

theartleague tidings

February 2012

Donations Needed for the 2012 Patrons' Show

The 45th Annual Patrons' Show Fundraiser is shaping up to be the biggest and best yet! With record ticket sales in January, 2012's fundraiser is poised to shatter last year's successes.

We still need donations of artwork to make this Patrons' Show a success. **We'll accept donations of artwork anytime.** Works must be valued at a minimum of \$175 (the ticket price). Artists who donate two or more framed works may then donate unframed works which we will frame for you.

Thousands of eyes carefully study each piece in the Patrons' Show, and our Flickr site receives over 40,000 hits in just a two week period! So, we encourage you to submit your best, most recent work. Many artists receive commissions and sales as a result of their work being seen in of the Patrons' Show.



Awards:

The Patrons' Show will be judged on February 8. To be considered for one of the judge's awards, please have your donations in by this date. The judge will select **four \$100 Marian Van Landingham Awards. The \$100 Charles E. Beatley, Jr. Popular Vote Award** will be selected by the vote of the ticket-holders and announced at the Patrons' Show drawing.

In addition to the judge's and popular vote prizes, we have several additional significant prizes for our artists:

The \$1000 Clemente Prize, for the artist whose work is chosen by the first ticket-holder during the drawing. *This award is sponsored by Mr. & Mrs. C. Daniel Clemente, who have been so generous in funding the Amelia T. Clemente Family Award and the Eleanor Boudreau Jordan Award each year.*

The \$250 Geri Gordon Award, established by one of our longtime Patrons', will be presented to the artist whose work is selected by the First Choice raffle winner.

Patrons' Show is only possible with the help of our volunteers who provide nearly 300 hours of assistance. We need as many volunteers as possible to pull off this huge event – from helping with ticket-sales day, hanging, framing, working in the gallery, to helping on the day of the event. Please contact the gallery (703-683-1780 or gallery@theartleague.org) if you are interested in volunteering.

Thanks to Our Patrons' Show Sponsors

A big thank you goes out to all of our 2012 Patrons' Show sponsors! **Burke & Herbert Bank** is our lead sponsor for this year's event. Several local businesses are generously providing prizes for our ticket-holders. Thanks to **Hotel Monaco, Potomac Riverboat Company, Alexandria Symphony Orchestra, The Warehouse Bar & Grill,** and **Bittersweet Catering** for their donations. We're excited to have **Bertucci's Italian Restaurant** providing food for purchase during the evening of the drawing. Please support those who support us!

Opportunities for Artists at The Art League

Lectures and Seminars:

Liquitex Demo

Tuesday, January 31, 12:00 noon-2:00 pm, Classroom 221

This is a dynamic, interactive, hands-on, entertaining, and highly informative program on how Acrylic materials can be used to the best advantage. It features FREE SAMPLES and the very latest information from the manufacturer! Topics include pigments, mediums, varnishes and much more. The discussion is relevant and helpful to students/artists of all levels. *Please contact the Gallery, 703-683-1780, gallery@theartleague.org to sign up.*



Kate Fraser speaking at The Art League in 2009

How to Get and Keep Gallery Representation

March 15, 7:00 – 8:00 pm in the Gallery

Kate Fraser, fine art professional and owner and director of the Fraser Gallery, will give an hour-long presentation and lecture on how to acquire gallery representation. Topics will include:

1. How to find the right gallery for your work.
2. What should you submit to a gallery?
3. What NOT to do
4. How to have a successful Gallery/Artist relationship

Please contact the Gallery, 703-683-1780, gallery@theartleague.org to sign up.

Art in City Hall 2012 – Submissions Due March 2!

Jury by digital submission ONLY. Entries due March 2. Juror: Ali Ringenburg of the Principle Gallery. Visit our website for more info.

School News – Upcoming Student/Faculty Show

It's Student Show Time!

Our annual Student/Faculty Show is just a few weeks away. This showcase provides a great opportunity for the public to see the wonderful work produced by our faculty and students. For those who don't plan on entering a piece, the exhibit can provide helpful information for selecting a future class. We hope to see you there!

Listed below are the guidelines and information for the upcoming Student/Faculty Show. Please read them carefully.

Current Students: Submit one piece of current work (done within the last year in an Art League class) for the Student Show. Please do not submit work from Monitored Life, Open Studio, or workshops. Wall space is limited so we encourage submission of small works. NO CLIP FRAMES. We cannot accept multiples (such as diptychs), even if you have taken several classes. Although we and our volunteers take utmost care in handling all of the artwork, The Art League cannot be responsible for work that is lost or damaged.



by Danni Dawson

Receiving: Monday, February 20, 10:00 am-12 noon and 5:30-8:30 pm ONLY, at The Art League Gallery – Torpedo Factory Art Center, Room 21. Please complete and bring an entry form.

