

The Owatonna Arts Center's

VISIONS

January - February, 2006

The mission of the Owatonna Arts Center is to provide the people of the Owatonna area with opportunities to expand their awareness, participation, experimentation and appreciation of the creative process and of the visual and performing arts.

President's Message

I hope this newsletter finds you all rested and well after the hectic holiday season. As I sit by our fireplace writing this, it's hard to believe that just a few months ago we were suffering through high humidity and mosquitoes. Be careful what you wish for!

Your Arts Center Board has been extremely busy the last couple of months. We have put an emphasis on contacting former members who may have forgotten to renew their membership. If by chance we have not gotten to you and you have not renewed for this year, it is never too late. We will always welcome your support. And a special welcome to any new members that have joined since this last fall. We have also completed 8 hours of our Strategic Planning Sessions, with 4 more to go in January. When we are done, we will have identified a 5 year plan and vision what will help guide us as we look at the future needs of the Arts Center. Some of the major topics include membership, class offerings, our continuing building/renovation/sculpture garden project, and our corporate vision. These are exciting times at the Arts Center and your Board is proud to be part of it. We will be addressing this in later newsletters.

Silvan and I also had the opportunity to attend the OAC Foundation's Annual Meeting. It was great to exchange information and share our ideas and vision with this Board. We will continue to find common ground in working together to make your Arts Center the very best it can be. We are all working together so please let us know if you have any questions or comments.

Stay warm and enjoy the snow!

Steve Grubish

PURSEonal Time & Handmade Books

January 15 - 29, 2006

December was about giving gifts to others and enjoying the glee and joy of the young at heart opening their presents. January is an opportunity for you to have that same experience of being delightfully surprised. You will want to brave the elements and come to the opening reception of the two shows, "PURSEonal Time", and "Handmade Books," on Sunday, January 15th from 2:00 -5:00 pm. The art work will make you smile, laugh & think and the artists, at least the polymer clay artists will be installing their work that day, so you can imagine the happy pandemonium. There will be fifteen polymer clay artists unveiling clever pieces that are to be purses. Books, like the purses, are an intimate art form that require one to take a closer look and explore. Some of the artists that have made the books will allow you to page through their creation to enjoy the full experience. The handmade books will be from two different groups, book artists from the Minnesota Center for Book Arts and student work from Susan Harlan's students from the Portland State University, Art Department. This is an exhibition you will want to take some time to enjoy and revisit.

Jim Brenke Exhibition

January 15 - 29, 2006

You will want to check out this exhibition of watercolors by Jim Brenke. The world of possibilities of imagery and techniques will amaze you. Jim's repertoire includes landscapes, portraits, fantasy and abstract images. He has traveled extensively, and some of the paintings are from his travels in Italy, Australia, and Mexico. Jim Brenke is a self-taught artist who is willing to share his painting techniques with you. He will be offering a watercolor class this winter. To find out more about the class, check out the community education and the Arts Center education mailer.

Lou and Peter Berryman Concert

January 21, 2006, 7:30 pm

Lou and Peter Berryman have been amusing and entertaining audiences for more than 25 years. Their friendship began in 1963; their brief marriage ended in 1974; fortunately their friendship and musical partnership flourishes to this day. Peter plays guitar and writes their lyrics-hilarious, quirky yet oddly profound, rich with wordplay and interesting images. Lou plays accordion and writes their jaunty and infectious melodies. Their gentle affectionate observations make us all laugh, cry and care for ourselves and for each other. Tickets are \$10.00 and available at Kottke's, Insty-Prints and the Arts Center.

LEGO Animated Robots Family Fun with Designer Kevin Clague

January 28, 2006, 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

Bring the family for this unique event. The Performing Arts Hall: Owatonna's living room, will become a LEGO educational lab. Kevin Clague, inventor of walking robots made of LEGO'S, will have some assembled that you can animate and, of course, LEGO'S to try your hand at. He will share the mechanics of how to design an animated robot. Kevin has co-authored four books on LEGO robot building.

