

# Sketches

## March presentation: Process for Painting a Large Outside Mural

Art league member Becky Schwarz once painted murals, and says painting was fairly mechanically done to scale on the wall. "I remember the first one we did we gridded it off and after that we just measured as we worked ... sometimes five of us." Our March presenter, McHenry artist Elaine Poulos Sinclair, will tell us that grids are now optional, but "I still shade in layers." Large exterior murals are becoming more popular, though demand for residential interior murals is still minor, and she will explain how the industry has changed.

An excellent Cynthia Wolf article in the Daily Herald last August (at this link) shows how Elaine has recently turned "what was just another unremarkable brick business sidewalk ... into a larger-than-life American White Pelican against a lakefront backdrop dappled with blue, gray and green hues." Elaine turns walls – both interior and exterior – and ceilings into original works of art as mural paintings or realistic trompe l'oeil illusions of a three-dimensional objects. The 13-foot high Audubon-inspired pelican in Fox Lake is each day seen by 15,000 vehicles heading west on Grand Avenue, where it adorns the side of the Lakes Realty building just east of Route 12. "The sky on the Fox Lake pelican has 5 to 6 different blues in it!" she says. The Village of Fox Lake has procured grants and hired Elaine and other artists to create a number of such public works downtown. Elaine's other large-scale outdoor work includes Paylocity's Arlington Heights offices, and an outdoor storage building at McHenry VFW Post 4600. She told the Daily Herald "I would love to do more of this."

Interior murals are not quite so visible. Elaine's website at <http://www.muralsbyelaine.com> says

**March meeting is Tuesday the 17th  
instead of our usual Monday**



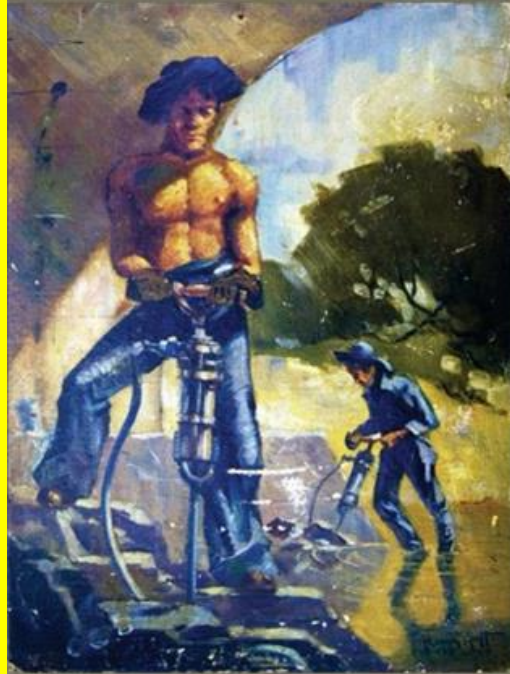
that she can enliven residential spaces like nurseries, dining rooms, foyers, bars and family rooms. Processional spaces also beckon: corporate offices, restaurants, physician's offices and dental Offices. Her website portfolio includes a 7-foot high John Audubon American Flamingo, circa 1832, as an incredible welcoming statement in a Florida condo.

Elaine has been in the art field since 1984. After receiving her Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree from Northern Illinois University she started her professional career as a draftsman, where she serviced one of the largest advertising accounts for Leo Burnett Worldwide as a photo retoucher. She began mural painting in 1991. Follow Sinclair on Instagram @muralsbyelaine.





## Dunn Museum remembers Ray Ratti, early member of LCAL



The Bess Bower Dunn Museum, on the first floor of the Libertyville offices of the Lake County Forest Preserves, is exhibiting the art of Waukegan-born artist, Reima "Ray" Ratti (1914-1945) through April 12. During his short

life, Ratti produced an impressive amount of sketches, drawings and paintings influenced by the vibrant and diverse community he lived in and the challenges of life in the Great Depression. He labored as a rock crusher with the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), and the backbreaking work became an inspiration for his art. That led to his acceptance as an official artist of the CCC Art Program. In July 1937 Ratti returned home to Waukegan to work full-time night-shift for the Co-Operative Bakery so he could paint during the day. Our art league was formed in 1934, and he apparently joined shortly after he returned to Waukegan.

