



CAPITOL HILL ART LEAGUE

AFFILIATED WITH CAPITOL HILL ARTS WORKSHOP
545 7th Street, SE • Washington, DC 20003

News & *Views*

November 2008

Wrap It Up

December is just around the corner, so now is the time to gather your work for the CHAL annual small works "Wrap It Up" show, which opens Saturday, December 13th. Purchased art can be taken off the wall and brought to a table to be gift-wrapped. Sales are always brisk, and members are encouraged to participate. This is an un-juried show open to all Capitol Hill Art League members. Each current member may submit five pieces of ready to hang work each 16"X20" or smaller including frame. Three pieces will be hung for the opening, and, as pieces sell, the reserve two pieces will replace sold work on the wall. All work must be original. Submitting fees are \$5 for one piece, \$8 for two pieces and \$10 for three, four or five pieces. Receiving will be Saturday, December 6 and Monday, December 8 from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Artists are encouraged to keep prices low but quality high to encourage sales, and will receive 90% of the sale price.

Please note that the receiving volunteers will refuse work that is not ready to hang, too large or not original.

Juried Shows

CHAL has grown. The growth has not only been in membership, but in the diversity, complexity and quality of the art we've exhibited.

While this is very exciting, there is also a downside. Those who have been used to getting into our monthly juried shows, now occasionally have their work declined. While it is easy to say try again next month, it's hard for an artist not to become discouraged.

As the member of the Steering Committee responsible for overseeing judging, I can offer a perspective on the process that may be helpful.

The responsibility of a jurist is a tough one. Each has to select 30-35 pieces from the 100+/- submitted and

Tall Blue Dress (detail)

Glass/Steel

Nancy Donnelly

First Place Award

Rhythms of Autumn

October 2008



identify the award winners within two hours. Jurists are very human. Their selections often represent their own personal preferences and predilections. The judging process is completely subjective; many judges have acknowledged that on another day their choices might have been different. Most of our judges look beyond the individual works to the exhibit as a whole, striving for a cohesive, well balanced show. Occasionally this means some top work is omitted. How can you increase your chances of having work accepted?

- Presentation. A number of our jurists have declined work because of poor framing or presentation decisions; frames that overwhelm the work, colored or soiled mats, ragged corners, use of non-archival materials, etc.
- Technical skills. Whatever your medium, submit work that represents the best work you are capable of executing.
- Unique expression. A work needs to have some compelling reason to be looked at twice. Some subject matter is, as judges have stated, too boring, too common, not unique or powerful enough.
- Composition. A strong composition is critically important.

continued on page 2

October Show Juror

F. Lenox (Lenny) Campello, artist, writer, teacher and art blogger, returned as the juror for the October "Rhythms of Autumn" show. In his remarks at opening reception he said his impression was that the work submitted for this show seemed more professional than what he recalled from his jurying at CHAL several years ago.

During the jurying process, Lenny looked carefully at the framing and matting of each piece. Damaged frames or use of non-archival material led to rejection of the piece regardless of what he thought of the quality of the work. He feels that an unprofessional framing job will turn off a buyer, even one very attracted to the art itself.

Lenny, in his gallery talk, provided advice about getting into shows. Among his suggestions were:

- Submit early. Do not wait until close to the deadline because pieces are numbered as they come in and jurors may tire before they reach the end.
- Call the show organizer and ask for the number of expected submissions and acceptances. If the show is highly competitive it may not be worthwhile to enter.
- If a show is listed as open it means everybody gets in because the exhibition space is huge.
- Check with universities that have galleries because they may be looking for exhibitors.

Chawbaret 4: Cabaret Connections

The Capitol Hill Arts Workshop (CHAW) and the GLBT Arts Consortium are presenting "CHAWbaret 4: Cabaret Connections" an evening of pop songs, standards, and show tunes about family, friends, and the ties that bind us. "Cabaret Connections" will be performed on Friday, October 24, Friday, November 7, and Saturday, November 8 at 8:00 PM at CHAW, 545 7th Street SE. Tickets are \$15 in advance and \$20 at the door, available at: www.chaw.org or 202-547-6839. (Advance purchase is strongly encouraged for this popular program). Refreshments will be available before the show to facilitate mixing-and-mingling. Proceeds from the performances benefit CHAW's and the GLBT Arts Consortium's missions of building community through the arts.