Stephen Carlson Concert

February 5, 2006, 2:00 pm

Stephen Carlson, pianist, returns to the Owatonna Arts Center on Sunday, February 5, 2006 at 2:00 pm to give a solo piano recital featuring Beethoven's "Andante Favori", Brahms, "Handel Variations", Chopin's F minor Ballade and other works by Chopin and Debussy. A Minnesota native, Carlson is currently a music professor at Coker College in Hartsville, South Carolina where he teaches piano, piano literature, piano pedagogy and music theory. A versatile pianist with considerable performing experience, Carlson made his New York debut as a solo recitalist in Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall in March of 2005.

Paintings & Drawings by Sandra Walberg Exhibit

February 5 - 26, 2006

Opening Reception

February 12, 2006, 2:00 - 5:00 pm

In 1969 Sandra Walberg of North Mankato received her MFA degree in Art from the University of Wisconsin at Madison, her MA in Art from the University of Wisconsin in 1968 and her BS in Education from the University of New York at Buffalo in 1962. Her career includes many impressive accomplishments in the education field as well as an extensive exhibition schedule. In her own words Sandra's artist statement tells us much about how and what she paints. "Whenever I'm asked, 'What is your artwork like?' I often want simply to say that they're abstract paintings and drawings. But that's not true, of course; they're not an abstract of anything. Nothing has gone before that I'm trying to simplify down, extract the essence of, and redefine in another manner. Sometimes I do say, 'they're non-objective painting'. That is more technically accurate, but it can sound a bit stuffy, remote."

Let us consider visual art as we do music. If one sets out to create a musical composition, it does not need to relate to other known things in the world. It works with its own elements of melody, rhythm, and tempo. So too this canvas, these marks on paper. They begin with a line, a shape and intention of direction, of visual effect, and then they grow. It is never for me a thing of having in mind what the work will look like when it is finished. It is about the journey, watching one part relate to another, change and evolve, a listening for direction from the work itself.

It is a dance...With paint, with light with mystery and wonder. Why else would one spend all this time doing it?"

Chili Supper

February 18, 2006, 5:00 - 7:30 pm

Come and enjoy this mid winter tradition, the chili supper, and support the Center. We like to suggest that you make it an art evening, dinner with family and friends at the Arts Center and then a brisk walk to the Little Theatre of Owatonna, to enjoy the theatrical production of Music Man. The kitchen will have the savory smells from Mary Butler-Fraser's homemade chili and French Onion soup, and there may be a third heart warming choice. This down home meal will include all the fixings. That warm bowl of soup always tastes better if it is served up in a handmade bowl made by OAC potters. There will be a small fee for the bowls. Tickets are \$6.00 for adults and \$4.00 for children under 12 and may be purchased at Kottke's, Insty Prints and the Arts Center. To make this even more profitable, Wal Mart will be matching funds for this event.

St. Olaf Senior Trio Concert

February 19, 2006, 2:00 pm

The St. Olaf Senior Trio, Karin Hancock, piano, Beth Youngblood, violin, and Bryan Hinck, cello will give a concert of chamber music on Sunday, February 19th, at 2:00 pm. Their youthful enthusiasm and passion for making music along with that very special college friendship and quality mentorship will make this a concert to remember. This is your opportunity to hear new talent.

Whistlepigs

March 11, 2006, 7:00 pm

We don't know if March will come in like a lion and you won't want to miss the Whistlepigs, Blue Grass Group performance on Saturday, March 11, 2006 at 7:00 pm. Tickets are required. Look for more details in the March newsletter.

Behind the Scenes

The Arts Center is blessed to have a wonderful collection of art, some of which was featured in the Christmas Exhibition. Our collection has been recorded from our inception in 1974 and now with the help of our volunteer intern, Dan Moeckly, the collection will be inventoried and put on the computer. This electronic file will make possible new educational opportunities for study and a more professional record keeping system. Dan and other volunteers will also help with storing the Marianne Young garments in archival boxes. The

archival materials were a grant from the Owatonna Arts Center Foundation.

