

Northern Indiana Pastel Society

Member of International Association of Pastel Societies, IAPS • Nipastelsociety.org

July 2009

Meeting

7 p.m., July 2

The new German
Township Library
Black Forest Room
52807 Lynnewood Ave.,
South Bend, Ind.

Northeast of Cleveland and
Portage Roads

Some members cannot attend Sunday meetings, so we thought we would try an evening meeting. Please come and see how you like it.

Donations of chips, cookies, fruit etc., for our refreshment table are welcome. We hope you like having an occasional evening meeting. Sunday afternoons will remain our usual meeting time.

Program

Award-winning artist and art educator **Linda Freel** will give us the harrowing details of how she painted the dramatic mural (20-feet high) in the new library.

Note:
Different day,
location, and time!



She did not use pastels on the mural, but she is a pastel artist, and a member of our society. It should be interesting to tour the new library, which looks like a storybook Bavarian cottage.

Paint out Saturday, Aug. 8

Mark your calendars and plan to join fellow members for outdoor pastel painting in Elkhart County as part of the Quilt Gardens Tour in Amish Country. We will meet at the Old Bag Factory, Goshen, from 1 to 5 p.m.

Our paint out will be part of a larger paint out that includes a competition with prizes, an art sale and a reception Saturday evening. Contact Diane Overmyer at Sycamore Gallery for full details. 574-533-8900, sycamorefinearts.com If you would like to be listed among the participants in advance publicity, please contact Diane Overmyer or Cathy McCormick, camccorm@aol.com.

Members' juried exhibit awards
Sycamore Fine Arts in the Old Bag Factory
1100 Chicago Ave. Goshen, Ind.

10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Monday through Saturday through July 27

Judges' awards, which carry a monetary prize, went to **Deb Eiswald**, of Constantine, Mich., **Ron Monsma** and **Tom Tooley** of South Bend, and **Susie Russell** of Nappanee. Merit awards, which carry a gift certificate, went to **Linda Freel** and **Mary Firtl** of South Bend; **Mary Michalak** and **Mona Witt** of Granger, **Diane Overmyer** of Wakarusa, and **Stephen Verace** of Goshen. The juror was Brian Byrn, curator of the Midwest Museum of American Art, Elkhart. He selected 30 works from 54 that were submitted. Congratulations to the winners, and many thanks to all who entered. Brian Byrn's *Juror's Statement* is included at the end of this newsletter. To view the top prize-winning pastels, please go to the Sycamore Fine Arts web site at: sycamorefinearts.com/events.

Paintings up for auction

If you attended the show reception at Sycamore Fine Arts, you may have done some pastel work on our cooperative still life or landscape. The two paintings are finished and will be available for bidding in an auction at the gallery and the gallery web site. Proceeds will benefit our pastel society.

Show opportunities

Art on the Plaza

As part of the Red Table Plaza Lunchtime Concert Series, Downtown South Bend is hosting Art on the Plaza, which gives artists an outdoor area to show and sell their works free during the lunch hour. Dates are June 26, July 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, Aug. 7 on Key Bank Plaza (southeast corner of Jefferson Blvd. and Michigan St.) Pre-registration is required and space is limited. Artists are asked to provide examples of their work. To register, call DTSB (574) 282.1110.

Art Beat Sept. 26

Our pastel society will not have a group booth this year, but individual artists or small groups are encouraged to take a booth space. Art Beat will be 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sept. 26.

Artists living in the following counties are eligible: St. Joseph, Elkhart, LaPorte, Marshall and Starke counties in Indiana, and Berrien and Cass counties in Michigan. Applications are accepted until Aug. 3.

A \$10 non-refundable application fee is required for submitting an application. There is no booth fee. Artists are responsible for bringing their own tables, chairs and tents. Also new is the online application for Visual Artists, who will be able to submit their information including samples of work via the internet. Application forms can be found at: www.ArtBeatSouthBend.org. For more information, visit www.artbeatsouthbend.org or call 574-282-1110.

Salon show

Carol Ervin, owner of Nolas Salon, offers wall space to local artists. Works should be framed and ready to hang. There will be a \$5 fee per painting, and a 15 per cent commission on sales. Contact Barbara Fedder for details at 574 272-1881 or Kbfedder@att.net.

Shows at New Galleries

Members' pastels will be shown monthly at New Galleries, 805 Lincoln Way West, South Bend. Mona Witt is coordinating the shows, and is collecting names of artists who would like to participate. Please contact Mona at: mona50@comcast.net.

Upcoming Shows at New Galleries:

July: **Marie Arch, Mary Lou Lonergan, Mary Ann Ross.** Reception 5-9 p.m. July 3.

August: **Joe Schultz, Tom Tooley and Vince Dominello**

September: Michigan artists **Sandra Goodrich** and **Robert Williams.** Anyone else from Michigan interested in joining them?

October: Snite Museum Curator of Education **Jackie Welsh** and docents **Miriam Wittkopf, Linda DeCelles, Peggy Vaughan** and **Cathy McCormick**

Need digital images of your art?

Baffled by digital photography? Wish you knew how people get their artwork on web sites? Mona Witt will scan artwork for members to create digital images for web sites and Arts Everywhere.

If you already have digital images, Mona would like them for the NIPS page on the Arts Everywhere web site, and New Galleries needs images for their web site when artists exhibit there. E-mail Mona for the details: mona50@comcast.net.

Workshops

Still Life with Ron Monsma

Award winning artist Ron Monsma will teach a pastel still life workshop July 25 and 26 at Sycamore Fine Arts in the Old Bag Factory, Goshen. 574-533-8900, sycamorefinearts.com.


