/etc. The artists are given four hours to paint a portrait of the person sitting in a very still pose without moving a fraction of an inch. It was really fun to watch and listen to the commentary.



We ended up watching three episodes. The winning artist in each category would have the opportunity to paint in the finals. Loved every minute of it.

I think the artist is a specially privileged person because always he sees the world spread out like a stage before him, a play being enacted for his own special benefit. He approaches it objectively, with all his senses sharpened, filled with “A Great Awareness” of sensitivity like that of a human camera, to make a record of it. He looks not for those things that are the same or similar to his own past experiences, but for differences, he forgets himself and identifies himself with the new scene and activities.

—Lois Lenski

There is beauty in homely things which many people have never seen:

Sunlight through a jar of peach-plum jelly;

A rainbow in soapsuds in dishwater;

The color of cranberry glass;

A little cottage with blue shutters;

Crimson roses in an old stone-crock;

The smell of newly baked bread;

Candlelight on old brass;

An egg yolk in a blue-bowl;

White ruffled curtains sifting moonlight;

—Peter Marshall

Thank you, Alix Bartnick, for sending us these poems!



GRAND VALLEY ARTISTS

Membership Application: Membership Year is September 1st through August 31st.

Note: All memberships expire on August 31st and require renewal on September 1st; the annual membership fee is due every September 1st and remains the same regardless of collection date.

The information on this form is used for contact purposes and member services; please provide as many details as you feel comfortable sharing.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Apt: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Your e-mail address is used to distribute the monthly newsletter as well as important announcements and updates; regarding this service, every member is able to "unsubscribe". If you do not have a valid e-mail address, please check the GVA website for news—and newsletters. Printed copies of the newsletter are available at the studio as well.

Annual dues are \$45 for all new, renewing, or rejoining members except as otherwise noted; payment may be made as follows:

By PayPal—Log onto grandvalleyartists.com and choose the link "Artists: Join here!", then follow the prompts until payment is complete.

By check—Make the check payable to GVA or Grand Valley Artists, then mail it to Grand Valley Artists
% Mary M. Baine, Membership Chair
2280 Leonard Street
Marne, Michigan 49435

Charitable contributions may be added to your dues.

>The William (Bill) Kubiak fund was established to offer assistance to artists coping with financial hardship.

>Grand Valley Artists is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Donations made to support GVA are tax-deductible; you will receive a receipt for your records.

Date: _____

Please check one:

New member _____

Returning member _____

Renewal of current membership _____

Please select one:

>Lifetime membership (20 consecutive years in good standing): \$0

>Individual adult membership: \$45

>Student membership (age 18+): \$25

>Family membership: \$45 for the first adult; \$22.50 per spouse/partner/child (18+) Please list:

Name: _____

E-mail: _____

Name: _____

E-mail: _____

Please confirm amounts:

Dues: \$ _____

Donation(s):

Kubiak Fund—\$ _____

GVA 501(c) (3)—\$ _____

Total: \$ _____

Please choose method of payment:

PayPal: _____

Check: # _____

Cash: _____

The Putto

by Toughie Butterbender
(GVA member in disguise)

It's cool and a little breezy standing in line, but the sun is shining.

The oddest character is plodding along down the sidewalk, approaching the end of the queue. He looks like one of those little winged babies in Renaissance paintings, but he's old. He's like a gruff, hairy, little old baby with stubby wings. He's pushing a child's toy stroller containing all his possessions.

"This the line for free lunch?" he asks, and puts the unlit butt of an old cigar back in his mouth.

"Yeah, join the party."

The wind catches an empty pop can on the top of his heap of stuff, sending it to the sidewalk with a clank. He reaches down with a grunt to retrieve it.

"I could store up more treasures in this world with a shopping cart," he says, "but I can't reach the handle."

"Handle. Guess I never wondered what that pushy part was called."

"Yeah, you put your hands on it, it's a handle," he says. "If you're tryin' to be a smart guy, you won't impress me. I was in pictures. I knew Leonardo."

"DiCaprio?"

"No, da Vinci," he says. "Pictures were different then."

"Anything I've seen?"

"You know the cute little angel-baby in that Raphael painting?"

"Can't say I do."

"The Sistine Madonna. That's what it's called," he says. "Here, let me show you."



He reaches into the stroller and pulls out a picture torn long ago from a library book. He unfolds it, taking care not to tear it along the fatigued creases. Two little cherubs gaze up from the bottom of the painting. They seem familiar; a cultural background hum everyone hears, but few try to locate.

