



THE CAPITOL HILL ART LEAGUE

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## FEBRUARY 2012 NEWSLETTER

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party at the CHAW Gallery. WIU sold close to 60 pieces, taking in over \$4,000—a more than 20% increase in sales volume from the previous year. Attendees were also able to take in the CHAW Student Show and its opening reception upstairs.

### November Juror Shares His Seven Criteria and Favorite Art Books

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*Reported by Jill Finsen*

CHAL's November juror, Henry Allen, a Pulitzer Prize recipient for criticism, entertained artists and gallery attendees with his seven criteria for evaluating art and his recommended reading list for artists.

#### Seven Criteria for judging art, yours or someone else's

- 1. Wholeness**—a sense that a work of art is a thing in itself, self-defining. It makes its own rules and plays by them. Composition is important in creating wholeness. The mortal enemy of wholeness is what I call "the dead spot." It's an odd piece of the work that adds nothing to it but pulls your eye, seems to pull in the rest of the painting the way a black hole pulls in all the cosmic matter around it.

### ALL ABOUT CHAL EXHIBITS

#### Wrap It Up Wrap-Up

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*By Sarah Porter*

CHAL's annual holiday sale was a wonderful event—a large crowd of CHAL patrons turned out on December 11th for the opening

2. **Escapes**—it’s a personal thing for me, but I think pictures work well when they allow an exit for the eye—a piece of sky, a road. Without escapes the picture can get claustrophobic, even turn into one big dead spot.
3. **Sense of intention**—the artist is going somewhere. The viewer trusts the artist much like a writer who executes a well-written lead on a story. One is in “safe hands”.
4. **Surprise**—surprises make pictures look eternally contemporary. They can be one of Hans Hofmann’s blasts of color, or an odd bit of perspective in a table on a Bonnard terrace, a bit of the unexpected. Surprises come in all arts. I awoke to Mozart when I discovered that I could never predict what was coming next.
5. **Interest in what a painting does**—not what a painting “is”. Art is a verb, not a noun—it is the engagement or the dance between viewer and artwork, always changing. There is an ongoing transaction between the viewer and the artwork. Think about what it does. Modern critics founder by writing about what it is.
6. **Playfulness**—freedom of playing with materials, with juxtapositions and angles, with surprises. Art is play. What if . . . I made that shadow on her nose purple and then made the glint in her eye yellow . . . how would that look? If the artist plays, then the viewer can play too.
7. **Unconscious instinct in brain**—This is somehow related to the famous Drawing on the Right Side of the Brain. Your analytic mind can take you only so far—for the rest you need the instinct of a big league batter swinging at a fast ball, the instant recognition of a pattern you can never consciously perceive or explain. Pascal said: “The heart has reasons that reason itself knows nothing of.” If viewers have enough information they can complete the rest of the pattern—a painted nose is little but a

few shadows the viewers turn into a nose. Give them too much information and the picture goes dead, you’re getting in the way.

### Henry Allen’s Recommended Reading

- **Robert Hughes. American Visions: The Epic History of Art in America.**

Hughes is a lively writer—frank and aggressive in the way Americans do not like to be.

- **Kenneth Clark. The Nude: A Study in Ideal Form.**

This is a classic. Basis of all western art. Tracks from the Greeks. Clark writes wonderfully and the volume is encyclopedic. It is worth spending the money on a good edition for the illustrations.

- **Vincent Van Gogh. Van Gogh’s Letters: The Mind of the Artist in Paintings, Drawings, and Words, 1875-1890.**

Letters to his brother who served as his art dealer. A personal look at Van Gogh. Chronicles his painting through letters and documents 80 paintings in the last month of his life. Read a letter in the morning with breakfast or just before retiring. A real treat.

- **Mark Stevens. de Kooning: An American Master.**

Offers de Kooning’s passion for life. He lived hard and describes the early days with Jackson Pollack, among other goodies. One problem is that Stieglitz is never acknowledged for purchasing de Kooning’s art.

- **John Richardson. A life of Picasso: Volume 1: The Early Years, 1881–1906.**

This is a definitive work. In the early days, we watch him grow. Picasso’s dad was an art teacher and drew pigeons. We leave with the eerie feeling that we actually know Picasso.

## Congratulations to Henry Allen's awardees.

First Place: Valentine Szybko with Henry Allen



Second Place: Gayle Krughoff with Henry Allen



Honorable Mentions: Kay Fuller; Ann Shields and Barbara Stepura.

## February "Far Away"

Marsha Staiger juried "Far Away" and spoke to each piece individually, why she chose it and what stood out in artistic merit—very concisely and nicely illuminated. Here is a photo of prizewinners with the juror. First place winner, Stu Searles was tackling the ski slopes.



