



OPEN CANVAS

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE LEAGUE OF MILWAUKEE ARTISTS

SEPTEMBER, 2020

Presidential Perspective

LMA President's September Letter
September, 2020

Where We Find Ourselves

Hello Fellow Members,

I hope this finds you healthy and safe during such an uncertain time in the world.

It was our intent as a board to offer our meetings in a hybrid fashion, opening up our space at Cardinal Stritch to those who felt safe and were healthy, and offering an online option for those who wanted to stay home. The decision to go completely online was made for us when Cardinal Stritch revoked our meeting reservations. Our board was concerned about what was the best way to meet our members' needs concerning our monthly meetings. Our decision to proceed with Zoom as our meeting platform was decided with you, our members, in mind. We hope you will find this format easy to use and be able to join us for our monthly meetings.

LMA is a strong and lively organization that brings together creative artists for mutual advancement and support, with exhibitions in prestigious venues across the state. During this pandemic we might have to work harder at this, but all the above is still true and just as important to us. We will come out of this trying time better and stronger than ever.

Being stronger takes work, so I would like to ask for your help: do you or do you know anyone in our membership that would be a great fit for some of the open volunteer positions on our Board? We have, starting now, the Exhibit Chair open, and starting in 2021, the Vice President position open. To get more information on these openings or to recommend yourself or someone else for these positions please call me at 414-617-7917. We also have an opportunity for help with the Mel Tess Scholarship.

I want to thank Ruth Vonderberg for accepting the position of Membership Chair starting in 2021. Thank you, Ruth! We have become friends with Janet Hudachek, our current membership chair and appreciate her hard work, and look forward to working with Ruth in January.

A special thank you to Susan Steinhafel for her dedication and service to LMA in her work as Exhibit Chair.

Finally, I want to say "thank you" to the current board members, Marcy, Debra, Janet, Tom, Jolie and Mary who have been incredibly awesome in their wisdom and guidance in helping LMA navigate the rough waters that this pandemic has brought us. Your board members work as a team to help make LMA the best art organization in Wisconsin.

In Appreciation,
Judy Gahn Murphy
President LMA



Your Board

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Other Positions

Newsletter Editor

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Hospitality

Donna Staats

LMA Meeting Information

This year our meetings will all be held on the virtual video platform Zoom.

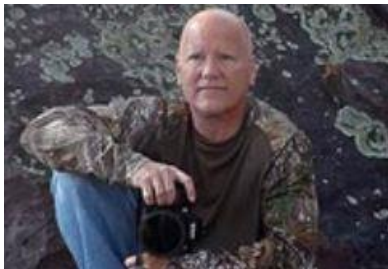
YES! We are still having meetings and are still meeting at 9:30 on the 2nd Saturday of the month. This year, however, all our meetings will be on the virtual meeting site Zoom. Here is the link for meetings: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82084587340>

Meetings will then be posted on our new YouTube Channel accessible via this link: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCUdPXqB8Qx55gH7rqYAI2XQ/featured>

This being a most unusual year due to Covid-19, all meetings will have a guest artist who is also one of your colleagues in LMA! Our Vice President Marcy has created a new activity called: **KNOW YOUR FELLOW ARTISTS.**

Just for the 2020-2021 year, we will pay **\$100** to any of our **OWN fellow artist members** to present a **30 minute presentation** following an outline that will be provided. This will include samples of your work and a Q and A as well. Presenters will simply be a part of our Zoom meetings. We know that we have a very talented membership, so let us REALLY get to know you and your work AND get remunerated for your effort. Please send your response to mweinsheim@gmail.com to get on the roster as soon as possible or click here for more information: <https://www.milwaukeeartists.org/know-your-fellow-artists.html> David Kurtz will be our 1st presenter. See more about David below.

David Kurtz



David says "I have been fascinated by this art since I was thirteen years old and by a quirk of fate took a photography class in school. From the very first time I stood in awe over the trays of chemicals watching an image I created with light appear on a blank piece of photographic paper, I realized this was an artistic form of magic I had to master. Over the past 40 years, the technical craft of photography has changed dramatically, and with it my passion for capturing meaningful images has continued to mature and grow."



How to Join an LMA Zoom Meeting

You will be sent an email with a link to click in order to join the meeting. This link will also be on our webpage on the “Meetings” tab. (sample below from an email- you can’t click on this link).