"Yeah, that was me," he says.

"This one here?"

"No, not that one. The one on the left. The one on the right, Smitty, he was an ugly little critter even then. He always said Saint Barbara was looking at him in the picture on accounta she had this big thing for him. That's crap. She's telling him to stop staring at her. I laughed so hard Raffy, we all called him Raffy, had to get one of his flunkies to mop the floor. He didn't want to work with me for a long time after that. Then he died. Like seven years later. Thirty-seven, that's how old he was."

"Smitty?"

“No, Raphael, you doofus. Who’d have thought I’d get into the only soup line that doesn’t have an Art History major.” He folds the picture and sticks it back in the junk pile in the stroller. “That was my best gig and it was 500 years ago.”

“You musta been a celebrity back in the day.”

“Being a putto is like being a child-star,” he says. “You get old, you can’t get work no more. Not cute enough. I tried doing some gothic stuff, but it didn’t work out.”

“I guess it’s tough for a 500-year-old guy to catch a break in today’s youth-oriented culture. How long’s it been since you worked?”

“I don’t even want to say how long,” he says. “Albrecht Dürer wanted demons on horseback. Rembrandt wouldn’t even talk to me. None of the French artists would. I had a job interview with Salvador Dalí once. That man was nuts. Wanted to paint me sitting on a giraffe holding a melted clock. The animal rights folks got all upset when they found out and the whole project fell through. Exploitation, blah, blah. They didn’t even know he was gonna set the giraffe on fire.”

He rubs at the five days of stubble on his face like he’s trying to figure out how it all could have gone so wrong. He looks up, one untamed eyebrow raised.

“I shouldn’t complain,” he says. “I was livin’ the dream for a while. It’s tough, though. You think you got it made, then it all slips away. I went from a villa in Italy to a trailer park in Michigan. Now I’m on the street.”

“That is tough.”

“I tried to end it once,” he says. “Couldn’t take it anymore and walked out into a busy intersection.”

“Sounds pretty sure-fire. What went wrong?”

“I guess it’s not as hard to stop a bus as I thought. All I got out of it was some broken primary feathers. The bus driver, she was a really nice lady. She jumps out of the bus, she’s smoothing my wings, and she’s all like, ‘Here let me try to fix that.’ And I’m like, no,

you can’t fix it, it’s broke now. I gotta walk around like this for another six months until I molt again. Try askin’ your pastor how often angels molt. They can’t tell you. They don’t even think about it.”

He squints up at the sun. The wind blows dust and a plastic shopping bag along the gutter. Cars go by in the street, music bumping.

“You know what kind of soup they got today?” he asks.

“No, haven’t heard.”

“I hope it’s split pea and ham,” he says.

One of the regulars comes out the door and walks by.

“Hey buddy, what kind of soup they got today?”

“Some kind of white bean,” the regular answers. “Not sure exactly, but it’s not bad.”

The putto looks disappointed.

“They don’t make it right here,” he says. “Not like in Tuscany. I used to live there.”

He’s quiet for a while, thinking about warm breezes off the Ligurian Sea. Then he looks up.

“Maybe tomorrow they’ll have split pea,” he says. “With big chunks of ham.”

It’s enough to keep him going another day.

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Photo Group

Submitted by Randy Nyhof

The show that Randy Nyhof and Evie Carrier had re-scheduled for July at the Terryberry Gallery in St. Cecilia has been canceled. Our show may not take place until next year some time. Stay tuned.



Bliss & Vinegar

We have enjoyed a wonderful relationship with B&V for a few years already, which has been a great opportunity for our artists to share their work. For the next month or so, Jim Johnson's beautiful watercolors will be gracing the wall. Be sure to swing by, grab a fantastic salad, and check them out!

If you want to show your work at Bliss & Vinegar, you will need to post it on our website, www.grandvalleyartists.com, so the owners of B&V can see what you do. They decide whose work they want to feature. Please don't contact them directly.

Thank you Marty Klar, for continuing to maintain our relationship with this wonderful restaurant these many months! Your dedication to the betterment of Grand Valley Artists is appreciated!

Program Night

Submitted by Randy Nyhof

Any future programs are still in limbo as of now. Waiting to see how this virus situation plays out.

Area Art News

Venues that we usually cover are closed due to COVID-19. We all hope that this situation changes in the near future. For now, please stay home, stay safe, and stay well!



Jim Johnson at Bliss & Vinegar. Jim says he is smiling.

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GVA Library

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