



THE CAPITOL HILL ART LEAGUE

FALL 2011 NEWSLETTER

The 2011-2012 Season begins with “It’s Personal”, opening September 10, 2011, 5:00-7:00 PM.

Due to the Labor Day holiday, receiving will be held Saturday, August 27, 2011, 9:30 – 11:30 am, and Monday morning, August 29, 2011, 9:30 – 11:30 am.

As normal, the show is all-media, though all 3-D artists will be especially interested in this show, because a prize will be given honoring Wally Szyndler. The \$100 prize will be awarded to the best 3-D piece selected to be in the show. Juror to be announced.

NOTE: Please include a short, typewritten (50 words or less) paragraph describing how “It’s Personal” to you with each piece you enter in this special show. If possible, please e-mail your paragraph(s) to: capitolhillartleague@yahoo.com. Pieces selected by the juror will have their accompanying “It’s Personal” paragraphs included on the wall labels in the gallery.

Schedule of 2011 Shows

September – ***It’s Personal***
See above.

October – ***Art of Craft***
Opening: October 8th, 5:00-7:00 PM
Receiving: October 1st, 9:30-11:30 AM
October 3rd, 9:30-11:30 AM
Juror – Steve Fleming

November - ***Local Turf***
Opening: November 12th, 5:00-7:00 PM
Receiving: November 5th, 9:30-11:30 AM
November 7th, 9:30-11:30 AM
Juror – Henry Allen

December – ***The Art of Giving*** Wrap it Up
Opening: December 10th, 4:00-8:00 PM
Receiving: December 3rd, 9:30-11:30 AM
December 5th, 9:30-11:30 AM

February through May will be announced shortly.

Upcoming Events

CHAL will have a table at the **Barracks Row Festival on September 24th** from 11:00 am to 5:00 pm. Our table will be located in front of Frame of Mine on 8th Street, SE.

Matted art works and small flat-packed craft items (such as were sold last year at Wrap-It-Up) packaged in clear glassine/mylar bags will be displayed in bins for sale during this event. If you want to have your art in the bins, please put your pieces in the CHAW gallery closet, between September 21-23rd or deliver them directly to the booth at 10-11 am on Saturday, September 24th. Be sure to affix a label with the Title, Price, Medium, and Artist Name on the back of each piece. If your items are not labeled and properly packaged, they will not be included in the sale. There are no entry fees for this event. Payments to artists will be made through CHAW, less the standard commission.

Volunteers are needed for set-up, from 10-11am; to “man” the table during two 3-hour periods from 11:00-5:00, and break down at 5:00 pm. Please contact CHAL’s Volunteer Coordinator, Rindy O’Brien via e-mail (Rindyob@mac.com), to participate in this fun event.

Capitol Hill Village’s APPLES&ART: October 2nd 1-4pm at the Hill Center

This event replaces the silent Art Auction at CHAW’s Art Smash. Any artist who has had work accepted at a CHAL show during the past two years can donate up to two pieces to be auctioned at this event.

The artists will receive 50% of each sale up to the market retail price, with the other 50% divided between CHAW and The Capitol Hill Village.

Donated pieces will be collected at CHAL's regular October show receiving on October 1st. Additional submission information will be forthcoming in a separate e-mail.

“Night or Day” New Receiving Times

The recent survey regarding changing the time/day of Receiving was inconclusive, and did not capture all members' preferences. So, for the fall, the receiving times will remain the same. Saturday mornings 9:30-11:30 AM and Monday mornings 9:30-11:30 AM. You will be asked to register your preference during the September and October show Receptions. We will review this information and determine receiving times for the February-May 2012 shows.

PRESENTING YOUR ART SUCCESSFULLY - How to Prepare your Work for Exhibit

Paintings on Canvas or Board, & Fabric Art

Works must be securely prepared for hanging, normally with screw eyes and wires firmly attached. Work will be eliminated if poorly prepared or still wet. It is important that your artwork show off to its best advantage. Edges must be finished. No staples or tacks may show on front or sides. If they do show on the sides of your canvas, you can cover them with strips of finished wood, as if framing. In some cases jurors have rejected pieces for poor framing!

Works on paper

Watercolors, drawings, sumi-e, lithographs and other print media, photographs, and anything with a paper mat, should be protected with glass or Plexiglas. **CHAL requires sturdy frames and wire on the back for hanging. No taped or clip frames are allowed.** To show off your work to its best advantage, we suggest that you use white or

cream mats and simple frames (unless the frame is part of the artwork itself).