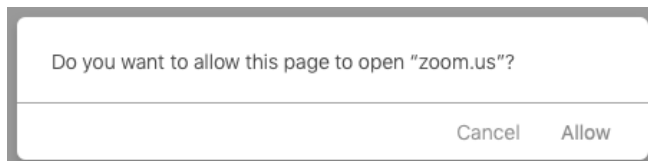
Join Zoom Meeting

<https://illinois.zoom.us/j/91870287359?pwd=SzZnTi9vajJ3MjNSVVBpN0FOUj9vdz09>

Meeting ID: 918 7028 7359

Password: 199893

If you do not have Zoom installed on your computer, when you click on the invite link Zoom will redirect you to a webpage. This webpage will ask you to download the Zoom app on your device whether you are using a desktop or a mobile device. Click “Allow”. You may want to do this right away so that you get Zoom installed and then do not have a delay getting into the meeting.



If Zoom is already installed on your computer, when you click on the link you will see a prompt to open the link in the Zoom app.

Open Zoom?

<https://zoom.us> wants to open this application.



Grant the necessary permissions to the Zoom app to use your camera and microphone to get started and join the meeting.

If you prefer, here is a link to a YouTube video which does a good job of walking you through the steps: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OD2aDKzfZWk>



Artist Opportunities

In my never-ending quest to make this “Open Canvas” an interactive newsletter with information you can use, I scour the internet for artist opportunities!

Someone asked me how I find shows to enter. Well, one way is to pay attention when you are at a venue to see if they have upcoming shows, another is to just use Google and type in something like “Artist Opportunities” (add Wisconsin if you want to stay local). Another way is to search for the home pages of venues you know-like the Cedarburg Art Museum or The Anderson Art Center. You could also go to the LMA webpage and dig through old “Open Canvas” newsletters and see if I listed a venue or online source previously. I’ll continue to try to find things for you, but do what I do: bookmark a site on your computer and check back frequently!

Artists' Fellowship, Inc.

The Artists’ Fellowship provides emergency aid to professional fine artists and their families in times of sickness, natural disaster, bereavement or unexpected extreme hardship (like COVID!)

<https://www.artistsfellowship.org/financial-aid>

The old workhorse Artwork Archive deserves a check in!

<https://www.artworkarchive.com/blog/monthly-art-opportunities-the-best-opportunities-with-september-deadlines>

You can bookmark their **home page** so that you can check it every month!

<https://www.artworkarchive.com/blog>

A few opportunities in Wisconsin I found:

River Arts Inc (RAI) presents a call for art to enter our first ever virtual mini art exhibition. This juried, virtual exhibition will take place from Thursday, October 1 – Saturday, Oct 31. Artists from anywhere in the US are invited to apply.

Deadline to Apply: Sept 17 by 5pm

Free to enter

Contact information: Kristina, kcoopman@riverartsinc.org **URL:** <https://www.riverartsinc.org/mini/>

River Arts Inc (RAI) presents a call for art to enter our first ever virtual art print exhibition. This juried, virtual exhibition will take place from November 2 – 30, 2020. Artists from anywhere in the US are invited to apply.

Deadline to Apply: Oct 19 by 5pm

Free to enter

Contact information: Kristina, kcoopman@riverartsinc.org **URL:** <https://www.riverartsinc.org/prints/>

As a repeat (because who doesn’t need reminders) here are some links for virtual shows:

<https://fusionartps.com/>

<http://bauhausprairieartgallery.com/>

<https://www.camelbackgallery.com/>

Here’s Online Juried Shows again. If you look on the left side of this page it shows opportunities.

<https://www.onlinejuriedshows.com/preDefault.aspx>

Artshow is a site which list calls for artists and also (for \$40) will give you a link to your website listed by name, medium, and genre. <https://artshow.com/index.html>

Do you belong to any of these organizations? If not, you may want to consider joining. They have many opportunities for shows and competitions:

National Oil & Acrylic Painters’ Society <https://www.noaps.org/>

Oil Painters of America <https://www.oilpaintersofamerica.com/>

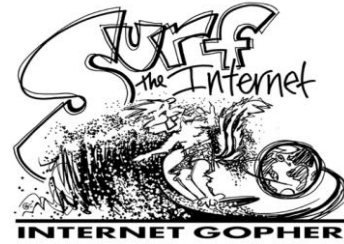
American Impressionist Society <https://americanimpressionistsociety.org/>

I know you won't always find something appropriate to you on some of the sites I list, but it's always worth taking a few minutes and scrolling through. You never know!

