

MuseLETTER

Minnesota Artists' Association since 1937

Mark Your Calendar



Tuesday, February 20, 6:30 PM
Social time, 7 PM Zoom, Marie Panlener, slide show presentation

Tuesday, March 19, 6:30 PM Social time, 7 PM still life set up for your choice of media at the Bloomington Center for the Arts, Room 2020

Tuesday, April 16, 6-8 PM, Spring juried exhibition reception, MN Arboretum

Tuesday, May 21, 6 PM Potluck at JuliAnne Jonker's home

February's Zoom Meeting: Learn about Deborah E. Roberts

We will learn about Deborah Roberts from Austin, Texas. She's the fifth of eight children who by the third grade, was trading drawings of race cars and football players with her school mates for Big Chief tablets and big red pencils. She still uses those big red pencils today as an artist whose client list includes Beyoncé, director Ava DuVernay and former President Barack Obama.



She's gone from worrying about becoming homeless to selling her work for between \$5K to \$45K and having a piece sold at auction for \$275K.

Her first show was at the bank where her mother was a cleaner. Now her art is owned by many important contemporary art museums.

Roberts is a collage artist who wants to start a dialog about racism in America, a country she loves, by featuring innocent black children in her work she hopes that viewers will recognize their humanity and let kids be kids, without applying adult prejudices to them.



January's Meeting: Becka Rahn Shares How to Make Art into Fabric

Becka Rahn, a paper collage artist, has created a niche for herself as a fabric designer and fabric consumer where she makes and sells her own designed bags and



fabric designs. Her story is one of happy accidents - being in the right place at the right time as a company, Spoonflower, was launching their service. Spoonflower is a print on demand service where a person can supply an image and they will print it on fabric. This was a new medium for her and her art. She is clearly passionate about this delivery method that gives her a unique output for custom items for her niche market of fiber artists. Some of her fabrics include themes like oboes, armadillos, funky tartans or even kelp, which is her fun Zoom backdrop.

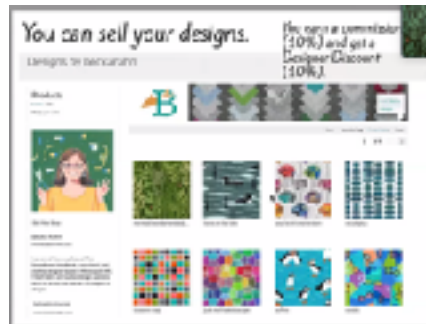
She creates her art on deli paper with acrylic paints and alcohol inks and then cuts them up for her paper collage. She uses recycled paper and is fearless in her sources of materials and ideas for her fabric art. She has done collaborative fabric designs for fun and a challenge.

After taking a picture or scanning the image, she will use a photo editing tool and edit the image,

playing with the arrangement and pattern repeats, until she has created a panel that works well for the end goal.

If you'd like to try it, save your image as a jpeg at 150 dpi and then upload it to the Spoonflower website. Select your design repeat, choose the fabric type and amount, and you're ready to order it!

She is a fan of the recycled canvas (made with 50% plastic bottles), the sateen, and the crepe de chine fabrics. The fabric is printed with an inkjet type of process and then heat set. The printing requires minimal setup and no rinsing, so no water waste. The wallpaper Spoonflower produces becomes her cover for bookbinding journals filled with drawing paper inside.



Her background was in education at the Textile Center. She then became a full-time artist, a teacher and Etsy shop owner. Her fabric designs are available for consumer use on the Spoonflower site. You can also find her at craft shows and exhibits. Becka is exuberant and enthusiastic about making this art form accessible and



understandable. She works a lot but is very disciplined about protecting her weekends and downtime - which is a good reminder for all of us working artists.

Becka has clearly found a niche market for herself by making her art a medium for other fabric artists who could use her designs for their own projects. She hand sews her bags with her custom graphic designs and sells those on Etsy. She also helps others learn how to design and create fabrics in her classes - which include classes on embroidery as well.