Start pastels with Cathy McCormick

Know someone who would like to try pastels? Cathy McCormick will teach Jump start Landscapes 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., July 25 at South Bend Museum of Art. \$48 for members, \$57 for others. Supplies will be provided. Cathy will give a similar workshop at Heartland Artists Gallery in Plymouth, Aug. 1.

GLPS workshops

Great Lakes Pastel Society will host three instructors in three days: **Connie Kuhnle**, portrait with live model on July 17; **Janet Kohler**, landscapes on July 18; **Brenda Mattson**, painting sand, sky and water on July 18. Sessions will be at Grand Valley Artists' space, 1120 N. Monroe, Grand Rapids, Mich., from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. with a break for lunch.

(Continued)



Cost is \$275 for GLPS members for all three days or \$100 per day with priority given to those attending all sessions. To hold your reservation, mail a check to GLPS for \$25 to: Sarabeth Carr, 3440 Bradford NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49525, 616-942-7787 or carrjsl@comcast.net.

Good news

Phil Monteith won the award for best pastel at the Michiana annual art competition at the Box Factory, St. Joseph, Mich., in May, and **Mona Witt** won a purchase award.

Jan Gilbert completed a series of four paintings based on photos her father took at the 1938 Indy 500 race. She recently exhibited one of the paintings at Wayne Museum of Art, Fort Wayne. That piece sold at the opening reception.

A pastel by **Robert Williams**, *Amanda in Purple Headdress*, won the best of show award at the Chesterton Women's Club Art Show in June. *Delicate Curves*, a pastel by **Mary Ann Pals**, won a merit award. Mary Ann Pals is having a solo exhibit of her pastel paintings and charcoal drawings titled, "*Blooms & Dunes*" at the Beverly Shores Depot Gallery (along the South Shore tracks in Beverly Shores, IN) July 19 - Aug. 9. The reception is July 19 from 11:30-3:30 (CT).

Doug Dawson will judge a national show for the Arkansas Pastel Society in September. To enter, see the prospectus at arkpastel.com.

Ron Monsma to judge Pastel 100

NIPS member **Ron Monsma** will judge the still life and floral category in *The Pastel Journal's* 11th annual Pastel 100 competition. Entries must be postmarked by Sept. 1. Best of Show Award is \$5,000. Other awards include \$2,500 from *The Pastel Journal* and a 324-piece set of Unison pastels. See *Pastel Journal* website for details.

2009 dues

Dues remain at **\$20** for 2009. A bargain! Please write a check to *Northern Indiana Pastel Society* and mail to treasurer Sue Coultas, 519 Woodruff, Niles, MI 49120. Please update your email address and other contact info if you've made any changes.

ArtsEverywhere

Mona Witt continues to send updates so the community can learn about our meetings and events at www.artseverywhere.com.

Juror's Statement

One of the great pleasures of the past 27+ years as a curator/artist/collector has been the opportunity of looking at thousands of works of art. Even when I have not been totally receptive to a piece, I still somehow manage to digest some of the artist's intention and file the experience away for future reference. Too, as aging becomes part of the formula, I am pleased that many subjects I would have immediately dismissed in my youth, I now find extremely intriguing. That being said...quality will always show.

This exhibition of the newest pastel group with Midwestern origins is truly a delight. Over arching this experience was the high quality of the work submitted. Usually one expects to accept about one-third of the pool of works for an exhibit. In this case more than 50% showed qualities of superior technique, perceptive observation, and quality presentation. What more could one ask for?

While some view pastel as a type of painting because of the use of color, preparation of the matrix, and blending or mixing of dry pigment, I view it as a drawing experience. Fortunately for those who were accepted, my major in drawing as an undergraduate, helped me to choose those exceptional works for award recognition. Unfortunately there is never enough money to spread around to properly compensate artists for their vision and abilities. So be it.

My top ten picks showed the strengths of the mature, the thoughtful, and the skilled. No artist should leave home without these qualities and the temperament to adjust to such a learning curve as provided by this type of competitive experience. This sounds like many a juror's blah, blah, blah statement but I suppose it doesn't hurt to review the basic tenets of the curator's path. And curating is the exact approach I took in comparing, contrasting, reviewing, editing, and envisioning the top ten and this exhibit.

To that end, four works stood out. Is it any surprise to anyone that Ron Monsma is a most masterful draftsman? His incredible ability to define space, create nuance, and provide an homage to an art historical Dutch mean is superlative. In all of the works I have witnessed across northern Indiana, there are but a few to compare him to...(maybe only two...) Congratulations to an artist who sets the standards high!

But yet, there are three others whose work showed the sensitivity of greatness. Tom Tooley is an amazing artist with an uncanny sense of his subject particularly since he often has to work from a photograph. His ability to breathe life into a well-worn subject such as animal imagery is a credit to his technical virtuosity as well as his emotional and intellectual vision of the subject. As for Debra Eisenwald, she can deliver an image with such emotional clarity and breathe historical life into her subject that it causes the viewer to suspend belief. The soul of her subjects most known to her is without a doubt the most difficult element to capture in portraiture. She excels and excels more at this. Finally, to know the land is to walk it, touch it, breath it, and live it. Susan Russell provides the ordinary made extraordinary due to her knowingness of the land which she obviously is passionate about. The subtlety of her gaze toward a landscape provides the viewer with an indefinable feeling of place and space. She doesn't overkill the subject but just lets it be and that's enough.

So, given the time in between curating the exhibit and writing this statement, it surprises even me as to how these aforementioned images have stuck to my imagination, and that is the true test of fine art and the Curator's path.

Brian Byrn, Curator of Exhibitions & Education
Midwest Museum of American Art, June 2009.