

Message From VSA

Making a Difference Through the Arts

VSA arts of Michigan- Grand Rapids ("VSA") is a unique organization with a unique mission. VSA provides access to and opportunities in the arts to people with disabilities. Through their programs, VSA helps people with disabilities gain self-confidence, become more independent and to develop their creative voice. Each year, through its 16 programs, VSA provides arts classes and other arts opportunities to over 4,000 individuals in our community.

Meet Alex*

In VSA's Graduated Art classes for adults with disabilities, each week student-artists explore new and exciting art projects, from creating candle holders decouped with tissue paper or fashioning necklaces and bracelets to painting beautiful watercolors. After the class, Alex and several of his friends started keeping the plastic CD covers that they were sorting, which are normally thrown away. When asked, Alex told us that he was saving the covers in order to glue tissue paper to them and create mobiles- a program he learned about during the VSA art class!

Meet the Puppets

In their early childhood special education art class, VSA introduces children to the wonderful world of puppets. Using the puppets, the artist teaches emotions, gender – "is Happy (the puppet) a boy or a girl?", colors and appropriate touch—"can you gently shake Sad's hand?" The puppets are also used to aid with singing, to help learn attention skills and communication.

"It's wonderful seeing Marcus* responding to the humor—he LOVES it" raves classroom nurse Pat. Classroom aid Kate adds "It's been so positive for our kids. Such a nice change to the normal routine and something they look forward to. Even Molly*, who is blind, really tunes in. You can hear her singing Twinkle Twinkle Little Star long after the song is done."

How Can You Help Other Budding Artists like Alex, Marcus and Molly?

VSA is always looking for interested community members to become partners in our organization. If you would like to learn more, VSA offers Very Special Tours to the community to see our programs and organization in action. These tours are one hour long and are free to attend- all you need to do is call VSA to set-up your tour time!

Volunteer

Are you interested in volunteering? VSA needs help in many areas. Classroom assistants work alongside teaching artists to help students in their art classes. These volunteers are friends and mentors to our students. Office assistants help in the many tasks that are needed to

successfully run the VSA offices on a day-to-day basis, from website and blog updates to mailings to correspondence. Board members and planning team members help VSA to set and to carry out the strategic plan to help the organization fulfill the VSA mission. Through these jobs, you will have a voice in the path that VSA takes into the future.

Teaching Artists

Are you interested in teaching for VSA? VSA is always looking for new artists to lead our arts programs and classes. We are looking for good teachers, who have a passion for helping others learn about the arts. These paid positions provide a wonderful opportunity for the right artists to pass their wonderful talents and gifts onto others. Right now, VSA has an immediate need for new photography teachers! (There is an application and interview process required to become a teacher for VSA.)

Advocate for VSA

VSA needs other voices to join with them. Advocates help VSA by organizing Very Special Tours, setting up art supply drives in the community or even hosting a table at VSA's annual Very Special Event Luncheon in June of each year.

Want to learn more? Here's how! Call or e-mail Michele or Katie at VSA at #616-885-5866 or at vsagr@iserv.net to come in for a tour. Check out the VSA website at: www.vsagr.org or the blog at www.vsagr.blogspot.com. Become a fan of VSA on our Facebook page at VSA arts of Michigan Grand Rapids.

*Names are pseudonyms

January 2010 President's Message

Wow! Not only another year, but another decade is upon us. We have much to be thankful for and even more to look forward to. It was great to see such a good turnout for the Winter Show Reception and Christmas Party, and **Congratulations to the winners.**

The Show looks great and a big thank you to Larry Campbell for such a professional job well done. Thanks also to all who contributed food and time to make it a success and all the people who helped do last minute calls to members when we cancelled due to the nasty weather. Ah Michigan..

This is a great time of year to hunker down in your studio, or at your kitchen table and try something new, or finish that painting or project that is screaming at you from the outer banks of your awareness. You will be glad you did. Critique night and this month, Super Critique night will be the perfect time to stick your neck out and bring in something challenging or risky. You know we love you!

Robyn B



workshops

Ken Cadwallader Portrait Class

February 16 – March 16: Ken Cadwallader is offering a five-week portrait class for all levels. The class will focus on the core principles of working from life. The class will include demonstrations, group critiques, individual and group instruction. Ken will demo in oils but all mediums are welcome. The instruction will be custom tailored for the individual's specific needs. Space is limited so register soon.

To register contact Ken directly at ken.cadwallader@gmail.com or call **616-566-1238**.

Tuesday Mornings 10am – 1pm

Fee: \$125 plus model fee

Location: GVA

www.kennethcadwallader.com

Jim Markle - 2010 Workshops and Classes

• **Grand Rapids, MI - March 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29 - Portrait Classes**

At: Grand Valley Artists, Inc.