Framing: Works for hanging should be properly framed with screw eyes and wires attached to the back. Clip frames are not suitable. If you have any questions about framing, please ask your instructor or the school office staff for advice. Work that is unsuitable for hanging will be turned away.

Judging: An outside judge will select merit awards from among the works submitted. Awards include a free membership to The Art League for the year July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013. Please remember that you must still submit an application form to activate or renew your membership.

Sales: Work may be for sale (but it is not required to be for *this* show). If the piece is not for sale, please mark it NFS. In the event of a sale, The Art League will take the usual 40% commission.

Reception: The reception for the Student Show will be held on Sunday, March 4, from 2:00-4:00 pm in The Art League Gallery. Awards will be presented at 3:30 pm.

Pick-Up: Artwork pick-up will be from 4:00 to 5:00 pm after the reception on Sunday, March 4. Please note that work must be picked up at the designated times ONLY. Because we have nowhere to store work, it is at risk for loss or damage if not picked up on Sunday, March 4. If you or a friend cannot pick up the work at that time, the work should not be entered. There will be a \$5-a-day fee charged on all late pickups.

Volunteering: We would greatly appreciate your participation in presenting your show! You can help us by volunteering to receive work, place identification cards, provide hospitality for the reception, and/or distribute works at the end of the show. If you can help in any way, please fill out a volunteer form in the school office or call the school.

Questions: Call the School Office at 703-683-2323 or email school@theartleague.org.

Invite your friends and family to come see the show!

Spring Registration Begins February 6

Registration for Spring classes and for Summer Art Camp begins at 9:30 am on February 6. Students may also register now for any workshop held throughout the year. Registrations will be accepted in this order: those who register in person, followed by online registrations received after 9:30 am, followed by faxed registrations received after 9:30 am, followed by mailed in registrations received on February 6. Any registrations received before 9:30 am on February 6 will be processed at the end of the day. Visit the website and browse the catalog or use the Course Finder.

March Gallery Exhibit, "Play"

In honor of *Minds Wide Open: Year of Children and the Arts*, The Art League presents "Play," a juried exhibit exploring whimsical, playful works, the activity or idea of fun and play, or actual interactive works which encourage visitors to become involved in artwork on an entirely new level. The Virginia Commission for the Arts declared 2012 the Year of Children and the Arts and "Play" will be our kick-off for this initiative. Please visit our website to download the complete call to artists for this exhibit.

Juror – Judy Bass, Professor of Art at Marymount University and Director of the Barry Art Gallery at Marymount University. Bass received her BA from the University of Maryland and her MFA in Painting from George Washington University. She has been at Marymount University in Arlington, VA since 1984. Her work has been exhibited at many local and regional galleries including Jane Haslem Gallery, George Washington University and the World Bank International Monetary Fund Gallery. The Phillips Collection in DC, the Four Seasons Hotel, and ART in Embassies as well as many other private and public corporations hold Bass' work.



From Tory Cowles' 2009 Solo Exhibit "Boing!"

Receiving: Monday, March 5, 2012, 6:30 – 8:30 pm and Tuesday, March 6, 2012, 10:00 am – 12:00 noon

Reception: Thursday, March 8, 2012, 6:30 – 8:00 pm. Awards presented at 7:30 pm. This will also be the kick-off for *Minds Wide Open: Year of Children and the Arts* for the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Entry Fee: \$5 per entry; up to two entries per artist

Awards:

Evelyn Turner Award: \$125. This award is presented to the most outstanding abstract work. It was created by Evelyn's family and friends in honor of the former Art League and Torpedo Factory artist.

Jane McElvany Coonce Award: \$125. Presented to the most outstanding work in contemporary realism. This award was founded by Sandi Parker to honor her teacher and Art League board member, Jane Coonce.

Finding Inspiration for Upcoming Theme Exhibits

The exhibits for March and April, "Play" and "Earth," call for specific kinds of artwork you may not have considered before. To help you find inspiration for the pieces you'll create, here are some examples of art and artists that fit the bill.

"Play," the March show, calls for *"works that can be touched or interacted with to encourage visitors to become involved in artwork on an entirely new level. Work can also include the subject of children at play, games and activities associated with fun and amusement."* Interactive art can be touched, moved, added to, or otherwise involves the viewer in a new way.

Interactive artist Daniel Rozin has created several mirrors, including a mirror made of wooden pieces which shift individually to recreate the face of the viewer in front of them. Interactive art doesn't require video cameras and computers, though. This oil painting, *Seasons*, is made up of nine panels which the viewer can turn to reveal a new portion of the painting. According to artist Eric Nye, there are over 19,000 possible combinations. Jesus Rafael Soto created a number of walk-through sculptures titled *Penetrable*, hanging hundreds of bright plastic tubes which invited a number of responses including walking through them, dancing with them, and swinging on them like ropes. This blog post covers a number of examples of interactive art with some thoughtful discussion of its future.

