

January Meeting

Our next meeting will be held on **Tuesday, January 15, 2013, 6:30-9:30 p.m.** at the **Bloomington Art Center**. We will have a clothed model named Synan that Judy Lieber lined up for us. Of course you are free to paint something else if you so choose. We'll have some coffee and refreshments at 6:30 and start painting at 7 p.m. Hope you can all join us!

Member News

Emmy White (321), Tom Dimock (Studio 183), Judy Lieber & Sylvia Rudolph (Studio 185), Rita Corrigan & Marjorie Moody (392) will be open for **First Thursday** at the Northrup King Building (1500 Jackson St. NE Mpls) on **Thursday, January 3, 5-9 pm.**

Richard Mittelstadt is having a solo exhibition at the Robbin Gallery January 3-31, 2013. The opening reception will be **Friday, January 4, 2013, 5:30-8:30 pm.**

Ron Wilson has an exhibit at the Richfield Community Center, 70th & Nicollet, through mid-January. **Marilyn Brown** and **Jeanne Emrich** are part of a show by the Minnesota Branch of the National League of American Pen Women at St. Barnabas Lutheran Church at 15600 Old Rockford Road in Plymouth. You can stop in there most days during normal business hours.

The reservoir handle brush that Jeanne Emrich mentioned at our holiday dinner was the 'Niji Waterbrush'. It costs about \$10 at Dick Blick's in Edina. You can get both a flat and a round brush. And, as the package it comes in says, it's great for travel!.

Also, from Jeanne: "By the way, if you are a woman and are interested in joining a group of multi-talented women in the arts (visual arts, writing, public speaking, music composition), come with Jeanne to one of the meetings of the National League of American Pen Women. We meet the second Saturday morning of the month and have excellent programs! Call Jeanne at 952/220-5794 or e-mail her at Jemrich@aol.com to learn more." Check out our local (www.mn-penwomen.org/) and national (www.nlapw.org) websites, too. We will soon have a Facebook page as well".

Rick Mittelstadt provides this information from the Burnsville Visual Arts Society: The 31st Art Fete Exhibition is scheduled for March through April of next year with ONLINE registration deadline March 11th. Drop off of one artwork piece is March 18th with the opening night reception and awards ceremony on Thursday evening, March 21st. Starting Saturday, December 22nd, MAA members can access the registration website at: https://www.callforentry.org/festivals_unique_info.php?ID=1182. An image of their work this year is not required but highly recommended. We will be conducting an online registration session on January 27th (more information forthcoming) for those needing help or who are Internet shy! We will also be conducting a frame and matting workshop, two participant's coffee chats in the gallery and one chat session with the judges while the exhibition is up.

MAA's Creative Heart: Art as Portraiture!
By Terrie Christian 12/19/12

While the food was delicious and I went back for a second helping of a wonderful fresh couscous salad, the best thing about the Potluck, Show and Tell is being with each other and the sharing that happens. Show and Tell has always been my favorite thing about our MAA events. It is a time the artists speak about their own art and I have felt for many years that MAA is so welcoming of all the many different ways our artists have of use of materials and styles. The art itself tells a story, but by speaking of our own it opens a whole new understanding of who we are as people. Some time ago, I learned a definition of hospitality, that it is "making room for someone to be their authentic self".

For years I did portraits in a realistic way. I loved capturing the essence of someone whether I know them or not. Last night, some of our artists brought wonderful portraits of both people and animals. One person brought a face that she described as a mask and described how we all wear masks, different ones depending on the company we are in. This is true in my own experience, and I have a small collection of masks in my home.

During the Show and Tell artists shared how they came to do art; what inspired them; how much their lives are enriched by hanging out with other artists. How they are frustrated with their art; how they resolve problems; new paths they are taking; how one thing can lead to another and how much fun they are having.

What I have come to realize is that all art is a portrait of some part of us. It is a journey that reveals to ourselves who we are at any moment in time. It is also nostalgia. Some artists that paint landscapes talked lovingly of the site they were painting such as a love for a Minnesota River valley with tall grasses, a childhood in a military family with a recent painting of the homes of officers at Fort Snelling. One artist visited a public garden near St. Cloud that inspired a painting that is more representational and another that is abstract. One described how the light in a wooded scene captured her to paint the piece that she brought and how the shadows were such an important part of the image. Some artists are making things other than paintings and we had a carver and a painter who also has other creative endeavors including jewelry making in our midst. Some are writers and painters and invited us to other events that include both. There was also discussion of materials and how they change and what we need to do to make them work for us. Creativity abounds!

For me, I have moved from the tight and controlled during my portrait days to a love of uncontrolled and letting the paint tell me where to go. My favorite medium is watercolor and in early classes that I took there were rules such as never use Payne's grey, blooms are undesirable and you must mix your own blacks. These days blooms are one of my favorite things. I love to get the whole paper wet, charge in several different colors, sometimes including grey and black right out of the well and watch all the colors spread and mix together themselves. Most times, my black is a sharpie marker. I am having much more fun now, although I am still proud of my ability to do a credible traditional portrait. I also paint out of my head almost exclusively now and often do not even have a plan when I sit down to paint. I consider myself a colorist, and all are included, some more favorite than others. Grey and black are welcome and I do not think of it as a lack of color but as a different palette that has a different mood than the "brights". At the recent Plymouth Arts Fair I found that some that were in this neutral color category were chosen as favored more than my more "colorful" stuff. Who knew? Two of these are gone already, chosen as gifts by friends who had a choice of several that included ones that fit the more traditional definition of colorful. One thing I know for myself as a Minnesotan is that I love the winter palette and the structure of bare trees.



Our connections to each other help us to learn and grow and enjoy our lives. MAA is the glue for me that has been one of my most important art homes. There are just a few people that are holding it together. Marjorie Moody spoke of our past with officers and the need for future leaders. She has been “acting” President, but she also has been Exhibition chair and Newsletter Editor. I did two of those jobs at once (partly behind the scenes) for a couple of years. She does this out of a pure love of the organization. We hope there is someone in our midst that will be inspired by the value of this group and the need for more hands to do the work of keeping us going. Marjorie thanked Judy Lieber, our Program Chair, Diane Gilbertson, our Treasurer, and Nayla Yared our Webmaster. She also thanked Eleanor McIntosh for hosting our event last night and me for my reporting our recent meetings. May 2013 be a terrific creative year for you all!

*****Thanks to Terrie** for writing this article and **thanks to Eleanor McIntosh** for hosting our holiday party! We really had a wonderful time and a terrific turnout! We **welcome new members Jim Geisinger and Rebecca Wood** who shared their beautiful artwork at the potluck too! Attached are 3 images of Terrie's wonderful watercolors!

Happy New Year & Happy Painting!