Check out her webpage at www.BeckaRahn.com to see her art and get some inspiration for how you can convert your art to artful fabric. By Anne Kaese

Member News

Sushila Anderson's Art Deco, a glass mosaic is in the Shoreview Community Center glass showcase. Her pieces White Jewel, a multi media mosaic and Victory Wings, a soft pastel, are at the Shoreview Library. The Taste of Scandinavia restaurant is displaying Red Swirl, a mosaic. Selected artwork will be at Pizza Luce, 401 2nd Ave N #310, Minneapolis, MN 55401, until February 3rd.



Bob Keller will be showing recent work at Unity Unitarian Church, 733 Portland Ave, St Paul, from 2/4-2/26. The artist's



reception is on Friday 2/9 from 5:30-7:30 PM.

Marie Panlener's watercolor, Nine Mile Creek won 2nd place at the Gallery 96 Winter Show themed White Out.



Larene St Gabriel-Dargay went before the City Council of Columbia Heights on January 22 with a proposal to establish a Center for the Fine Arts in Columbia Heights to help develop the city culturally and to bring more awareness of fine arts. Larene believes the art center would be a great asset to the city in building community and providing art exhibitions and other cultural events. Both the city manager and mayor gave positive support after hearing her proposal.

Ann Sisel was one of a group of 12 WBCA members who were invited to show artwork at Hanifl Performing Arts. The exhibition will include her acrylic painting Wandering Through, and will run from January 22 - February 24.



Jim Turner has been selected as a top 10 finisher in the Artist's Magazine over 60 competition with a 2 page spread in the March/April issue. The featured painting is on Yupo paper.



Ken Valentas had a watercolor painting accepted for the Minnesota Plein Air Collective (MPAC) exhibit at the Bell Museum running from Jan 27 to May 26.

Sixteen MAA members are in the Seeing God show at the Benedictine Center

1 **Lynne Hagen** -
2nd place



All the King's Horses - colored pencil

2 **Kat Corrigan** - honorable mention



Water Lights and the Yellow Line - acrylic

3 **Christine Tierney** - honorable mention



The Quiet Prayer, oil

4 **Sushila Anderson**

5 **Rita Corrigan**

6 **Tom Dimock**

7 **Ron Duffy**

8 **Eileen France**

9 **Norma Hanlon**



Life Force - quilt

10 **Daniel Hendricksen**

11 **Mandy Madsen**



Love Will Meet You There

12 **Diane P. McDonald**

13 **Richard Mittelstadt**

14 **Marjorie Moody**



Passages - oil and cold wax

15 **Susan Solomon**

16 **Art Weeks**



Sanctuary

Remembering long-time member Bettye Olson (1/16/1923 - 4/16/2023)

Bettye Olson was a long-time member of MAA, a well-known artist and a dear friend. Bettye was a member of MAA when I first joined in the late 1980s. She was very supportive of me throughout the years. She'd always tell me she was following my art and that she thought I was progressing steadily. She lived close by and would come to my home art shows, always encouraging me to keep painting! She was very active in MAA for a long time and had a studio at the Dow Building where she painted and participated in shows until the last couple of years of her life. We shared a love of classical music, too, and I'd see her at chamber music concerts. She was a bright light for me and for the art world! By Marjorie Moody

Renowned abstract expressionist artist Bettye Olson was one of Minnesota's most influential artists of the twentieth century. She was a painter, teacher and gallery founder. She personified hard work and a persistence of vision. She was recognized especially for her abstract expressionist oil and watercolor paintings.

Bettye's paintings are renowned for their dynamic, bold brushstrokes and intense color. She was recognized as a Minnesota original by the Minnesota Public Television program at age 92 for her long and distinguished artistic career.



Recognition and honor of her work is demonstrated by the number of her paintings in permanent collections of museums and galleries. Bettye's paintings have been in many juried exhibitions. She was a very hard worker and an energetic and prolific painter, with over 49 one-woman exhibitions and 25 group exhibitions, including award-winning paintings from her university years in the 1940s until a few years ago when she was in her 90s.