Please refrain from using weak frames. The wire must be connected to the frame via eye screws or Nielsen wire holders so it will be secure enough to hold solidly.

Please do not use the tension v-clips that slot between the frame and the backing board for attaching the hanging wire to your frame. These do not bear weight safely and have already fallen apart in the CHAW gallery with smashed glass on the floor. This type of hanging will be rejected at receiving.

3-dimensional work

Safety of works made of fragile materials like glass, ceramic, paper, feathers, etc., is a concern for the artist. Collaged sculptures may also be fragile in their construction, even if the materials are unbreakable.

CHAL urges all sculptors to deliver fragile works in bubble wrap or other safe cushioning, and to provide museum gel or another method to help the work stay put where displayed.

Please note - art work that is not properly or safely framed will be turned away at Receiving so that the artist can correct it.

OPENING RECEPTIONS – CHAL MEMBERS MAKE IT HAPPEN

Every year dozens and dozens of CHAL members volunteer to create each juried show – coordinating receiving sessions, guiding the jurying process, hanging the shows, publicizing the exhibits and the opening receptions. On opening night, CHAL volunteers arrive early to prepare the Gallery, setting up music, laying out beverages, and setting up a table to hold food. All CHAL members who have work accepted into a juried show are asked to please remember to bring a donation of a finger food, appetizer, or snack. Please note, CHAW does ask that no nuts or nut products be brought into the building due to allergy concerns, particularly for the afterschool children's activities. After the reception finishes, another set of CHAL volunteers swing into action to clean up and

ensure that the Gallery is ready for the next users in CHAW's wonderful array of programs.

SUMMER FUN FOR SOME CHAL MEMBERS -- PLEIN AIR GROUP By Anne Oman

We are sitting at a picnic table under tall trees by the lotus ponds at Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens. Tupperware containers of tabbouleh and cartons of yogurt are opened. Sandwiches are unwrapped, and bottles of water uncorked. A montage fit for a still life, but the paint-stained members of the Plein Air Group – a loosely organized fresh-air day camp for urban artists – is finished for the day. Now it's time for lunch and show-and-tell.

"That's cool," Donna Breslin tells a fellow pastel artist. "I like the pink here, but you might want to add more contrast down there."

Stu Searles opens his notebook of graphite sumi-e landscapes, the world rendered in black, white and gray.

"Well, you're the color queen," he says to another painter, whose watercolor block literally drips with permanent rose, cadmium yellow, manganese blue.

Pleinair – or "open air" -- painting began in France in the mid-nineteenth century, when paints started to be made in tubes, so artists could take them outside – to the forest of Fontainbleu and the beaches of Normandy. Local plein-air painters take their paints, pastels, and pencils to such sites as the Miller Cabin in Rock Creek Park, Scott's Run, Huntley Meadows, Great Falls, Riverbend Park, the Arboretum, Brookside Gardens, Bon Aire Rose Garden, etc.

Each weekly (depending on whim and weather) session ends with a very friendly critique over lunch – usually al fresco, but sometimes at a nearby restaurant. For example, after painting the long arcades and lush gardens of the Franciscan Monastery, which reminded one member of Van Gogh's painting of the garden at his hospital in Arles, we repaired to the San Antonio Café. And the formalized waterfall in Meridian Hill Park is convenient to Amsterdam Felafel. Ditto the Bishop's Garden at Washington Cathedral and the Two Amys.

Everyone brings their own equipment and does their own thing – with very different results. As President Kennedy once asked two observers he had sent to Viet Nam, "Are

you sure you guys have been to the same place?"

An exception was the foray to the Maine Avenue Fish Market, where we each bought a fish from the vendors, spread it with paint or ink, and pressed rice paper to it – the venerable Japanese art of gyo-taku.

Most members say that what they like best is the camaraderie. Plein-air regular M'El Abrecht sums it up: "Always a delight to paint or draw outdoors with creative, supportive people."



Anne Oman painting

Photo: Stu Searles



Donna Breslin & pastels

Photo: Stu Searles



Ida Mae Mantel paints Photo: Donna Breslin



Anne's watercolors Photo: Stu Searles



A live model Photo: M'El Abrecht



Rock Creek plein air Photo: Marguerite Becker Rex