Kimberley Bursic, Ann Thomson, Marsha Staiger, juror, Jorge Bernal, Gayle Krughoff, and Rindy O'Brien

## HIGHLIGHTS OF SOME UPCOMING EXHIBITS

### APRIL is "Invite-a-Friend" month for CHAL members

*By Sarah Porter*

Do you know an artist who is trying to expand his or her work beyond taking classes? Do you have a friend who would like to try out participating in a juried art exhibit? Did you get your start in CHAL when a friend or art colleague suggested you join CHAL? Invite them to join us for the CHAL April juried exhibit! Non-members can submit to monthly-juried exhibits; they may enter up to three pieces for a submission fee of \$25.

Peter Van Riper is the judge for April's CHAL exhibit "It's Up To You". Receiving is Saturday April 7th and Monday April 9th, 9:30-11:30am in the CHAW Gallery. The non-member entry form is available on the CHAL web site [http://www.caphillartleague.org/nonmember\\_submission\\_form.pdf](http://www.caphillartleague.org/nonmember_submission_form.pdf) and at Receiving.

### Exhibit at Children's Hospital This Summer

*By Jill Finsen*

We have been invited to exhibit at Children's National Medical Care—known as Children's Hospital—this summer (July 16–September 21). Children's book author and illustrator Rosalyn Shanzer is our juror. She recently won the gold medal from the Society of Illustrators. This exhibit is an opportunity for CHAL members only.

## Need Your Work Photographed?

By Jill Finsen



CHAL's May and July exhibits are electronic submission-only competitive due in April and June respectively. Greg Staley has photographed members' work in past years. If we have enough members interested in having their work photographed, we will proceed with scheduling a photography day on Friday March 23rd, 9:30 AM–3 PM in the Black Box Theater at CHAW. The cost is \$10 per artwork, whether 2D or 3D. Pieces must be dropped off before 11am, and then they must be collected at 3pm. Please let us know by March 1 if you are interested and approximately how many pieces. We will schedule the session once we have a commitment of 30 pieces to photograph. To email your request, tap on CHAL.

## Make Way For Ducklings, Elephants And Geckos

By Hannah Jacobson, Project Manager, CHAAAP

When walking down the street, it's not every day that a street sign inspires a moment of

learning—let alone the birth of an idea. Fortunately for CHAW, a street sign did exactly that for Capitol Hill resident Stephen Young last summer, as he strolled on the Hill with his two young sons. As the family crossed E street, Stephen turned to his kids and said, "E street, we're crossing E street—'e' for elephant."

In that moment, Stephen hatched a whale of an idea: what if there could be an elephant sculpture on the street sign to enhance the learning—and living—experience of families on the Hill? And what if that could extend to a Frog on F Street, a Gorilla—or Gecko, perhaps—on G Street, and on? So Stephen brought his idea to CHAW, on the corner of 7th and Gorilla, and the project that had been a simple idea for a more livable, walkable community began to take concrete form as the Capitol Hill Alphabet Animal Arts Project (CHAAAP).

In consideration of the public nature of the project, there were numerous initial challenges. How many animals could realistically be created, how to shape the call to artists, and where to put the creatures represented just a few of the questions we sought to answer at the outset. In the process of figuring out the answers (approximately 20; all local artists; and concentrating mostly on parks, schools, and areas dense with residential areas, respectively), we have focused in on the parts of the project that really feel most significant: maximizing the impact on the community; producing a project that is both by and for local residents; and creating a culture of creativity, curiosity, and exploration—even and especially in the most unlikely places.

While we are starting with a necessarily confined area within Ward 6, we hope the project will continue to grow after the initial phase gets going. Since the summer, CHAW has worked with the DC Department of Transportation and ANC-6B to create the framework and funding for CHAAAP, and we are nearing the point of truly bringing it to life. One of the most personally fulfilling parts of this project is the sheer joy that is at

its core: particularly in a climate of excessive partisanship just a few blocks down, just try not to smile at the Panda, Penguin, or Panther greeting you on the walk home!

The CHAAAP project is both inspired and driven by the Hill community, and we are especially looking forward to providing a showcase for local artists who seek the opportunity to present work in such a public sphere. We are looking forward to seeing the ideas generated by the many creative minds in the area—from Elephant to Otter and beyond!

Look for a Call for Artists in the next few months, which will outline the application process, timeline, materials, and more. We hope that CHAL members will respond in droves, pods, or gaggles!

Questions? We'd love to hear from you!  
 Contact:  
 Hannah Jacobson, Project Manger:  
 hjacobson@chaw.org  
 Jill Strachan, CHAW Executive Director:  
 jill@chaw.org

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## Annual Meeting: Save the Date

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*By Dan Glucksman*

The CHAL steering committee is pleased to announce the CHAL annual meeting.

Date: Saturday, March 31  
 Time: 4 to 6 PM  
 Where: CHAW  
 545 7th Street, SE

What:  
 First hour: Marketing, membership and member's suggestions  
 Second hour: Art talk

We have an exciting program. First, come and offer your thoughts and suggestions about how CHAL can improve its marketing

for membership and at the monthly receptions. In addition, any other suggestion you'd like to offer is welcomed.