Times: Monday 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm

Contact: Call Jim Markle **616-458-8559**

• **Lansing, MI - April 22, 23 & 24 - Pastel Workshop**

Sponsored by Mid-Michigan Art Guild

Contact: Donna Randall **517-323-7257**

• **Glen Arbor, MI - August 16, 17, 18 & 19 - Pastel Workshop**

Sponsored by: Glen Arbor Art Association

Contact: GAAA **231-334-6112** or info@glenarborart.org

Portrait/Figure Painting Workshop

February 8 - 12, 2010

Tuition \$525 + Model Fee

You will be on "high-alert" with all your faculties functioning on the highest level as you discover how training in portrait and figurative painting brings all the crucial aspects of painting into play. This class will focus on the core principles of painting from life with instruction custom tailored for the individual's specific needs. Experience demonstrations and discussions before each day's work and gain the insight needed to begin a painting with a live model. Review the fundamentals of painting: drawing, color, and edge, and how they work together to convey your vision to the viewer. Learn to simplify what you see and break down a painting into manageable pieces. Receive valuable feedback from the instructor and your classmates in daily critiques while learning the questions to ask yourself in order to critique your own work.

Location: Fredericksburg Artists' School
6260 U.S. Hwy 290 East
Fredericksburg, Texas 78624
Telephone - 830-997-0515
bush@fbgartschool.com

Musician Model Sketch

Several participants in the Monday morning sketch group have initiated a program using a series of four models who are well-known local musicians. After all the models have appeared there will be an open show of the resulting art, from which a jury will select a final group for a show at Westminster Presbyterian Church. To accommodate as many schedules as possible some of the models have been scheduled for Thursday evening and some for Monday morning.

On Monday November 30 Mary Radmacher, a very popular singer, posed for us. Steve Talaga, a composer and keyboard artist was here on Monday, December 21. An award winning horn player, Dr. James Sawyer, will pose on **Thursday evening, January 7**, and at least one more musician will join us, probably on a Thursday in January. We hope to display the resulting art at GVA in February and have the juried show in March. The musicians are excited enough that one has offered to possibly have a small group perform at an opening reception. The initial concept was developed with the West Michigan Jazz Society, which continues to be very supportive.

Open Studio

First and Second Wednesdays of each month

Beginning Wednesday **January 6th from 7:30 till 10:00**, the GVA studio will be open to all members interested in working on their own art projects. There is no instruction, no models and no charge for Open Studio.

Call Jim Johnson with questions: **616-451-2211**.

Program Notes

• **Thursday, January 14, 2010 7:30pm**

This month's program will be a Super Critique of your work given by Richard Cooper, a full time painter and GVA member. You may bring in up to two pieces of work for discussion. He will assess each piece using six criteria - Concept, Drawing, Values, Edges, Temperature and Color. Rich says, "Sometimes the biggest stumbling blocks to creating art are outside of the studio," so he hopes to allow time for some broader discussions on any topics that will help you meet your artistic goals. This could be studio set-ups, thinking through a piece before you start, materials, keeping it fun, selecting subject matter or some brief tips on marketing your work."

• **Thursday, Feb. 11 7:30pm**

Bill Kubiak Memorial-come and see some of Bill's paintings and share stories of one of GVA's founding members.

Program Night at 7:30 PM, second Thursday, of each month, at the GVA gallery, 1120 Monroe NW: visitors welcomed.

Welcome New Members

Natalie VanVliet Boonstra-Boscher
Sue Conway
Marilyne Hazard
Edward Meyer
Eric Nugent
Lora Van Noord

Celebration of the Arts - 37th Anniversary

February 5 - 17, 2010

Celebration of the Arts: The annual festival of spiritual and sacred arts hosted by First United Methodist Church, Grand Rapids, Michigan. Celebration of the Arts represents one of the largest juried spiritual art exhibits in the country featuring over 125 artists from throughout the region in a variety of mediums including oils, acrylics, watercolor, sculpture, fiber, photography and more. We welcome Marjorie Hogan Chellstorp as our 2010 Celebration Juror! Marjorie received her M.F.A. from the University of Iowa and her B.A. from Clark College. She was the Assistant Professor of Art and Humanities from 1983 - 2000 at Madonna University in Livonia, where she specialized in Art History and Painting. She has over 25 years experience in art competitions with numerous prizes and Best of Show Awards. Her work has been shown at the Detroit Institute of Arts, Muskegon Museum of Art, and Holland Area Arts Council. Media: oils, acrylics, watercolors, pastels, prints, drawings, sculpture, ceramics, fiber, textiles, collage, photography, etc.

Fees: \$15.00 for each work. Entries are limited to two pieces per person.

Requirements: Works should express a religious or spiritual quality. No slides of artwork will be accepted. Only original artwork will be accepted. Pieces must be ready for presentation.