In 1988, a major exhibition titled Minnesota Artists Look Back: 1948-1988 was sponsored by the Minnesota Museum of Art in conjunction with the Minnesota State Fair and the Minnesota Artists Association and included Bettye in this elite group of only eight painters.

Mary Abbey, of the Star Tribune, called Bettye "a monument to hard work and vision." A book of her life, published by Afton Press (2016) is titled *A Persistence of Vision: The Art of Bettye Olson*.

Bettye attended the University of Minnesota, receiving her BS in Art Education in 1945, followed by a master's degree in the same area.

Bettye taught art at Summit School in St. Paul, the University of Minnesota, Concordia University in St. Paul, and Augsburg University in Minneapolis. In addition, she taught non-traditional art classes, including leading students on trips to Italy and Sweden.

Bettye had a boundless energy for life. For many years, Bettye served as an artist-in-residence and art teacher for religious retreat centers.

In 2020, St. Catherine University honored Bettye Olson and her influential work by creating the Bettye Olson Legacy Collection and Loan program, a permanent archival library of over 145 of Bettye's framed paintings, 45 unframed paintings, and 5 sketch books. By Jeff Olson

Mission

The mission of MAA is to educate, encourage, and inspire visual artists of all mediums and skill levels, offer fellowship and a supportive environment for creativity, and be a vital presence in the community through our programs and exhibitions.

Board Members

President, Jim Geisinger
(612) 868-7653

Secretary, Ann Sisel
(612) 275-0774

Treasurer, Wayne Sisel
sisel001@umn.edu

Exhibitions, Marjorie Moody
(651) 644-0068

Programs, Position Open,
maybe you?

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(612) 741-5206
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Website, Shakun Maheshwari
(952) 476-6475

Board Members at Large
Jack O'Leary (952) 888-0638
Diane Gilbertson

[http://
www.minnesotaartistsassoc.com](http://www.minnesotaartistsassoc.com)

Artworks by Bettye Olson



At the Beach



Lillies Reaching

Minnesota Artists Association 87th Spring Juried Exhibition
MN Landscape Arboretum, 3675 Arboretum Drive, Chaska, MN 55318 (612) 624-2200
Fresh Perspectives Exhibition dates: April 2 - May 5, 2024

Requirements: All work must be original, created solely by the artist, framed and wired for hanging (no sawtooth hangers) and for sale. Gallery wrapped paintings with 1 1/2” or more depth must have painted edges. Drawings, hand pulled prints and watercolors must be under glass, plexiglass, varnished or waxed. Photographs and hand pulled prints (lithographs, etchings, etc.) are acceptable. The show will be juried and entering the show does not guarantee acceptance. Works previously displayed in MAA exhibitions or at the MN Landscape Arboretum are not acceptable. Make your own label and place on the back of your artwork. The Arboretum will handle all sales and receives a 50% commission.

Send jpegs by email to: marjoriejmoody@aol.com
Label jpeg: Last name_title (example: Smith_Fresh Perspectives)

Send your entry forms & check by mail or email form to: sjlparnell@msn.com
Entry form due: Monday, March 4, 2024 - no late entries

Deliver artwork: Monday, April 1, 9:30-Noon (hanging will be 1-4 PM)

Reception: Tuesday, April 16, 6-8 PM, awards presentation at 7 PM
Juror: Suz Galloway

Pick up dates: Monday, May 6, Noon-2 PM

Member Entry fee: \$25 for 2 entries, \$15 for 1 entry. Non-member fee: \$35 for 2 entries, \$25 for 1 entry. Make check out to MAA. Send entry form & check to: Sandy Parnell, 3924 Pleasant Ave. So., Minneapolis, MN 55409.

Entry Form - Detach & Return

Artist: _____ Email: _____
Phone: _____

Entry #1	Entry #2
Media:	Media:
Dimensions:	Dimensions:
Price:	Price:

Release Statement: The artist releases the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum and MAA from any liability from having their work displayed for the duration of the exhibition.

Artist Release
Signature _____ Date _____