"Earth," coming in April, is all about the environment and how we live in it. Artwork should use natural, found or recycled materials, or otherwise be linked thematically to the planet, the environment, or humanity's relationship to the environment. For inspiration, look at the 2008 show "Interplay: Humanity & Nature" on flickr. Art League members Noah Williams and Guy and Marco Rando use found objects in their sculpture; their work can also be found on our flickr page. Likewise, Jeanne Garant's 2006 solo show in the gallery featured her small works assembled from discarded objects she found on streets around the Torpedo Factory. She challenged herself to create a work daily, using whatever she found, and the result was a stunning exhibit. How will you challenge yourself?

Artists in all media have been successful in creating environmental art. Photographer Chris Jordan is one of many drawn to images of consumption, such as in his images *Recycling Yard #6* and *Sawdust*, which depicts a mountain of sawdust. Jordan writes that he found the subject "desolate, macabre, oddly comical and ironic, and even darkly beautiful." A National Geographic photo gallery addresses human responses to natural disaster. Other artists have recycled materials including car tires, carved into patterns by Wim Delvoye, trash, turned into a sort of self-portrait by Tim Noble and Sue Webster, and debris from Haiti's 2010 earthquake, made into art by the Haitian artists group *Atis Rezistans*, "the sculptors of Grand Rue."

This spring's exhibits are great opportunities to try something new, and they should produce very interesting shows. Good luck!



*"The Calm Before the Wave," by John Stanmeyer.
Courtesy nationalgeographic.com*

Guidelines for Juried Exhibits

Members continually ask about the jurying process and how the juror decides which pieces are selected and which are not. The Art League closely follows the guidelines established in 1975 by the National Artists Equity Association. These guidelines created a much-needed system for juried art exhibits, and they are still widely recognized and utilized throughout the industry today. For a complete copy of the guidelines please visit, http://ethics.iit.edu/indexOfCodes-2.php?key=3_389_52

Here's a brief synopsis of the rules we follow:

Judging

1. Jurying committee members or staff of The Art League cannot influence judges by their remarks, or by placement of the objects to be judged.
2. The identity of the artist should be withheld.
3. Selection of jurors should be assigned to those with proper qualifications and training.
4. The Art League will ensure that jurors conduct themselves in a professional manner and are informed about any specific criteria for monthly exhibits such as themes or size limitations.



Exhibit Sponsor Responsibilities

1. Exhibit sponsor (The Art League) is responsible for informing artists fully with all pertinent dates, delivery and pick-up dates for rejected and accepted work.
2. Providing artists with hanging and framing requirements.
3. Description of any prizes being offered.
4. Providing identification and qualifications of the jurors.

Join the "League of 25!"

Sponsor The Art League's environmentally conscious "Earth" exhibit by joining the "League of 25" – a new society of donors who fully fund an Art League exhibit. Sound too exclusive to join? It's not. Every donation of \$100 earns a spot in the League of 25, and 25 donors @ \$100 is all it takes to sponsor an exhibit.

"Earth" will be the inaugural exhibit for the "League of 25." The kick-off event will take place during the opening of "Earth" on Thursday, April 12, where donors are invited to partake in a special recycled art activity.



The Kick-Off:

Participating donors will be divided into teams, and each team will be given a variety of found objects and recycled materials from which to build a sculpture. Each team will be given 10 minutes to brainstorm, and then each team member will be given 2 minutes to make their artistic contribution individually, relay style. At the end of the competition, the sculptures will be juried by a special guest, and the winning sculpture will be displayed in the gallery with the "Earth" exhibit. (Participation in the recycled art event is optional and not required to join the League of 25.) Get a group of your artist friends together and form a team!

How will my donation be used?

There are many costs that go into mounting an exhibit in The Art League Gallery. The cost of hiring a juror, providing awards, paying for staff, the reception, promotion, office supplies, and gallery maintenance, all add up. With over 1,000 member artists, 500 works of art submitted each month (on average!), and about 30 exhibits featured each year, The Art League Gallery is one of the most dynamic exhibit spaces in the DC area.

I want to make a donation. Whom do I contact?

Please contact Development Director Charlene Haskell, charleneh@theartleague.org, 703-519-1741, or visit our website to make a donation.

Upcoming Travel Workshops

Photographing the Wonders of Antiquity, Culture and Landscape: Ethiopia – The Cradle of Civilization with Andarge' Asfaw March 19 – 29, 2012

Although a photographic expedition, this workshop is open to artists of all media who may wish to sketch, paint, etc. or take their own reference photos for later artworks.