Around the web

Surfing the web!

Here you'll find a link or 2 to an interesting art related article, blog post, or whatever! You will need to put your cursor over the link and press CTRL, then click to read the entire post. Email me with any links you'd like to offer to share!




Disclaimer: some of these sites are commercial and may have the bane of pop ups or ads trying to get you to sign up for their newsletters, etc. They all are safe however and I've visited them and find them worth the look.

Hey! Have you ever done an Air B&B? Ever thought you might want to try? Here's a site where you can swap with artists!

<https://www.artistresidencywap.com/>



Clicking on this humongous link will take you to "Artistsnetwork" an online magazine. This is an article about painting light. 

https://www.artistsnetwork.com/art-mediums/pastel/mastering-the-art-of-light-in-paintings-of-water/?utm_campaign=Artists%20Network%20-%20Newsletter&utm_source=hs_email&utm_medium=email&utm_content=88186792&hsenc=p2ANqtz--VuZ0w84QrJVG6Yqq11LImCQk_Ps5FI3hFKkY5xWcDmZO5LQ3wqYNhmWLe1ckt4bhBORTX8xifmQbsXZYheS4gUVUa5A&hsmi=88186792

This link will also take you to an article from Artistsnetwork. This is about casein paint. I used it for the first time this summer and found it delightful. Maybe you want to try it too!

<https://www.artistsnetwork.com/art-mediums/oil-painting/krieger-casein/>



I have recently discovered a new medium: oil sticks. Different than oil pastels here is a description from the page that goes with this YouTube video:

"An artists' quality oil colour in stick form, Winsor & Newton Artists' Oilbar enables painting and drawing freely and directly onto surfaces. The Artists' Oilbar is a unique medium because it provides artists with greater buttery consistency and richness of oil colour together with the freedom and directness of pastels or charcoal. They are fundamentally different from oil pastels or oil crayons due to their unique formulation. The range has a wide spectrum of colours, each produced by combining artists' quality pigments with linseed or safflower oil, blended with specially selected wax. It offers an exciting and versatile way of painting and drawing - from sketching, to sgraffito effects, whether used on its own or with tube oil colour."

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kXXolGecBro>

This video is without words and shows someone painting alla prima with oil sticks. You may be as fascinated as I am to try them! Richeson sells them under the "Shiva" brand.

The Funny Page!



CHUCK CLOSE



CHUCK FAR AWAY



You might be an artist if ...

- The only piece of new furniture you have in your home is a \$2000 easel.
- You've ever cleaned your fingernails with a palette knife.
- You butter your toast with your fingers, just to feel its texture.
- You've ever considered framing your palette instead of the painting.
- You notice the burnt umber in the background of the Playboy centerfold.
- Your children are forced to share a room so you can have an art studio.
- You routinely drink the rinse water instead of the coffee.
- The suggestion that you should "teach" or "open a flower shop" or "go to law school" makes you want to scream and throw things.
- You know the difference between beige, ecru, cream, off-white, and eggshell.
- Your favorite fragrance is eau d' linseed oil.
- You do judge a book by its cover.

Weird and Wonderful Art History Stories You Need to Know

The Kiss is undoubtedly one of the most iconic works of the 20th century, and a painting with which nearly everyone is familiar. What fewer people know, however, are the stories about its painter, Gustav Klimt. And what stories they are! A little research will turn up some lascivious details about his life, but even better was his fashion sense (he wore muumuus with nothing underneath) and his studio overrun with cats (he is the famous painter version of the "Crazy Cat Lady" stereotype). His obsession with cats actually led him to cover the pages of his sketchbooks with cat urine. He believed it was the best fixative available. The odor was bad, but worse, he destroyed works that would likely be worth millions today.

There are so many incredible stories about Salvador Dali and his antics. The pet ocelot. The most famous mustache of all time. The time he almost suffocated inside a deep sea diving helmet while trying to explain surrealism. The whole interview with MervGriffin. Perhaps the performance that was most "out there", however, was his trip to Paris in a car filled with cauliflower



Artist of the Month



William Joshua Blackmon

This year I am going to search out artists who are from Wisconsin or have strong Wisconsin ties. I'll try to find artists that may not be entirely known to you (sorry Georgia) but that you may have heard of.

