

# M Muse LETTER

Minnesota Artists' Association since 1937

## Mark Your Calendar

**May 16** - 6 PM Potluck -  
JuliAnne Jonker's home,  
13602 Everest Ave  
Apple Valley, MN 55124

## May's Meeting is a Pot Luck at JuliAnne's

Please bring a dish to share and a piece of art for show & tell. Hope to see you all there!



## Nothing Serious

Steve Sack can't do anything serious. He went to college at the University of Minnesota and took drawing and design classes but didn't fit there because realism, and especially humor, were taboo. He is largely self-taught in art.

During his time there, Steve saw a job opening for an illustrator at the university, and they hired him, paying him \$15 per drawing. He soon learned that being a cartoonist paid more and started his career as a cartoonist at the Minnesota Daily. Eventually, he would sign up for classes at the U of M just so he could continue the job, and then he would drop out of the classes.

After a three-year stint at a job in Fort Wayne, Indiana, Steve heard that the Star Tribune's cartoonist had retired. Steve applied, got the job, and worked there for 43 years. He won the Pulitzer Prize for Editorial Cartooning in 2013 and was a finalist four other times.

Steve tries to make his drawings pleasant, but with a subtle message, creating cartoons about things people are talking about: the weather, sports, politics. Over the years, his topics ranged from global warming to Salvador Dali, from gun culture and mass shootings to the pandemic.

Every day he worked to find three new ideas for cartoons, creating 14,000 cartoons during his career. He values the Star Tribune's management because the editors never told him what to draw or not to draw, which was unlike the experience of many cartoonists at other newspapers.

Steve's drawing style was simple at first, line art in black and white with some shading, but he colorized cartoons for the website. As the newspaper started to have ads in color and more color photos in the news, he began to use color.

Even while working full-time, Steve created personal art, which had nothing to do with politics. He chose topics based on his mood, painting weird contraptions and goofy people: cowboys, a laughing horse, a duck in a vise. At one time, he created a comic strip for kids.

Steve tried all types of techniques, from oil painting to sculptural work using papier mâché. He tried some business ventures, such as printing his images on pillows, but came to the conclusion that he really didn't like the business part.

A year ago, Steve had some medical issues that caused problems with his hands, keeping him from doing his normal hand drawing. He now uses an IPAD and Procreate to continue creating his goofy characters. Steve is retired now and lives in Bloomington. By Peggy Wright

## Member News

**Wayne and Ann Sisel** will be showing their artwork at Central Library on 2200 Central Ave, NE Minneapolis for the month of May. Stop in to see it.

**Annie Young** recently received a grant from the Academy of Special Dreams (CA). She



used the grant funds to create an Inclusive heARTistry Kit. The Kits were requested by teachers who had students in their classrooms who were blind/vision impaired. They were provided locally to teachers in MN and also in WA and NC. It is a resource for teachers, providing a creative, inclusive opportunity for students and to share valuable messages:

1. never give up,
2. the words, 'I'm possible is found in the word impossible',
3. ask friends for help.



Annie has two acrylic

paintings on canvas: "Whole World is a Garden" and "Food for the Soul" at the



Hopkins Center For the Arts: Spring Member Exhibit. The exhibit runs thru May 14, 2023.

**Art Weeks'** painting titled, "River of Drought," was selected for the MNWS Juried Spring Show currently at the Arboretum. Juror was watercolorist Don Andrews. Painting depicts the Minnesota River vista at Winkel Park, Chaska.



**Marjorie Moody** is having a home art show. Please come and bring a friend! Sunday, June 4, noon - 6 PM, 1220 Pascal St. North, St. Paul, MN 55108 (651) 644-0068

She lives in an old brick church that has been renovated into a combination living space and studio. From Hwy 94, go north on Snelling to Como Ave. Go east on Como two blocks, north 1/2 block on Pascal. Refreshments will be served!

[www.marjoriejmoody.wix.com/](http://www.marjoriejmoody.wix.com/) artist-painter

**Susan Davies** received notice that she has been awarded a Central MN Arts Board artist learning grant. With the grant she will attend a private workshop with Bonnie Cutts, from Golden Paint, and buy materials from Golden to create new work for her

September solo show at Division One Art Gallery in Buffalo.

**Shakuntala Maheshwari** invites you to see her work at the following shows:

"Healing in Solidarity," Apr 21-Sep 1, 2023, XIA Gallery & Cafe, 422 University Ave West, Saint Paul, MN. Opening Reception: Apr 21, 2023, 6 PM

"Eye on India" (Solo show),: July 21-Sep 1, 2023, XIA Gallery & Cafe, 422 University Ave West, Saint Paul, MN Opening Reception: Jul 21, 2023, 6 PM

"Summer Paradise" (Solo Show), Aug 2-Sep 13, 2023, Eden Prairie Art Center, 7650 Equitable Dr, Eden Prairie, MN Opening Reception: Aug 2, 2023, 6-9 PM

"Minnesota Mosaic Guild Members Show," Aug 12-Oct 28, 2023, 422 University Ave W, St. Paul, MN Opening Reception: TBA

We hope to see you at these exciting exhibitions to experience the beauty and diversity of Shakun's artwork.