NOVEMBER SHOW "Untitled"

Juror: Shannon Perich

Receiving: November 1 and 3, 9:30-11:30am

Opening: November 8, 5-7pm



*Love Me
Video Stills
Carolina Mayorga
Second Place Award
Rhythms of Autumn
October 2008*

Juried Shows

continued from page 1

- Consistency. If you submit more than one piece, make sure the works are related. Although the above is not a comprehensive list, it represents 90% of the criteria our judges have cited in declining work. We all have many reasons why we participate in these exhibitions. Those of us who want to grow and develop our art may benefit from asking other respected artists or art instructors for serious critical feedback. Your membership and participation at CHAL allows you to read the judge's comments, if made, which is uniquely beneficial. If you have had a piece declined that you believe in, resubmit! I submitted a painting to the Art League in Alexandria which won an award after being declined twice. (This has happened to many!) So take a critical eye to your work, see if you need to tweak it and resubmit. It is critical that you, the artist, believe in your work.

Michele Hoben

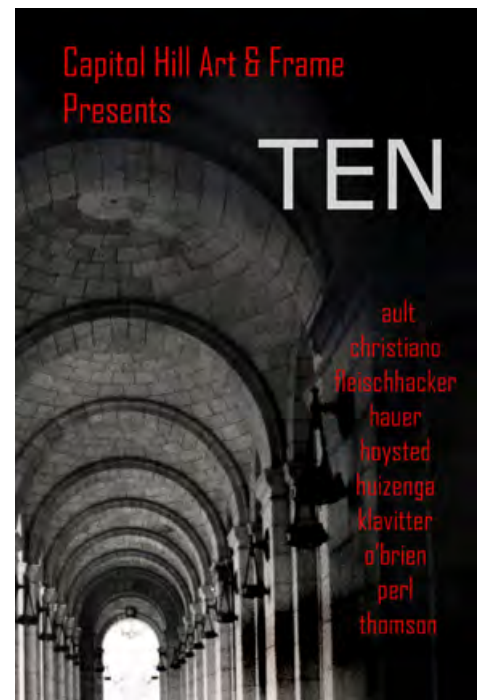
Current and Upcoming Member Shows



"As a practicing artist, many of the ideas that come to me come as dreams and then evolve along lines which I'm sure are influenced by the sights and sounds of my many world travels."

Viewing by appointment.
Call 202.544.5807

The Corner Store
900 South Carolina Ave, SE
Washington DC 20003
202.544.5807 Eastern Market Metro



november 7 - december 20, 2008

capitol hill art & frame

623 pennsylvania ave se
washington, dc 20003
202.546.2700
tuesday through saturday 10-6
eastern market metro

opening reception
friday, november 7, 2008 6-8 pm

closing party
saturday, december 20, 5-7 pm

sponsored by the capitol hill ART league
a program of the
capitol hill arts workshop



SEASONS

Exhibition of Watercolor Paintings
by
Gina Clapp
(Instructor, Capitol Hill Arts Workshop)

Open Through December

Park Cafe
106 Thirteenth Street, SE

Opening on Saturday, December 6, 2008
from 4:30 to 6:00 pm

Please come

Garden Song #3, watercolor, 2008

Gina Clapp



THE PARK CAFÉ PRESENTS

NANCY DONNELLY
PAINTINGS AND GLASS

NOVEMBER 2ND – 30TH, 2008
OPENING RECEPTION
NOVEMBER 2ND, 5-6 PM

13TH AND EAST CAPITOL, SOUTHEAST
WASHINGTON, DC 20003

In art, ugly is what is fake, what is artificial, what intends to be pretty and precious, what smiles without any reason, what is overexposed without any justification, what bends or straightens without a cause, anything that lacks soul and truth, everything that is no more than a boastful expression of beauty and grace, everything that lies.

Auguste Rodin

We need all the help we can get in keeping the Capitol Hill Art League running! Thanks to all of you who volunteer!