Artwork will be received **Friday, January 29** and **Saturday, January 30, 2010** from **10:00am to 4:00pm**. Opening Artists' Reception is **Friday, February 5** from **7:00pm to 9:00pm**. Exhibit is open to the public from **10:00am to 6:00pm** beginning **Saturday, February 6 - Tuesday, February 16** and **10:00am to 4:00pm Wednesday, February 17, 2010**. At First United Methodist Church, 227 East Fulton Street (Downtown), Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Entry forms are available at www.theCelebrationoftheArts.com or by contacting Mark Loring, Director of Music and Arts Ministries, at (616) 451.2879 ext 108 or markl@grandrapidsfumc.org.

Renee Brott
Communications Director
First United Methodist Church
227 East Fulton St Grand Rapids, MI 49503
616.451.2879, x126 reneeb@grandrapidsfumc.org
grandrapidsfumc.org

Coming up at One Trick Pony

- Al Cianfarani 1/4/10-2/15/10 Oil Paintings
- Bill Alexander 2/15/10-3/29/10 Oil & Charcoal
- Robert Stone 3/29/10-5/10/10 Photography
- Jeanetta VanderMyde 5/10/10-6/21/10 **Color Pencil**
- **Tom Dandridge & Jan Proli** 6/21/10-8/2/10 Mixed Media & Black and White
- Sara Youngman 8/2/10-9/13/10 Print Maker
- Larry Campbell 9/13/10-10/18/10 Photography

One Trick Pony is located at 136 Fulton St SE, open Monday - Wednesday 11am to 11pm; Thursday - Friday 11am to 12pm; Saturday 5pm to 12pm. For artist information please contact Barb Wood at **942-0585**.

Wanted

10' x 10' white art fair tent; with 4 walls. Also advice on the art fair experience.

Contact: Sara Youngman - sara@sycreations.net or **456-3206 (w), 365-0145 (h)**.

Newsletter Information

Please have all entries for the newsletter sent to Steve Kelly by the 12th of each month to ensure prompt delivery. Please use the following email address for all GVA Newsletter information: gva@gezora.com. Steve Kelly can still be reached at **616-334-4131** or mail to 1331 Leffingwell, Grand Rapids, MI 49525.

Photo/Artwork Space

If you have artwork that you would like featured in the newsletter please contact Steve Kelly at steve.kelly@gezora.com or at **616-334-4131**.

Contact Listings

President:	Robyn Bomhof	887-5401
	RobynBomhof@gmail.com	
Vice-President:	Larry Campbell	363-5377
	Larryc50@att.net	
Treasurer:	Eunice Hayes	308-2349
	erhayes@sbcglobal.net	
Secretary:	Joanne Swann	454-8821
One Trick Pony:	Barb Wood	942-0585
Membership:	Bonnie Osborne	897-8283
	bonnieosborne@sbcglobal.net	
Photography:	Larry Campbell	363-5377
	Larryc50@att.net	
Program:	Sarabeth Carr	942-7787
	sarabethcarr@gmail.com	
Publicity:	Bob Kraai	956-7734
	rkraai@ameritech.net	
Newsletter:	Steven Kelly	334-4131
	gva@gezora.com	
Reed's Lake:	**To be determined**	
Sketch Studio:	Larry Goff	949-1247
	Dave Bazen	437-9854
	Bob Toms	794-2713
Hospitality:	Elizabeth Dean	949-8390
	Gene Sampson	957-1382

A Reminder About Art Liability...

If you bring artwork for critique, enter it in a show, or leave it in the GVA facility, it is at your own risk. While your artwork will be handled with all possible care, we are an organization of volunteers. At any time, an unintended accident may occur. Grand Valley Artists, Inc. and its members will not be responsible for any loss or damage to the art whatsoever.



Highlights. Calendar

January

Saturday	January 2	10:00AM	Life Sketch
Monday	January 4	10:00AM	Portrait Sketch
Tuesday	January 5	7:30PM	Photography Group
Wednesday	January 6	7:30PM	Open Studio
Thursday	January 7	7:30PM	Critique
Saturday	January 9	10:00AM	Life Sketch
Monday	January 11	10:00AM	Portrait Sketch
Wednesday	January 13	7:30PM	Open Studio
Thursday	January 14	7:30PM	Program
Saturday	January 16	10:00AM	Life Sketch
Monday	January 18	10:00AM	Portrait Sketch
Tuesday	January 19	6:00PM	Board Meeting
Thursday	January 21	7:30PM	Life Sketch
Saturday	January 23	10:00AM	Life Sketch
Monday	January 25	10:00AM	Portrait Sketch
Thursday	January 28	7:30 PM	Life Sketch
Saturday	January 30	10:00AM	Life Sketch

February

Monday	February 1	10:00AM	Portrait Sketch
Tuesday	February 2	7:30PM	Photography Group
Wednesday	February 3	7:30PM	Open Studio
Thursday	February 4	7:30PM	Critique
Saturday	February 6	10:00 AM	Life Sketch
Monday	February 8	10:00AM	Portrait Sketch
Wednesday	February 10	7:30PM	Open Studio
Thursday	February 11	7:30PM	Program
Saturday	February 13	10:00AM	Life Sketch