Join Andarge' Asfaw, award-winning internationally known photographer, educator, author, and fine artist for a very special "National Geographic"-type trek through some of the most unique and amazing historical sites in all the world (many are protected UNESCO World Heritage Sites) — in Ethiopia, the gateway to East Africa. Visit our website to view the itinerary.



by Andarge Asfaw

Your exploration will include superior lodging accommodations at six different locations within Ethiopia. Breakfast and dinner is included in all hotels outside of Addis Ababa. The hotel in Addis Ababa includes breakfast and a traditional Ethiopian Dinner with folkloric dance show. Includes all entrance fees and ground transportation with professional English-speaking guide, by private motor vehicle, private chartered boat on Lake Tana, and domestic flight from Axum to Lalibella and then to Addis Ababa.

Workshop cost: \$3,150 per person, double occupancy. Limited single rooms available at a slightly higher rate.

**Edinburgh, Scotland Through the Eyes of the Artist
an art history/sketching workshop
with Robert Liberace
April 1 - 9, 2012**

Internationally recognized artist and Art League instructor, Robert Liberace, will lead a very special art history/sketching workshop in one of the great capitals of Europe, Edinburgh, Scotland.

Drawing and painting students who have experienced Rob's extremely successful workshops in London, Rome, Venice and Florence, Italy relate the wonder of experiencing the masterpieces from a new perspective: through the eyes of a master draftsman, painter and sculptor, as opposed to that of the art historian alone. Edinburgh and its environs is an alluring blend of incredibly wild and rugged landscapes, majestic castles, royal palaces and stately museums. Join Rob as he leads participants through a multitude of fascinating and historical locations including: The Queen's Gallery at the Palace of Holyroodhouse, the National Gallery, the National Portrait Gallery, Edinburgh Castle, and more. Click here to read more about this workshop.

Workshop cost: \$2,395 per person, double occupancy.
Extremely limited single rooms available for an additional charge of \$575.

**Provence, France 2012
Plein air painting
with Susan Abbott
June 22 - July 7, 2012**

Join popular instructor Susan Abbott for two weeks of painting in the heart of beautiful southern France. This countryside's fabled fields of lavender and sunflowers, beautiful orchards and vineyards, dramatic hill towns, and magical light captivated Cezanne, Van Gogh, and generations of artists and writers. Based in a tiny hamlet, nestled in a valley in the Luberon Mountains, in the heart of Provence, this workshop is a wonderful opportunity to paint in this unique and beautiful place. Click here to read more about this trip.

Workshop Cost: \$3,250 per person, double occupancy.
Limited single rooms are available for an additional \$200-\$350 dependent upon selection.

Check out interviews with our travel workshop instructors, travel workshop FAQs, and more on our blog, www.theartleague.org/blog.

Contact Margaret Cerutti, Travel Workshop Coordinator, for more information or to register: margaretc@theartleague.org, 703-683-1780 x13

January Juror's Dialogue

**January All-Media Exhibit
Juried by Allen Beland**

Excerpt from the Juror's Dialogue:

As an art educator and a practicing artist, Allen Beland was able to approach his role as juror for the January 2012 All-Media Exhibit from an extremely thoughtful and well-informed place.

Beland believes that a successful work is one that stirs an emotional reaction within the viewer. He noted how important it is for artwork to emotionally connect with the viewer - for there to be substance, an ideal, a concept in a piece. Aesthetics, the principles of art and design, of course play an enormous role as well. Beland says he's constantly reminding his students, "composition, composition, composition!" He remembers advice an old art instructor once gave him, "beautiful execution will never save a stupid idea." It's important for your work to have a strong concept. Visit our website to read the full article.



Jane Thomas, "The Thoughts"

Visit our blog (theartleague.org/blog) to read Q&A's with award winners Jane Thomas and Sandy Lebrun-Evans.

theartleague

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Calendar

February 2012

February 6/Monday: Pick-up of work from January exhibits. Receiving for Patrons' Show donations.

February 9/Thursday: Patrons' Show opens.

February 15/Wednesday, 6:00-9:00 pm: Gallery open late for Patrons' Show viewing.

February 19/Sunday, 4:00 pm: Patrons' Show drawing.

February 20/Monday, 10:00 am-12:00 noon and 5:30 - 8:30 pm: Receiving for Student/Faculty Show in the Gallery.

February 22/Wednesday: Student/Faculty Show opens in the Gallery.

March 2012

March 4/Sunday, 2:00-4:00 pm: Closing reception for the Student/Faculty Show.

March 5/Monday, 6:30-8:30 pm: Receiving for "Play" and Bin Gallery.

March 6/Tuesday, 10:00 am-12:00 noon: Receiving continues.

March 6/Tuesday, 6:30-7:30 pm: Early pick up for unselected works.

March 8/Thursday, 6:30-8:00 pm: Opening reception for March exhibits.

