A PUBLICATION OF THE ASSOCIATION OF WISCONSIN ARTISTS

















Waunakee WRAP. Nest with Eggs by Ricki Bishop. Sharon Stauffer, RC WRAP presenter. Shirley Diedrich. Wautoma WRAP. Caleb and Rosy Luna, Clinton WRAP-Kids. Waunakee WRAP. "Tile Style" Silo, watercolor by Deb Van Eyck, Wauwatosa, WI









A Letter from AWA President...

Greetings,

Writing the President's letter for Contour Notes is like creating a new piece of art. I ran through a list of questions, what do I want to convey?; will the membership find it important?; what is my theme? This morning was not different as I sat at my computer with a blank page waiting for an inspiring thought. I then recalled a quote attributed to one of my favorite artists, Chuck Close:

"Inspiration is for amateurs. The rest of us just show up and get the work done. If you wait around for the clouds to part and a bolt of lightning to strike you in the brain, you're not going to make an awful lot of work".

So, with that in mind, I made my fingers move over my keyboard. I began by looking back on the past WRAP season, reviewing the wonderful art that was exhibited, the educational workshops and the camaraderie experienced. What I enjoyed in my journey to the past is the realization that art is not a solo activity. While we create our pieces by ourselves, art is shareable. Art builds community and beautifies that community. Art brings



Jeanne Ferreira, AWA President

friendships and conversation. It tells the community what we see and sometimes what we think. Our art is much bigger than the canvas we paint, the clay we mold, the wood we cut or the steel we weld. It is a story of our culture and the importance of who we are. I am nourished by the emotion and creativity of our community and continue to be renewed by the audacity of artists.

AWA is constantly moving and changing to better serve our wonderful community. This past season brought new WRAP venues in Chippewa Falls, Watertown, and Lake Mills to name a few. In October 2023, there will be program name changes: STAMP will become WRAP-Teens, and Bridging Generations will become WRAP-Kids. All changes to better serve you, our members and entice you to join in the fun. Let's do the work and enjoy our community.

Happy Creating,

Jeanne

president@wiscartists.org

"Success is the sum of small efforts, repeated day in and day out." R. Collier

About Us

The ASSOCIATION OF WISCONSIN ARTISTS (AWA) is a non-profit membership organization. The 501 (c) (3) began in 1954 with thirty-six charter members. It flourished. The Association of Wisconsin Artists' mission is to inspire, educate, and promote artists and their communities. The listing below explains how we accomplish our goals.

Publications to educate and communicate:

- Contour Notes and E-News
- State Exhibit Catalog
- www.wiscartists.org Learn about us. Register and pay for events, membership and store items.
- Timely Treasures, program calendar with event dates noted

Programs, events and recognition:

- Wisconsin Regional Art Program (WRAP)
- Member Exhibit
- Annual State Exhibit and Conference

- Evening with the Arts
- Tiny Treasures Exhibit and Sale
- Statewide Teen Art Mentor Program (STAMP)
- Bridging Generations (for ages 5 through 12 years old)
- Awards recognizing artistic excellence and service. Cash awards come from generous individuals, artists' families and arts organizations.

Funding sources:

- Tiny Treasures is an annual fundraiser to help with AWA operations
- Membership dues and Wisconsin Arts Board grants help support AWA's mission
- Three interest-bearing endowments ensure that the mission of AWA continues well into the future.
- Individual and business contributions art-related advertising sales.

Board of Directors

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Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

We believe in events that are diverse, value people with a variety of back-grounds and experiences, and are committed to a culture of inclusion.

TINY TREASURES ONLINE SALE

View all Tiny Treasures online at www.wiscartists.org or up close and personal at the Pyle Center in Madison. Each one is for sale for \$25

TINY TREASURES ONLINE SALE begins August 1 and ends September 13. After that, they can be purchased at the Pyle Center, 702 Langdon St in Madison on Friday, September 22 from 6:00-7:00pm and on Saturday, September 23 from 9:00am to 1:00pm.

Go to www.wiscartists.org and follow the prompts to purchase your favorite Tiny Treasures.



2 Cool In The Pool, acrylic on canvas Susan Armstrong, Laughlin, NV



Peony Bloom And Bud, hand painted etching

Peggy Flora Zalucha, Mount Horeb, WI

2023 Tiny Treasures winners

1st Place: Cute Eyes by Mary Heinze, Portage

2nd Place: Falling To Pieces by Kathy Scott, Janesville

3rd Place: Dream (Red-breasted Nuthatch) by Jan Wood, Muskego

January: Moon Reflection by Shirley A. Diedrich, Fitchburg February: Moonlight Sonata by Betty Clayton, Brookfield March: Sarasota Sunset by Bill Nitzke, Cottage Grove April: Olbrich Daffodils by Margie Devereaux, Madison

May: At The Lake by Jane Ferris, Madison

June: Garden Maid by Patricia Gergetz, West Bend

July: Secure by Gail McCoy, Naples, FI

August: My Gemini by Cambria Branson, Fond du LacSeptember: Determination by Mary Mullen, MadisonOctober: Bubble Fish II by Nancy Leder, Gleason

