

October 2008

Gallery Notes

Join MutualArt.com, Compliments of The Art League

The Art League is now a member partner of a new, subscription-based art information website called MutualArt.com, and we would like to invite everyone in The Art League community to become a free member. Please go to MutualArt.com, click on "Access Code" and enter: tal857 to become a complimentary member, view our events as well as other exciting art events and exhibitions around the world!

Early Pick Up of Work From September Show

Due to the painting and repair of the Gallery on October 6, ALL WORK needs to be picked up from the Gallery that is currently exhibiting in the September All-Media Show and September Bin Gallery on Sunday, October 5 from 3:00 - 6:00 pm.

Art in City Hall Pick Up

Pick up of work in the current Art in City Hall show is Saturday, October 18, 2008, 10:00 am – 2:00 pm. Please use the Cameron Street entrance to City Hall. Work not picked up will be delivered to The Art League Gallery at 2:00 pm and a \$5 per day per piece late fee will be assessed beginning Sunday, October 19 at 12:00 noon.

The Art League Gallery's Blog and Show Images on Flickr

Information and images are continually being added to our blog, theartleaguegallery.blogspot.com. Please visit and spread the word! Images from each show are also available to view on flickr - click on the "Current Show" page of our website to link to our flickr page and view all the works in the current show, past shows, and photos from select receptions and events.

October Solo Artist Show, "Mending Fences," Mixed Media Works by Michele Hoben

Fences have been primarily used as dividers of land, conveying both safety and fear. Some menacing, some beautiful, materials both humble and exquisite, their purpose is both necessary and silly. The symbolic parallels between fences and what's occurring in our country are timely. Hoben's mixed media series, "Mending Fences," has come to create a subtle commentary on our current political and economic environment.

Hoben's great-great-grandfather, J. Wallace Page, invented a woven-wire fence in 1883. "Fences are in my blood," she states. This series began with a simple sketch of a bamboo fence, and Hoben then realized there was so much to explore artistically with this subject matter. Her works are made expressive by her powerful and aggressive use of line and mark making. "Line is the foundation of my fence series. The play of transparency and opacity, negative space and patterns of light and dark created by the different fence structures and materials are also interesting to explore and are an important part of my work."



"There are many political and cultural references and associations with fences." White picket fences are seen to some as a symbol of Americana, suburbia – representative of an idealistic society. As many homes across the country face foreclosure, perhaps what the white picket fence symbolizes is changing. The fence under construction across our southern boarder to curtail illegal immigration, approved by Congress, has encountered strong opposition from local jurisdictions.

Gallery News

October All-Media Show, "Revealed Histories"

This exhibit is about our own histories, both personal and collective. (This is the perfect opportunity to use those old family photos in your closet!). However, you can also address the history of a group or society other than your own. Immigration would be an interesting and timely subject to explore as well. Artists to study and look at include Enrique Chagoya, who uses images from Mexico's rich history of the Mayan and Aztec people with images from American Pop Culture. Another artist that uses her own personal history along with that of a societal group is Jaune Quick-to-See-Smith, a Native American artist who talks about the contemporary issues of Native Americans from her own point of view. And, of course, Frida Kahlo, whose works are intensely personal yet reflect the history and culture of her own country. *A complete "Call to Artists" is available in the gallery or via email.*

"Revealed Histories" Juror, Daniel M. Finch

Daniel Finch is currently the Associate Professor of Visual Art at Messiah College. He received his BFA concentrating in two-dimensional studies from Augusta State University and his BFA in painting and drawing from the University of Georgia, Athens. He joined the faculty of Messiah College in 2002 after teaching for one year at the University of Georgia. His work has been exhibited nationally and internationally. Most recently, his work was published in the national art publication *New American Paintings*. He is represented by the Prater Rouse gallery in Norfolk, VA.

November Gallery Shows: FotoWeekDC at The Art League and "small works" and "LARGE WORKS"

FotoWeek DC at The Art League, November 6 – December 1, 2008

FotoWeek DC at The Art League is a special juried exhibit open to photographers of The Art League and the Torpedo Factory that will take place in conjunction with FotoWeek DC, a regional celebration of photography taking place throughout Northern Virginia, DC, and Maryland.

There is no entry fee. There will be a hanging fee for accepted work of \$5 per piece payable during delivery of accepted work to The Art League Gallery. Entries must be submitted electronically no later than Thursday, October 30, 2008, 4:00 pm. Please e-mail image to gallery@theartleague.org. Artists working only in film can deliver one framed piece to The Art League gallery on Thursday, October 30, between 2:00 pm and 4:00 pm for jurying. Images must be formatted in JPEG's measuring at least 3,000 pixels on their long dimension. Images may be color profiled in SRGB, Adobe-1998, or not color-managed. Please indicate artist name, title, any specialized medium, printed image size, framed size, and sales price when sending your files.



