



We decided to wait until 2003 to write this issue of *News and Views* so that we could do a complete update of all the fall and early winter events. It has been a busy season! Read on for the details.

NEWS FROM THE ART LEAGUE

This year we scheduled our first fall show for October, to correspond with the Capitol Hill Arts Workshop's 30th Anniversary Gala. In addition, twenty-four members generously donated artwork to the Gala's auction. About \$1200 was raised to benefit the Art League.

One of the more unusual "creative works" donated for auction was a gourmet dinner. Three AL members teamed up to design two menus, each to serve eight people. The dinner was purchased by a Capitol Hill couple and will be held March 1. They chose the menu which featured Picasso Poulet aux Quarante Gousses d'ail, among other splendid delicacies! Food and art remind us of an observation made by Cezanne: *"Balzac speaks of a table laid, he makes a still life of*

it, 'a cloth white as a sheet of newly fallen snow on which the table things stood out symmetrically crowned with small pale yellow rolls.' All my youth I wished to paint that, a cloth of newly fallen snow." We expect the Art League chefs to be too busy to think about painting the Picasso Poulet or the lemon tart.

One hundred and thirteen pieces were submitted to our non-juried December show and sale, "Wrap It Up." The average price of a piece was \$115. We sold nine pieces and many original greeting cards, which seems a promising start for what we hope can be an annual event. The steering committee is considering ways to increase the publicity for this event and/or perhaps change its timing to promote more sales and gallery traffic. More on that to come.

THE STATS

The average number of submissions for October 2002 through January 2003 has been 75. Remember that we averaged 35 submissions each month from April through October, 2001. In general about one half of

each month's submissions are accepted for the show. Keep in mind that many of the judges prefer to see more than one piece by an artist when making their decisions. It helps them to understand a little better what the artist is about. They also respond more positively to work from the

same period (i.e., best not to submit work that is older than 3 to 4 years, especially if it is very different from other pieces you are entering).

Between October 2002 and January 11, 2003, fifteen pieces were sold in the Gallery.

DID YOU KNOW?

The workshop has spent \$2600 on new lighting in the gallery space. A collective thank you from the Art League!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Lectures

We are planning a series of Monday night art lectures with slides to perk up the dreary months and provide inspiration. Please mark your calendars and invite friends. Emery Battis, our favorite Shakespearean actor and art scholar, will do two lectures, February 17 and 24. The theme is *"American Faces and American Places."* One lecture will deal with portraiture and other with the role of our cities in art.

In March we will continue the Monday lectures with a three-part series on, *"The Future of Contemporary Art: The Transmodern"* by J.W. Mahoney from the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden. Mahoney's lectures will begin at 7 pm at the Workshop on March 3, 10 and 24. Our speaker has chosen the term "Transmodern" to inspire your curiosity...what does that mean? You may remember that he judged one of our shows a year ago.

Mark your calendars for two workshops in March

Lis Wackman will give a workshop on handcoloring photographs, Saturday, March 29 from 10am to 1pm at CHAW. Lis asks that participants bring some of their black and white photographs printed on matte fiber paper to the workshop. The \$30 fee will provide participants with the oil paints for the class. Lis reminds you that all sorts of other media may be used, such as watercolor or magic marker, and that the technique can be



Sketchbook, Danish Farm 2002
Gina Clapp
Watercolor

applied to other art forms in addition to photographs. Call the Workshop to sign up at 202-547-6839.

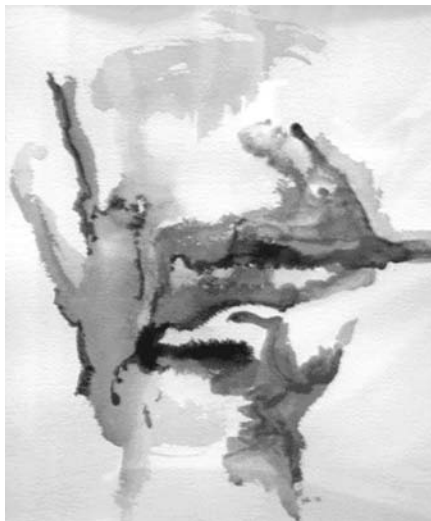
We are also in the process of setting up an all day workshop with watercolorist Susan Abbott for Friday the 21st of March. Susan works on a large scale with complex subjects, and shows at Gallery K in the District. More to come on that.