William Joshua Blackmon (20 April 1921 – 8 February 2010), also known as Prophet Blackmon, was an American street preacher and a well-known Milwaukee artist. He has been described as "among the best self-taught artists ever to come out of Milwaukee".

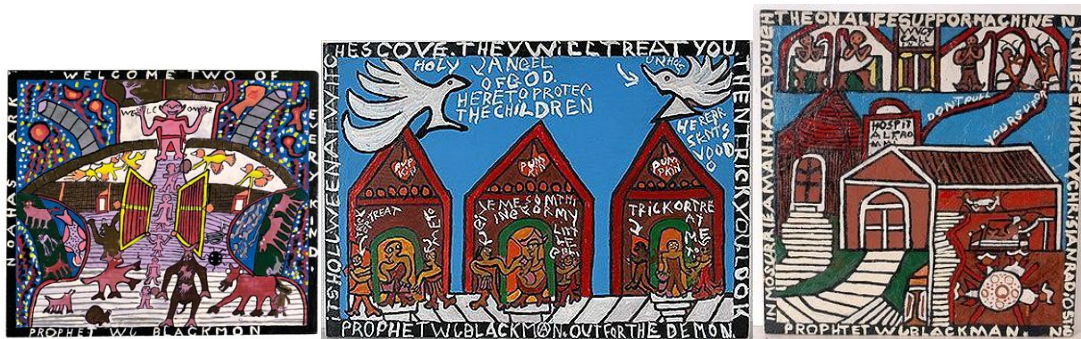
Blackmon grew up in Albion, Michigan. His mother, a devout Baptist, was originally from Macon, Georgia. His father was from Selma, Alabama. They moved north as part of the Great Migration of African Americans out of the Southern United States to seek better jobs and to escape racism and prejudice in the South. Blackmon has said that when he was eight, he predicted the death of a neighbor after hearing her "death rattle" (thus the "Prophet").

Blackmon served with the U.S. Army during World War 2. The war shaped his religious outlook and he turned to prayer during the heat of battle. He said "I learned to pray during the Second World War. When the Japanese planes came over, I'd say: 'Lord, if you get me over this hill, I'll get over the next one myself.'"

He moved to Chicago and opened a shoeshine stand near the Christian Hope Missionary Baptist Church. He claims to have been cured of acute chronic gastritis after the preacher said that God would heal anyone in the congregation if they had faith in his divine power. Blackmon married twice, his first wife died in childbirth, and he separated from his second wife. In 1974, he moved to Milwaukee, and settled there where he ran his own small laundry and tailoring businesses including the *Revival Center Shoe Repair and Shine Parlor* in the Sydney Hih building. Blackmon created large handwritten signs which he displayed to warn society of the consequences of sinning. Using house paint, he increasingly embellished his signs with imagery including biblical scenes and symbols of deliverance and retribution, along with visual commentary on social marginalization. Over time his signs became more focused on imagery than words, with words still being an integral part but usually confined to a border.

"Sometimes you can paint a picture to a person. It does not have to be with a brush, maybe just by talking. If you can tell it, so that the person can see it, they actually see it in their mind. It'll be like a little painting in their mind. That's what this art is for, getting a message to people".

— *Prophet William Blackmon*



For more on Prophet Blackmon go to

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_Joshua_Blackmon#cite_note-rv52-3

Exhibit News

Exhibit:Grohmann Museum ~ Juried Show ~ Exhibition is postponed to 2021
New Dates: May 21 to August 22, 2021

Look for an announcement of another virtual show! It's in the works!

A show has tentatively been planned for October 2021 at the Plymouth Arts Center. More to come!

Know an artist friend who should join LMA? Tell them to go to our website to find out how to join! Below are the submission and announcement of acceptance dates for the rest of 2020.

Upcoming New Member Jury Dates 2020

| Submission Deadline | Announcement Date |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| 11-16-2020 | 11-23-2020 |

Check our website <https://www.milwaukeeartists.org/> for all the news you need to know about LMA in this confusing time we are in!

Please continue to be safe and well!