Jurors, Jim Steele and Craig Sterling

Steele teaches photography at The Art League School, the Smithsonian Institution and Photoworks, Inc at Glen Echo Park. Steele's work can be seen in Studio #343 in the Torpedo Factory Art Center or on his website at www.photographybysteele.com.

Sterling works exclusively in monochrome, integrating the traditional photographic process with some of today's most advanced digital technologies. You can visit Sterling's studio at the Torpedo Factory Art Center, Studio 305, or view his work online at www.craigsterling.com.

A complete 'Call to Artists' is available in the Gallery or via email.

"small works" and "LARGE WORKS"

(members may enter two pieces in each show, each show will count towards Bin Gallery membership for 2009-2010)

small works Guidelines

- 1) Image area may not be larger than 6" x 8" or 48" square, with an overall size of not more than 10" x 12" or 120" square, including mat and frame. Three dimensional work can be no larger than 120 cubic inches total using all three dimensions. (Exception: stretched canvas (un-matted) work, image size can be up to 8" x 10" or 80" square).
- 2) Frames that add more than 1/4" to the total dimension must be factored into the total square inches to determine actual size.
- 3) Subject matter is NOT restricted to "miniatures." Image content and scale are up to the artist.

LARGE WORKS Guidelines

- 1) Image size must be no smaller than 22" X 30". Framed size – no smaller than 28" X 38".
- 2) Stretched canvas can be no smaller than 24" X 36"
- 3) There is no maximum limit on size however there is a 40 pound weight limit. Work must fit in the gallery doors and be prepared for hanging or display. (Please contact the gallery with any questions or concerns about presentation of large works)

"small works" Juror, Susan Frank

Dr. Susan Frank is Assistant Curator at The Phillips Collection. She is a specialist in late nineteenth and early twentieth-century art and received her Ph.D from the University of Iowa. She has curated many exhibits including, "American Impressionism: Paintings from The Phillips Collection on tour through summer 2009 across the U.S.," and "East Meets West: Hiroshige at The Phillips Collection." She is also known for a number of important books including, "American Impressionists: Painters of Light and the Modern Landscape."

"LARGE WORKS" Juror, Glenn Perry

Glenn Perry works at the National Gallery in the Design and Installation department. He is a member of the Washington Society of Landscape Painters. Of his own work he says, "I would like to convey the state of being where the act of seeing, the seen and the seer are merged, where the self and nature are experienced as a unity. Painting outdoors for me can be a meditation... I often paint subjects that are familiar to my daily travels and have struck me at some point in passing."

September Juror's Dialogue and Award-Winners

Award-Winners: Jan Sherfy, Sally Davies, Alain Debrabant, Yefei Gan, Michele Hoben, Jackie Saunders, Kathleen Stafford, Paula Stern, Suzanne Vigil, Paulette Warwick.

Juror's Dialogue with Joseph Di Bella

While jurying a show, Joseph Di Bella must instantaneously determine, "what was the artist's idiom, intent? How virtuous was the artist in executing their vision?" He has to consider each piece within its' own language.

"I examine the artist's stylistic approach and concept. How successful were they with working the medium? Was what was attempted to be conveyed thematically successful? I have to look at each piece and how the artist thought it through as a convincing statement."

"The work I found was among the strongest I have ever seen at The Art League. The photography was the strongest I have ever seen here. There were some exquisite figure drawings and paintings. And as usual, I found some very sophisticated abstractions."

Di Bella was also quite impressed with the illusionistic and trompe l'oeil paintings submitted. "This kind of work requires a different sensibility all together. A lot of time, care, expertise and skill are required by the artist. In many works, the paint has been transformed into two completely different materials." For example, in Teresa Oaxaca's "Cauliflower," "the artist managed to use the same paint color to create the onion and the cloth. Just remarkable."

Some of the pieces that were not accepted needed to be further investigated. Artists need to be critical of every area and element of their work. "Explore dynamics, color, composition – be objective. Become familiar with and explore your materials," encourages Di Bella.

Jan Sherfy's "You Decide," captured best in show. "The artist demonstrates great sensitivity in terms of proportion and balance, which infiltrates the entire composition. There is a balance of dark and light, warm and reduced temperatures, and organic and linear shapes and lines. The divisions, quadrants in the composition have created this wonderful tension. There are no boring areas of this piece."

Di Bella awarded an Honorable Mention to "Prayer Flags," a silver gelatin print by Alain Debrabant. "The artist showed such sensitivity. Of all the possible options, perspectives, he chose the best one. The lines, the tones, the repeating shapes – this piece really works." "Cameron Street Boulevard," by Suzanne Vigil was also awarded an Honorable Mention. "The dichotomies that occur within this piece – the organic movement of the figures contrasted with the angularity of the negative space and the contrasting warm and cool colors make this painting intriguing. The multiple light sources, tonality, color, and shadows all really work to make this a successful piece."

