

MuseLETTER

Minnesota Artists' Association since 1937

Mark Your Calendar



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

March meeting: Sketch a still life, win a prize

What could be more fun than sketching a still life with a bunch of artists? Well, lots of stuff but let's do it anyway. Bring the tools and materials you need for still life creation, and join us for our next meeting at the Bloomington Center for the Arts.

To make it more interesting we're going to have (little) prizes for stuff we'll make up on the spot. There might be a prize for the artist wearing the most colorful hat or the artist who's birthday is next on the calendar. You'll have to be there to be in the know.

If you're so moved, bring an item or two you'd like to sketch, or don't, it's up to you. Then jockey for the best angle.

And we'll have coffee and a treat of some kind as usual.



February's Meeting: Marie Panlener introduces us to Deborah E. Roberts via Zoom

In our February Zoom meeting, Marie Panlener shared her presentation of artist Deborah E. Roberts. Deborah was born in 1962 and lives and works in Austin, Texas. She was 5th in a family of 8 children, 4 boys and 4 girls. She describes herself as "different, an artist type."

Her current resume is full of solo shows across the U.S. and Europe, prestigious residencies, awards and a graduate program fellowship from Syracuse University where she earned her Masters in Fine Art.

We got to know more about Deborah's childhood growing up in Austin. In third grade she began trading her drawings of race cars and football players for tablets of paper and "big red pencils." In sixth grade she was bussed to a white school and became aware of racism, was surprised that there were people who didn't like her because she is Black. She wasn't prepared for it, didn't understand it, started missing the bus on purpose and since her parents both worked, there was no way for her to get to school. When she did go to school she often wore a coat to hide her developing body because the teacher talked about Black sexuality. That was a hard year for her but the next year she went to a different school that had both black and brown kids and she had a teacher who encouraged her and insisted she learn various forms of art to become "the whole package."

Roberts calls her early adult work Black Romantic or Black Americana and compares it to Norman Rockwell but Black. She had buyers but still felt something missing in her work. She went to graduate school to find it. At Syracuse University as a Graduate Fellow she found what was missing: Literature. At the 2014 MFA exhibition she won Best in Show.

The concept of the work for which she is currently being recognized is collaged faces of Black children starting with an innocent face and building up the face with parts from other faces to represent that there is not one monolithic Black experience. There is always a gaze directed at the viewer so you will look at the child eye to eye. Roberts collages arms and hands and uses paint and other media to complete the portraits. Her goal is for the viewer to see that Black children are like any other children, to give them the benefit of the doubt and not treat them as little adults or apply preconceived ideas about them. Roberts says Black children are often criminalized, sexualized, or seen as difficult to teach and suspended from school when they are just being kids.

As we got to know Deborah we realized how much artists have in common. We all have to dust ourselves off after art failures, we face art world challenges, and



struggle to come up with a title for our latest piece.

We saw some video of Deborah as she talked us through some specific paintings including one that she feels represents her so well that she should have kept it. It's called *Becoming* and is in the collection of the ICA Boston. We heard about her series dedicated to Rosa Parks and another series called *Subject America*. She described some of the symbolism in her work. She told us the tragic story of 14 year old George Stoney Jr. in her series *Nessun Dorma*. He was wrongly convicted and executed within 80 days of the murder of two white girls. One of this series is in the collection of the National Portrait Gallery.

We took a look at some of her early work and some recent work in her book called *Deborah Roberts: Twenty Years of Art/Work*.

Deborah Roberts is serious about her work and practice. She's also charming, self-deprecating, funny and sincere in the multiple video clips presented.

Member News

Michele Combs is honored and excited that her painting Garden Path - MN Arboretum has been juried into the 50th annual Northern Lights Art Exhibition at White Bear Center for the Arts. Her painting is one of the 101 artworks accepted from 757 pieces entered. The exhibit runs through March 29. There is a community reception Thursday, February 29 6:30 to 8:30 PM

Ron Duffy has a painting in the Benedictine Center/St Paul Monastery for the annual Seeing God exhibit. His painting is titled Search for the Holy Grail, 10 x 20 inches, acrylic on canvas. The exhibit is open 9 AM to 5 PM daily from January 15 through April 10, 2024.



James Ellis has a new exhibition at Tettegouche State Park from March 1-31, 2024. The show is entitled North Shore - Past and Present. There is an opening reception on March 1st from 7 to 8:30 PM.

Daniel Hendricksen has a painting in the Benedictine Center/St Paul Monastery for the annual Seeing God exhibit, "Mourning to Morning," an acrylic painting on chipboard assemblage with a hidden LED lightbar. The exhibit is open 9 AM to 5 PM daily from January 15 through April 10, 2024.



JuliAnne Jonker has a solo show called Passages, including landscape paintings, drawings, etchings, and giclees at Gallery One, Tractor Works Building, 800 Washington Avenue #111, Mpls, MN 55401.

Marie Panlener has an art show starting Palm Sunday, March 24 through May. Open Sundays and by appointment. White Bear Unitarian Universalist Church, 328 Maple Street, Mahtomedi, MN 55115. |651.426.2369 office@wbuuc.org



Art Weeks has an art display at Unity Minneapolis Church, 4000 Golden Valley Road, Golden Valley through April 1st. The exhibit consists of 15 paintings done in oil, pastel and watercolor mediums. Check with the church office for available hours.

MAA Members Awarded at Community Art Show

By Marjorie Moody

Eight MAA artists were accepted in the Community Juried Art Show at St. Matthew's Episcopal Church in St. Anthony Park. Three of our members won three out of five awards! Best of show went to our newsletter designer Marie Panlener, Marjorie Moody won best in oil and Norma Hanlon won best in other mediums. The other MAA artists who each had two pieces accepted are Daniel Henrickson, Rosemary Ruffenach, Ann Sisel, Wayne Sisel and Patricia Bruns. Congratulations to all! The community show continues until April 12, 2024.



Best of Show, Map of the World by Marie Panlener



Best in Oil, Strolling in Cascais by Marjorie Moody



Best in Other Mediums, Moonglow by Norma Hanlon

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.

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Movie News

Amazon Prime Video now has the movie **California Typewriter** available for streaming.



From Wikipedia: California Typewriter is a 2016 American documentary film directed by Doug Nichol, that explores the mythology attached to the typewriter, as various obsessives (including Tom Hanks, John Mayer, David McCullough and Sam Shepard) celebrate the physicality of the typewriter both as object and means of summoning the creative spirit. It also documents the struggles of California Typewriter, one of the last standing repair shops in America dedicated to keeping the aging machines clicking.

Jeremy Mayer, an Oakland, California based sculptor who

appears in the movie, exclusively uses typewriter parts to make life-scale, anatomically correct human figures and other sculptures. The sculptures are not soldered, welded, glued, or built by any other means than by cold assembly of typewriter components. **Minnesota-born** in the 1970s, he sees himself as in between two worlds, the old and



the new, trying to come to terms with the technological and societal transition between the pre- and post-internet world.

Watch the three trailers here:
[https://www.jeremymayer.com/
video](https://www.jeremymayer.com/video)