Owatonna Arts Center Foundation

Over the past seven years you have noticed some lovely additions to the Arts Center's Collection and facility. The Adolph Dehn painting collection, new chairs for the performing arts hall, a new kiln for the pottery studio, and computers and copy machine for the office, all enhancing the Arts Center's programming. This would not have been possible if it were not for the Arts Center Foundation.

In 1998 the Board of Directors were given a bequest and they saw this as an opportunity to establish the Arts Center Foundation. This is a permanent fund that continues to pay out yearly dividends. Over the years this fund has grown because of individuals like you that have invested in the future of the Owatonna Arts Center. Your gift, no matter how large or small, makes a positive impact into the future of the Arts Center. "A Penny Saved is a Penny Earned" or in this, case a penny invested in the Owatonna Arts Center Foundation is a penny that can be spent many times over. If you would like more information about the Arts Center Foundation please phone the office.

Thank You

With each new year, we all make new resolutions; so how about joining the Friends of the Arts Center Committee. You would get to work with a great group of individuals and would be providing much needed help. The next meeting will be on Thursday, January 12, 2006 at noon at the Arts Center and you are all invited.

Thank you to the Friends for helping to serve refreshments after the many concerts, serving soup at Pastimes and helping with the Breakfast with Santa. Your help makes all these events run smoothly.

Pastimes was great fun and successful. The Arts Center really appreciates the artists for exhibiting and also working the sale. Without their involvement Pastimes wouldn't be possible. Mary Butler-Fraser's homemade soups were a big hit, and Peggy Nelson's homemade bread and sweet rolls were an added treat.

You may have noticed the lovely snowflakes on the grand tree in the Performing Arts Hall. They were designed by Joni Pierce and Marlene Kreutz and made by many volunteers. Thank you for an elegant Christmas tree. They already have an idea for next year's tree so if you would like to help give us a call.

Thank you to Santa's helpers for making the large Pizza and installing the Christmas display. Your help was invaluable.

Owatonna Arts Center

435 Garden View Lane
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OAC Board of Directors

Sally Alexander	451-1496	Shelia Meixner	446-1007
Sue Tuma	451-4068	Steve Grubish	451-1500
Bill Foreman	451-7378	Scott Roberts	451-7869
Dave Effertz	446-0258	Jennifer Dunn-	
Sally Nelsen	451-5244	Foster	451-5838

These are the people who have been elected to the Board of Directors to represent members. Regular board meetings take place on the second Thursday of every month at 6:30 PM. Please contact them with your questions, comments and concerns.

OAC Staff

Silvan Durben, *Director/Curator*
Sharon Stark, *Administrative Assistant*
Michael R. Grenier, *Education Coordinator*

OAC Phone: (507) 451-0533

OAC Email: info@owatonnaartscenter.org

OAC Website: www.owatonnaartscenter.org

Memberships, donations and memorials to OAC are welcome any time, and help to enhance the current financial stability of the Owatonna Arts Center.

OAC Gallery Hours:

1 to 5 PM • Tuesday thru Sunday • Closed on Mondays

OAC Calendar of Events

January 15 - 29

Handmade Books

PURSEonal Time from the Polymer Guild of Minnesota

January 15 - 29, Jim Brenke Exhibition

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Opening Reception for PURSEonal Time and Handmade Books Exhibition

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Lou & Peter Berryman Concert

January 28, 9:00am - 5:00 pm

Lego Animated Robot Family Workshop

Kevin Clague, Designer

February 5, 2:00 pm, Stephen Carlson Piano Concert

February 5 - 26

Recent Painting by Sandra Walberg

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Opening Reception for Sandra Walberg Exhibition

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February 19, 2:00 pm, St. Olaf Senior Trio Concert

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