ANNUAL POTLUCK

You all remember that each year we hold a potluck supper at the Workshop. We hope you'll join us this year, on Wednesday, April 30th from 6:30 to 8:30p.m. And think of some creative dish to bring... Caravaggio's couscous aux sept legumes, for example! It will be a chance to meet with your fellow artists, eat something exotic, and go over AL business. Mark your calendars, or tattoo the date on your wrist.

UPCOMING SHOWS FOR THIS SPRING

The March, April and May shows all feature fairly unstructured themes. March is "Landscapes/Cityscape," juried by Steve Fleming of the Torpedo Factory. April will be "Untitled Show (#2)." The judge will be Berthold Schmutzhart, Professor Emeritus from the Corcoran School of Art and Design and a noted sculptor, so let us see an upsurge in sculpture submissions. The theme for May is, "A Sense of Place" and the judge is David Tannous, who has juried our Art League shows in the past. So get busy!



Self Portrait
Julia Robey

Watercolor and gouache on paper

ADVICE TO ARTISTS

Stephen B. Phillips, a judge for the Art League in Alexandria (January, 2002) offered this advice to artists: "To be an artist is a challenge today. Do it for yourself first. It is important to share your art with other people, but don't feel like you need their validation. If you continue to work, you will continue to improve. Don't get discouraged if you don't get into juried shows. Create for yourself, not for the outside world, and follow your inner vision—don't try to create for the market."

VISIONS FOR THE NEAR FUTURE:

A TIDY CLOSET, HAPPY VOLUNTEERS, GOOD EATS!

Each month the steering committee peers

into the overstuffed closet in the gallery with gloom and dismay. Alas, so many artists forget to remove their work from past shows. Declined works linger, neglected and lonely. We can hardly close the closet doors without scratching the plexi or putting holes in the canvas. S00000000, please pick up your work quickly so no harm comes to it and so the steering committee can cheer up!

Then turn your minds to Generous Public Service and volunteer for receiving and judging. We work best when we work together...today's deep thought.

Finally, remember that if you are in a show, please bring a goodie for the wine table. Otherwise, you may end up with left-overs from the last board meeting, not a pretty thought to inspire the still life painter.

CREATIVITY

"Creativity, as usually understood, entails not only a 'what,' a talent, but a 'who'—strong personal characteristics, a strong identity, personal sensibility, a personal style, which flow into the talent, interfuse it, give it personal body and form. Creativity in this sense involves the power to originate, to break away from existing ways of looking at things, to move freely in the realm of the imagination, to create and recreate worlds fully in one's mind—while supervising all this with a critical inner eye. Creativity has to do with inner life—with the flow of new ideas and strong feelings."

Oliver Sacks

See you at the next Saturday night opening!

Winter/Spring 2003 Receiving and Opening Schedule

February 2003: Art from the Heart

Judge: Geri Smith

Receiving: Saturday, February 1, 10am – 2pm and
Monday, February 3, 9:30 – 11:30 am

Opening Reception: Saturday, February 8, 5-7pm

March 2003: Landscapes & Cityscapes

Judge: Steve Fleming

Receiving: Saturday, March 1, 10am – 2pm and
Monday, March 3, 9:30 -11:30 am

Opening Reception: Saturday, March 8, 5-7pm

April 2003: Untitled Show (#2)

Judge: Berthold Schmutzhart

Receiving: Saturday, April 5, 10am – 2pm and
Monday, April 7, 9:30 – 11:30 am

Opening Reception: Saturday, April 12, 5-7pm

May 2003: A Sense of Place

Judge: David Tannous

Receiving: Saturday, May 3, 10am – 2pm and
Monday, May 5, 9:30 – 11:30 am

Opening Reception: Saturday, May 10, 5-7pm