November: Kitty Cuddles by Mary Beth Drabiszczak, Waukesha **December**: Earth And Sky by Mary Zimmerman, Park Falls

Best Title: Kickin' Down The Cobblestones by Pat Spear, Wild Rose

Art Association with the most entries: Madison Watercolor Society

2023 TINY TREASURES IS SPONSORED BY LYNN'S OF MADISON 5928
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WRAP-Kids Summaries

Clinton article and photo by Mary Ann Inman



On Saturday, May 20, coordinator, Teresa Vicars, led a collaborative community painting session with a birthday theme for the 180th Birthday of the Cobblestone House owned by Clinton Community Historical Society. Families painted with excitement and chose from an assortment of colors. Other family activities included lawn games, videos, slideshows, house, and carriage house displays/activities.

Photo caption: Teresa Vicars watches while children painted on the 3' by 4' canvas.

Lake Mills article and photo by Teresa Vicars

On Saturday, June 24, coordinator, Teresa Vicars, led a Picture Me Art Workshop. The kids enjoyed creating their own fun portraits, using markers, tempera sticks, colored pencils, sharpies, crayons, and pencils. It was impressive to see their personalities shine through in their portraits. Lunch was provided by Jimmy John's. The day was complete with an art show for parents and siblings with cookies and lemonade. Everyone had a fun day! The art will be displayed for a month at the library.

Photo Caption: From left is Molly Bergman and Cora Dobbins.



Clinton article and photo by Teresa Vicars

On Wednesday, June 28 coordinator Teresa Vicars, led a Picture Me Art Workshop. We had 22 kids excited to make their own fun portraits using tempera sticks, crayons, colored pencils, sharpies, and pencils. It was fun to see how well they captured their own personalities with their color choices and patterns. It finished with an art show and presentation for parents. A few pieces were chosen to go to the AWA State Conference Show

in September. Most pieces are on display at the library for a month.

Photo caption: WRAP-Kids Clinton was held during the Clinton Public Library Summer Reading Program — a creative group!

Note: Formerly known as Bridging Generations, the children's program's name was changed to WRAP-Kids in 2023.

Channeling Artificial Intelligence

article and photos by Carol Kramer, Richland Center



Carol Kramer

After seeing a clip about AI (Artificial Intelligence) generated art on CBS Sunday Morning, my curiosity piqued! I immediately downloaded the featured DALL-E 2 app to my iPad and proceeded to become addicted. After the four free tries, I felt compelled to subscribe...and soon began to worry that my iPad would run out of space.

The program works by AI bots responding to a prompt typed by the user and generates art in the style requested. Results vary from exquisite to absurd. I got acquainted with the app by asking for my favorite things (saxophones, cats, purple, and pomegranates) in the style of my favorite artists: Klimt, Chagall, Van Gogh, Jan Steen, Picasso, Henry Moore, and others. The app comes with standard style options (fantasy, anime, pen & ink, gothic, magic, and cartoon) that I rarely select, except for Van Gogh, the only artist offered by name. I type

my preferred artist in as "a la Gustav Klimt," "a la Picasso", etc. A typed prompt might read, "Santa holding a black cat while playing his saxophone a la Klimt."

The resulting art generated is sometimes quite impressive, indicating that the program is familiar with the artist. Since it does not really understand everything in the prompt, results can be hilarious! As a musician, I often request themes that include a musical instrument. DALL-E is adept at conjuring up a saxophone, though often with ridiculous variations. Asked for a clarinet, flute, bassoon, or horn DALL-E is totally confused! My hope is that it will "learn" in time, meaning that the developers will teach it new tricks.



Woman Playing Harp a la Klimt.



Santa Playing his Saxophone a la Van Gogh.

There is a debate over the merits of AI programs and concern over their misuse or replacement of "real" art created by humans. I am still experimenting but do not plan to "steal" any of DALL-E's generations. I am curious to see what the app does with ideas I already have in my head and still find it fascinating when it produces a gem! I am open to it, sparking innovative ideas in my head. But the initial spark must come from the user.

WRAP Summaries

via coordinators by Mary Ann Inman, outreach@wiscartists.org

Madison article and photo by Wendy Crone

Wendy Crone, Pat Stinger, Charles Stinger, Shevanthi Hettiarachchi, and Tania Thousand served as coordinators. Fifty artists exhibited their work at the Madison WRAP from February 25 to April 1, 2023, at the Pyle Center on the UW-Madison campus. During the April 1 workshop, juror/presenter



Bobbette Rose spoke about her work and advice for artists. She encouraged artists to be persistent, be true to yourself, show your art to the world, and engage with other artists. During the critique session Bobbette offered insightful comments on the exhibited works and how to best frame the pieces.

Photo caption: Co-coordinator Charles Stinger introduced juror/presenter Bobbette Rose to the Madison WRAP audience.