Ratti's work was recognized locally and regionally during his lifetime. His art was exhibited at the Milwaukee Public Museum and the Art Institute of Chicago. After his untimely death at the age of 31, his fiancée, Mary Sadler (1916-2003), and friend and art pupil Carl Austen (1917-1999) memorialized and promoted his work with local exhibitions. In 2004, a collection his work was donated to the Dunn museum by the estate of Mary Sadler. This is the largest known publicly-held collection of his work, and also holds miscellaneous ephemera related to Ratti and his family.

The museum, located at 1899 West Winchester Road, is open Tuesday through Saturday 10-5, Sundays 12-5, and on first and third Thursdays it stays open until 8 with free admission after 5. Otherwise admission to residents is \$6 (seniors \$3). There will be lunch-time docent tours of the show, 12-12:30 on March 11 and 25, and a related evening tour of "Artists of the CCC" 6-7 pm on March 19.

Learn more at <https://www.lcfpd.org/museum/exhibitions/>  
*Tours Director Val Brandner is considering the March 19, 6-7 PM docent tour of the show with a focus on Ray Ratti. Any members interested in attending should contact him at [isketchit@yahoo.com](mailto:isketchit@yahoo.com) very soon so he can make arrangements with the Lake County Forest Preserves.*

# Spring Membership Show Check-In April 4



Bring your Spring Membership Show submittal to the Jack Benny Center on Saturday, April 6, between 10:00 am and 1:00 pm. There Gail Basner and Carole Otis will log you in, confirm that you are a paid-up member and ask you for a signed release form. A form is attached to this newsletter, and they will have additional forms. The art will be carefully arranged and hung by Anne Anderson and Jack Littlefield that afternoon.

You are also free to hang your own art Monday through Saturday morning of the following week, but you must attach a signed release form to the back. More copies of the release form will be available at the Benny Center reception desk, and there will be rods and hooks at the end of the hall for you to hang your own entry. The show will be cataloged by On-The-Wall Director Chris Tanner that Saturday afternoon.

There are the usual rules:

- Current dues must be paid. Contact Membership Director Betty Perri at 847-362-1730 or [bettyaperri@gmail.com](mailto:bettyaperri@gmail.com) if you are unsure about that.
- Work should be fumed or edge-wrapped, and then wired for hanging.
- Work must have been completed within the past three years.
- Work must not have been in a previous Spring or Fall Membership Show.

Please use discretion when picking your entry. Art that is offensive by its ethnic, religious, political or sexual expression puts the Waukegan Park District in a very awkward position and will be stored until the critique.

As always, the show will close with a critique and awards by an art professional, in this case McHenry County artist Dee Abbate.

Dee, a friend to many of us, does portraits, historical, plein air, animals, figures and landscapes. She has a doctorate in education, but she has always been an artist and writer. She learned mural painting in Mexico, worked as historical researcher for screenwriters, introduced communities to green building technology, taught AP science as well as grade school and high school art, and managed high adventure programs (backpacking, climbing, wild caving and canoeing trips). Painting Syria's Children and Painting for Good Causes are two avenues Dee has found that help her use her art to make a difference for children in need. Dee splits the seasons between her home in Illinois and the low country of South Carolina, with lots of time plein air painting in other parts of the US and Europe. What do I think about art? "It's essential!" Dee replies. "Art is an expression of the human spirit. As an arts administrator, for Columbia College and other agencies, I was conscious of being a minister to the human spirit. Offering art where it wasn't before, advising students to go ahead and major in art; I was so lucky to be able to do that."

## Lee Radtke memorial sale sold about 300 pieces

The Saturday/Sunday February 22/23 weekend memorial event sold well over half of a very large inventory of Lee Radtke's paintings. Prices ranged from several hundred dollars to less than a hundred, and everything was excellent. The whole thing was done on short notice after art league member Frankie Johnson of Main Street Art Centre found that her Lake Zurich landlord had a nearby vacant unit all cleaned up and freshly painted. This was a classical pop-up sale, hidden behind a Karate Studio, pulled together the day before by Lee's many friends, and all cleaned up the following Monday. There had been no funeral or memorial service per Lee's wishes, but we all found a useful way to process our sudden loss of a friend and to help his family.

## March refreshments arrangements

The refreshment committee for the March 17 meeting are as follows:

Debbie Kalinowski  
Marshall Philyaw  
Aruna Sarode  
Roger Shule

The committee should arrive at least 15 minutes early to help set up, and plan to stay after the meeting to help clean up. Contact Fran Isaac at 847-249-0482 or [fmisaac@aol.com](mailto:fmisaac@aol.com) with any questions.