School News

Our Fall term is underway. We still have several offerings that have not yet begun, as well as other classes that you can join late. Let the fall season reflect "back to school" in your art life.

Fall Classes (dates denotes start date):

Mosaics with Gene Sterud

September 29, \$165

Enameling on Metal with Abby Goldblatt

September 30 or October 28, \$245

Design and Composition Applications with Lisa Semerad

September 30, \$185

The Complete Pastel Studio with Joe Spollen

October 2, \$170

Black & White Photography with Helen Kelley

October 3, \$200

Ceramics – Beginning/Intermediate with Matthew Grimes

October 5, \$235

Ceramics – Intermediate/Advanced with Matthew Grimes

October 5, \$235

Gestures in Ink or Watercolor with Jackie Saunders

October 7, \$135

Silver Jewelry with Michael Brehl

October 26, \$245



Upcoming Fall Workshops

George Washington Murals with Patrick Kirwin

October 18 & 19, \$170

Monotype Explorations with Penny Barringer

October 25 & 26, \$155

Vessels that Pour with Susan Beecher

October 24 – 26, \$195

Silver Soldering for Jewelry with Gretchen Raber

November 1, \$90

Visit www.theartleague.org/school for more information on these courses and workshops and to register.

The Re-Launch of Fiber Arts at The Art League

We are in the midst of renovating and updating the Springwater Fiber Workshop space and developing our exciting new fiber curriculum. Stay tuned for our re-launch mid-October. Courses will focus on traditional fiber techniques as well as creating innovative and contemporary creations.

Fall Travel Workshops

Plein Air Painting In The Mountains with Sara Poly

October 1 - 3, 2008

Join Sara Poly, Art League Instructor and member of the Oil Painters of America, for an autumn plein air, landscape painting workshop in the heart of the Shenandoah National Park. Capture the scenic vistas along Skyline Drive (acclaimed as one of the most scenic roads in America), the Shenandoah River and its valley, or the gentle hills of the Virginia Piedmont. Composition, value, light patterns, design, color and atmospheric perspective will all be covered. Demonstrations, group critique, and lots of personal attention are included. Students beginning to advanced are welcome. Accommodations have been reserved for two nights at the park's own historical Skyland Resort, located on Skyline Drive. \$695 per person, double occupancy. Limited single rooms available for an additional charge.

Celebrate Columbus Day Weekend, Sunday, October 12 & Monday, October 13, with Wine and Plein Air Painting in the Virginia Vineyards with Bobbi Pratte!

Combine the sumptuous worlds of art and wine. Join Bobbi Pratte for two days of plein air painting at the scenic Tarara Winery, located near Leesburg in the heart of Northern Virginia wine country. Set on 475 acres, Tarara boasts 60 acres of picturesque vineyards just above the Potomac River. Tarara was selected as the best winery in Loudoun County for 11 consecutive years by Northern Virginia Magazine. This workshop includes an exclusive winery tour and private wine tasting, as well as a lovely gourmet tasters' lunch. \$325 per person.

Questions regarding Travel Workshops may be directed to Margaret Cerutti, 703-683-1780 x13, margaretc@theartleague.org.

Opportunities for Artists at The Art League and Beyond

Critique with Instructor Gwen Bragg

Instructor Gwen Bragg will offer a group critique for Art League members on Thursday, October 16 from 6:30 – 8:30 pm. Artists may bring in up to two pieces for this valuable opportunity to receive constructive feedback on their work. There is a limit of 10 people so sign up early at the gallery, email roseo@theartleague.org, or call 703-683-1780.

The Art League's Annual Holiday Ornament Collection

November 25, 2008 – January 2, 2009

It's time to start thinking about creating handmade and hand-painted ornaments for our Annual Holiday Ornament Collection. This year's theme is "Celebrate Alexandria." It's not necessary to solely have images of Alexandria, but we find that ornaments with Old Town scenes sell out quickly.

Delivery of ornaments: Due, Monday, November 25, 10:00 am – 6:00 pm

Jurying for awards: Tuesday, November 26

Ornaments will be displayed in the gallery from November 26 – December 31. Unsold ornaments not picked up by January 2 will be donated to charity. There is no entry fee, and no limit on the number of entries. Artists receive a 75% commission on ornament sales. Glass balls are available at the gallery for Art League members to purchase for \$1 apiece. However, ornaments can be created on any surface and are not limited to our glass balls.

A successful ornament is one that captures your personal style and expertise and is an intriguing work of fine art, not to be underestimated. Ornaments will be displayed on an artificial tree in the gallery. The gallery staff will replace ornaments as they sell.