MAA Members **Ann and Wayne Sisel, Barb Parisian, Emmy White, Shakun Maheshwari, Don Aggerbeck, Marie Panlener and Maggie Merkow** will be displaying their work at the NorthStar WaterMedia Society Spring Members Exhibition. May 2-May 30, 2023, Dow Gallery & Framing, 2242 University Ave, #120, St. Paul, MN.

Member News (continued)

Kim Gordon has an exhibit of batik work at the University of Minnesota Landscape Arboretum. <https://arb.umn.edu/art-galleries/cafe-gallery>

Sanctuary: A Batik Journey by Kim Gordon, April 20-June 18

Artist Meet & Greet, 12-2 PM, April 29, Cafe Gallery.

The exhibit includes 23 batiks, a technique that uses successive layers of liquid



pigment and hot wax resist to define color, value and form. The collection was inspired by direct observation of the natural world. She will lead two batik workshops in concert with the exhibit.

Register online at <https://arb.umn.edu/learn/batik>

Tom Hessel's silverpoint drawings have won the following awards from Art Fluent, an online juried exhibit:

Exhibit Theme: Humanity; Title: "Lining Up;" Award: Best of Show

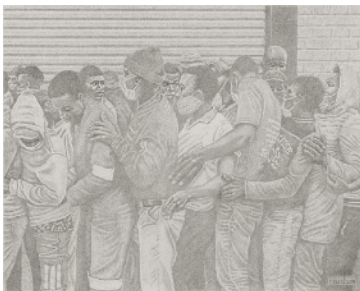


Exhibit Theme: Wanderlust; Title: "Eastern Man;" Award: Director's Choice



Sushila Anderson's work, "Alice in Wonderland" can be seen at the Gallery 96 Show,

Exploring Space(s). Shoreview Library 4560 Victoria St N, Shoreview, MN, May 6-June 24.



Fred Dingler was juried into the Minnesota Watercolor Society Show at the Arboretum.

Andrea Canter will feature new works as well as having Mary Louise Knutson playing piano in her studio for Second Saturday on May 13 at Casket Arts, 11-4. This will be an Art-a-Whirl preview, for those who hate the crowds and parking challenges of Art-a-Whirl. Casket Arts, 681 17th Ave NE, Minneapolis. For



those who enjoy a big art studio crawl, Art-a-Whirl returns May 19-21 in Northeast Minneapolis.

Andrea's studio will be open throughout. More info at [www.nemaa.org](http://www.nemaa.org).

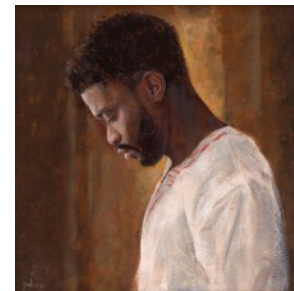
JuliAnne Jonker's pastel, "The Little Viking," won first



place in the American Artists, Professional League of New York City.

Exhibition dates are April 26 through June 26, 2023.

Two of her paintings are on their way to the the Salmagundi Club for the 139th Annual Members Exhibition from May 1 through May 27.



## Mission

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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

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President, Jim Geisinger  
(612) 868-7653

Secretary, Ann Sisel  
(612) 275-0774

Treasurer, Wayne Sisel  
[sisel001@umn.edu](mailto:sisel001@umn.edu)

Exhibitions, Marjorie Moody  
(651) 644-0068

Co-Chair, Annie Young

Programs, Position Open,  
**maybe you?**

Newsletter, Marie Panlener,  
(612) 741-5206  
[panlener@mac.com](mailto:panlener@mac.com)

Website, Shakun Maheshwari  
(952) 476-6475

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

## NorthStar Watermedia 9<sup>th</sup> Annual National Juried Exhibition

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As of May 1, the Call for Entry is open at [www.callforentry.com](http://www.callforentry.com). The deadline is July 1 at midnight. All watermedia artists are invited to enter this great exhibition which, this year, will be held at the Phipps Center for the Arts in Hudson, WI—a beautiful facility with spacious galleries. The entry fee is \$45 for NorthStar members and \$55 for non-members for up to three entries per artist.

Prospectus is at the [www.callforentry.com](http://www.callforentry.com) website as well as the [www.northstarwatermedia.com](http://www.northstarwatermedia.com) website

Additional key dates include:

- Exhibition Dates: September 15-October 29
- Drop-off: September 13, 10 am-1PM
- Phipps Public Reception: September 15, 6:30-8:30PM
- NorthStar Awards Ceremony and Reception: October 29, 2:00-4:30PM
- Pick-up: October 29, 4:30-5:30pm and October 30, 10AM-1PM

We look forward to receiving many MAA members' entries!