*The Lake County Art League year runs from September through June. In the past we have met on the third Monday of these months, 7-9:00 pm. Meetings in September, October, January, February, March, April and June include presentations and are held at State Bank of the Lakes in Grayslake. November and May meetings are the closing critiques for our popular fall and spring membership shows, and these are held at the Jack Benny Center for the Arts theatre in Waukegan. Finally, we take a holiday break in December. Here are dates that should now be on your horizon now:*

**Tuesday, March 17**

General Meeting, Presentation  
State Bank of the Lakes, 7:00 pm

**Saturday, April 4**

Spring Membership Show Check-In  
Jack Benny Center, 10-1:00

**Monday, April 20**

General Meeting, Presentation  
State Bank of the Lakes, 7:00 pm

**Elected Officers**

President	Oliver Merriam	omerriam@yahoo.com
Vice President	Mary Neely	mmbn@yahoo.com
Treasurer	Elizabeth Engle	betharoo30@aol.com
Recording Secretary	Jack Littlefield	thelittlefields@gmail.com
Corresponding Sec	Chris Tanner	chrisetanner@sbcglobal.net

**Activity Directors**

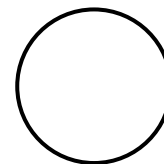
Programs	Roberta Bragg	freouwebbe@msn.com
	Jeff Harold	jeff@jeffharoldphotography.com
	Linda Rodriguez	linda_rodriguez931@comcast.net
On-The-Wall	Chris Tanner	chrisetanner@sbcglobal.net
Publicity	Ali Albakri	lcamagazine@yahoo.com
Membership	Leslie Nauta	nautateam@comcast.net
	Betty Perri	bettyaperri@gmail.com
Hospitality	Fran Issac	fmisaac@aol.com
	Sunny Parenteau	parenteousunny@gmail.com
Workshops	(vacant)	
Librarian	Debbie Kalinowski	artbydebbiek@gmail.com
Visual Recording	vacant	
Art Festivals	Elizabeth Engle	betharoo30@aol.com
Scholarships	Val Brandner	isketchit@yahoo.com
Historian	vacant	
Tours	Val Brandner	isketchit@yahoo.com

**Connection to the Art Community**

Social Media	Phil Schorn	phil@pschornstudio.com
Website	Phil Schorn	phil@pschornstudio.com
Legacy Art	Thom Kapheim	kapart1@sbcglobal.net
Plein Air	Chris Tanner	chrisetanner@sbcglobal.net
	Deb Edmunds	edmundsdl@gmail.com



## SHOW RELEASE FORM



I, the undersigned, request the item described below (the "Item") be displayed in the **Lake County Art League Spring Membership Show** at the Jack Benny Center located in Bowen Park in Waukegan, Illinois (the "Show Space"). In consideration of the privilege of displaying the Item in the Show Space, I release the Waukegan Park District, the Lake County Art League, the show organizers, and any of their agents and/or employees from responsibility for any damage and/or loss to the Item on display.

I agree to indemnify the Waukegan Park District, the Lake County Art League, the show organizers, and any of their agents and/or employees from any and all losses and/or expenses, including all costs and attorneys' fees, and to hold them harmless from any liability arising out of, or resulting from, the exhibition of the Item in the Show Space.

Further, I agree to the following conditions:

1. I am responsible for installing and removing the Item at the pre-arranged times at the Show Space from **April 4 through May 18, 2020**.

2. I acknowledge and understand that the Waukegan Park District, the Lake County Art League, the show organizers, and any of their agents and/or employees will not provide insurance coverage for the Item being displayed, and it is the responsibility of the undersigned to secure any desired property insurance coverage for the Item displayed.

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_

**PHONE (HOME):** \_\_\_\_\_ **PHONE (WORK):** \_\_\_\_\_

**EMAIL:** \_\_\_\_\_

**SIGNATURE:** \_\_\_\_\_ **DATE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**THE ITEM CONSISTS OF (title or clear description):**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Medium** \_\_\_\_\_ **Value** \_\_\_\_\_ **For Sale? (Y/N)** \_\_\_\_\_

For any questions or to provide more information, please contact LCAL On-the-Wall Director Chris Tanner by phone at (847) 340-0275 or by email at [chrisetanner@sbcglobal.net](mailto:chrisetanner@sbcglobal.net).