Network with fellow artists, hear about upcoming shows and events. The steering committee will provide drinks and finger foods. If you have friends or colleagues who would like to join CHAL, or who have questions about us, please feel free to bring them along.

RSVP to Dan Glucksman at  
 digluxe@yahoo.com or 703-795-6064.

## Bio Book

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*By Maria "Tati" Valla-Riestra*

A renewed artist book is on its way to being compiled with updated bios and artwork photo images of all CHAL artists who have submitted bio/artist statement and photos. The book has been available at CHAW for many years, unfortunately many current CHAL artists are not included in the book and it is not representing our current variety and number of talented artists. The binder book is in need of an urgent update! Many CHAW and CHAL visitors have inquired about CHAL artists. And we believe the book is vital for artists to share with potential clients. The Steering Committee wants to ensure the book is up to date and inclusive. We invite and remind all CHAL members who have not already done so to submit one bio page and one image page (each 8.5 x 11 inches or electronic submissions, images should be 300 DPI (or PPI). If submitting on paper, please print the images and bio on separate pages, not back to back.

## Thanks to Our Donors

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*By Marilyn Christiano, Former CHAL Steering Committee Member*

CHAL continues to present awards to winning artists chosen by the jurors thanks to two museums and two art supply stores. The National Museum of Women in the Arts has again given seven memberships to be used as

prizes. Corcoran Gallery of Art has provided four memberships. And Utrecht and Plaza have provided three gift certificates each. CHAL very much appreciates the support of NMWA, Corcoran, Plaza and Utrecht for their generosity in providing awards that help make our season a success.

## CHAL On the Web

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If you have a web page for your art and you list art affiliations there, be sure to include CHAL. The CHAL web page can be linked at [www.caphillartleague.org](http://www.caphillartleague.org). And the CHAL Facebook page can be linked at [www.facebook.com/caphillartleague](http://www.facebook.com/caphillartleague). If anyone would like the CHAL logo to include on their web page, just send an email to CHAL and the file can be sent out.

## CHAL's Steering Committee: Latest News and Appreciation

Thanks so much to Marilyn Christiano who has just stepped down from the Steering Committee after many years of service to CHAL. Marilyn will still be part of our CHAL community. Please join the steering committee in extending a big thanks for all of her work.

And welcome to Rindy O'Brien who many of you know through her able work as volunteer coordinator. She joins the committee in April.

In the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact us with your ideas. Email [caphillartleague@yahoo.org](mailto:caphillartleague@yahoo.org).

Sarah Porter, Chair

Kathy Clowery  
Jill Finsen  
Kay Fuller

Dan Glucksman  
Rindy O'Brien  
Tati Valle-Riestra

## It's Not Too Late to Join CHAL!

Really. Download your application here [CHAL Application 2011-2012](#)

**See next page for important dates through Summer 2012**

## CHAL Exhibit Calendar Through Summer 2012

<b>Exhibit Dates</b> Opening Receptions are Saturdays 5:00–7:00 PM unless otherwise noted	<b>Title</b>	<b>Juror</b>	<b>Submissions</b>	<b>Receiving Dates</b> Saturdays and Mondays 9:30–11:30 AM unless otherwise noted
<b>Feb 11–Mar 2</b>	Far Away	Marsha Staiger	Delivery to CHAW	Feb 4 & 6
<b>Mar 10–31</b>	Do Your Own Thing	Pete Duvall	Delivery to CHAW	Mar 3 & 5
<b>Mar 31 Meeting and Art Talk 4–6 PM</b>	CHAL Annual Meeting and Art Talk	N/A	N/A	4:00–6:00 PM
<b>Apr 14–May 4</b>	It's Up to You	Peter Van Riper	Delivery to CHAW	Apr 7 & 9
<b>May 12–Jun 1</b>	It's a Wonderful World	Lenny Campello	Open Call: CD digital submission only. Hand deliver or postmark by April 19  Mail or deliver CD to CHAW, 545 7 <sup>th</sup> Street SE, Washington DC 20003	Delivery of Art Work If accepted  May 4–9 (Fri–Wed) regular business hours at CHAW
<b>July 16– September 21 Met the Artists Reception Thursday, July 26, 11-2 PM</b>	New Horizons Exhibit and midday reception at Children's National Medical Care 111 Michigan Ave N.W Washington, D.C	Rosalyn Schanzer	Digital Submissions due by June 8  via email <a href="mailto:caphillartleague@yahoo.com">caphillartleague@yahoo.com</a> or mail CD to CHAW, 545 7 <sup>th</sup> Street SE, Washington DC 20003	Delivery of Art Work If accepted  Children's National Medical Center 111 Michigan Ave NW July 14



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### Newsletter February 2012

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