New Art in City Hall Exhibit November 17, 2008 – June 19, 2009

Note: This exhibit WILL count towards membership in the 2009 – 2010 Bin Gallery

Receiving: Saturday, November 15, 2008, 10:00 am – 2:00 pm

Work Not Selected must be picked up Sunday, November 16, 12:00 noon – 4:00 pm

Juror: To Be Determined

Entry Fee: \$3 per piece, up to three pieces of original work

All work must be ready for display, securely framed with screw eyes and wire firmly attached to the frame. No taped or clip style frames will be allowed. Works on paper must be matted and under glass or Plexiglas. All work must be original – no giclee reproductions. Work cannot have been juried into previous Bi-Annual Art in City Hall Juried Exhibitions or previous exhibits at The Art League. Open to members of The Art League, Torpedo Factory Artists Association, Del Ray Artisans, and Springwater Fiber Workshop.

A complete 'Call to Artists' and Loan Agreement is available in the gallery.

The 2009 International Photography Competition

February 13, 2009 through March 7, 2009

At the Fraser Gallery in Bethesda, MD, this is an opportunity for photographers to exhibit their work in one of the greater Washington DC area's premier independent fine arts galleries. Go to www.thefrasergallery.com for more details.

Message from the Board President

I recently had lunch with former Presidents of the Art League Board to learn from their experience. Many of us come from a wide range of occupations and have come to appreciate what the Art League has to offer---outstanding teachers, great friendships and the ability to create beautiful works of art. As the Art League has grown in staff, we cannot exist without our members and volunteers.

This month, I'm asking you to accomplish three tasks:

1) Volunteer for four hours annually to the Art League. I'm not asking for a regular commitment although it would make me smile! If each of the 700+ members did this, we could take the Art League to a new level. We need you. Ask any of the staff how you can help or email me at brtvae@aol.com and share with me how your talents can help us grow!

2) Members are so important and I'm asking that you take 20 minutes to complete the electronic survey regarding life at The Art League (members, students and teachers were sent this survey). If you're electronically challenged, then please, stop by the gallery and we'll show you how to complete it. This will help us understand how we can improve to better serve YOU!

3) Finally, with the economic challenges facing us all, I know that we will find the League a creative refuge and an irreplaceable resource for artistic energy and joy. In this spirit, I ask that you consider making a financial contribution to support The Art League. I invite you to review the new Benefactor Brochure that will be arriving in November. Giving to the League, at any level, is a quick and simple process and your gift would be profoundly appreciated.

I wouldn't ask anything of you that I wasn't willing to do myself. My board presidency yields a few more than four hours a month, but I also volunteer as a ceramics monitor during open studio. I've already completed the survey which was really fun and easy. And yes, your board president must lead the way in giving and my husband and I gave our largest gift to Art League since joining three years ago.

Please join me in completing the 3 Tasks for The Art League. And I always welcome your feedback and ideas so email me at brtvae@aol.com.

Elly

theartleague

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Calendar

October 2008

October 1/Wednesday: Solo Artist CDs and paperwork due to the gallery for jurying.
October 5/Sunday, 1:00 – 4:00 pm: Edward Reed, painting demo in the gallery.
October 5/Sunday, 3:00 - 6:00 pm: Early pick up of all works in September shows.
October 6/Monday: Gallery CLOSED for painting and repair.
October 6/Monday, 6:30 – 8:30 pm: RECEIVING for “Revealed Histories” and Bin Gallery.
October 7/Tuesday, 10:00 am – 12:00 noon: RECEIVING continues.
October 7/Tuesday, 6:30 – 7:30 pm: Early pick up of unselected works.
October 9/Thursday: “Mending Fences” by Michele Hoben opens in the Solo Artist Gallery.
October 9/Thursday/6:30-8:00pm: Opening Reception for “Revealed Histories” and “Mending Fences.” Awards presented at 7:00 pm.
October 18/Saturday, 10:00 am – 5:00 pm: Drop-off of work for solo artist jurying.
October 19/Sunday, 12:00 noon – 5:30 pm: Drop-off of work for solo artist jurying.
October 20/Monday: Solo Artist Jurying. Gallery CLOSED.

November 2008

November 3/Monday, 6:30 – 8:30: RECEIVING, “small works” and “LARGE WORKS” - NO BIN GALLERY.
November 4/Tuesday, 10:00 am – 12:00 noon: RECEIVING continues.
November 6/Thursday, 10:00 am – 2:00 pm: Drop-off of accepted “FotoWeek DC works at The Art League Gallery.”
November 13/Thursday, 6:30 – 8:00 pm: Opening Reception for all November shows. Awards, 7:00 pm.
November 25/Monday, 10:00 am – 6:00 pm: Drop-off for Ornament jurying.
November 27/Thursday: The Art League is CLOSED for Thanksgiving.