NEW! Oshkosh article and photos by Kathy Murphy

Our first WRAP, organized by Oshkosh Fine Arts Association, on April 22, 2023, was a one-day "pop up" show at Oshkosh Arena, a basketball venue, in conjunction with the Oshkosh Farmers Market. Over 1,200 people attended the market. Thirty-eight artists entered a total of 115 works in various media. Watercolor artist, Joye Moon, presented a demonstration of watercolor textural techniques and tips on creating unusual painting effects. Juror, Terry Stanley, critiqued award winners and generously took time for any participant to ask questions about their own work following the critique.

Photo caption: WRAP artwork on display in the Oshkosh Arena and presenter, Joye Moon, demonstrating textural watercolor techniques.



Richland Center article by Sally Probasco, photo by Ricki Bishop

The UW-Richland campus was the perfect venue for the Richland Area Arts Council's WRAP that included 15 artists and guests. Sharon Stauffer, Mineral Point mixed media artist, gave a step-by-step demonstration of her process of incorporating an original figure drawing onto a multiple layered background. The group had questions. Sharon provided a complete list of supplies after the workshop. Mineral Point artist and gallery owner, Richard Moninski, gave an insightful critique of one piece of art created by each artist followed by an announcement of award winners.

Photo caption: Judge Richard Moninski critiqued.

Wautoma article by Pat Spear, photo by Brenda Mulvey

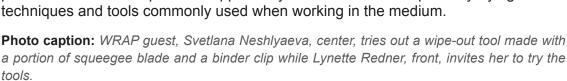
The Wautoma Senior Center hosted a pop-up WRAP on June 3. Thirty-one participants created cyanotypes and enjoyed the camaraderie of fellow artists and an epic potluck of summer salads provided by the Rural Rembrandt Art Club, co-sponsors of the event. The exhibit included 72 high-quality works of art, and the workshop concluded with the announcement of awards and a critique session.

Photo caption: Wautoma WRAP Artists and cyanotypes.



Monroe article and photos by Lauren Burkey

On Saturday, May 27th, 2023, Monroe Arts Center welcomed six participants to a workshop presented by juror/speaker, Lynette Redner, who began with a presentation about Plein Air painting. Participants learned about the materials needed, pros and cons of the painting method, and heard about experiences. Later, Lynette introduced participants to water mixable oil paints. Redner started painting. Then, each person at the workshop had an opportunity to contribute to the piece by trying out techniques and tools commonly used when working in the medium.





Statewide Virtual by Mary Ann Inman

There were 27 entrants in the last workshop of the season, coordinated by Becky Herb and Mary Ann Inman. The judge/presenter was Carole Spelic of Mineral Point. On June 6, 18 artists listened intently to her presentation about the history of portraits, which she ended by sharing one of her own emotional portraits inspired by a fresco. Carole's critique included discussing the principles and elements of design.



Photo caption: Carole graduated from Bates College (ME) with a BA in Fine Art and earned her MA and MFA from the University at Albany (NY).



Rhinelander article and photo by Jenny Bonardelli

The Nicolet College WRAP exhibit was on display in the Northwoods Center Art Gallery from February 6 through April 1 with 17 entries on display and judged by ceramist and art educator, Ingrid Bodensteiner. The opening reception on February 9 was well-attended. It provided the artists with an opportunity to gather and reflect on their work as well as engage with the community. Due to snow and ice, coordinators cancelled the April 1

workshop. Instead, entrants received complementary tickets to the 36th annual Northern National Art Competition reception, dinner, and judge's talk on June 15

Photo caption: Northwoods Center Art Gallery WRAP Exhibit.

Waunakee article and photo by Kylie West

The third annual Waunakee WRAP Exhibit featured 18 artists and 34 unique pieces that were on display for three weeks at the Waunakee Public Library. On workshop day, 15 additional community members joined our WRAP Exhibitors for a firsthand Glass Mosaic workshop led by Jewelry Artisan and Create Waunakee Committee member, Natasha Lutes. Participants learned the process for both large and small mosaic projects and had the opportunity to create their own mosaic piece from start to finish, including breaking their glass, grouting, and cleaning their piece. This event was fun!

Photo caption: Workshop attendees were not all WRAP exhibitors. Community members signed up!



Antigo article and photo by Rosemary Bauknecht

The exhibit and workshop, coordinated by Rosemary Bauknecht and sponsored by Antigo Visual Arts (AVA), featured 16 artists and 44 splendid pieces of art. Langlade County Historical Museum (a former Carnegie library) hosted the May 7 workshop. The judge/speaker was Lisa Krueger. The workshop began with a critique of the artworks followed by a light luncheon. Lisa spoke of her creative process and where she found her inspiration. Then Lisa demonstrated her technique and process of mixed media.



Photo caption: Lisa Krueger (center right) and artists engaged in critiques.

Cambridge by Jill Jensen, photo via shakeragalley.org

Lake Ripley Country Club hosted WRAP on May 6. It was the first time for this venue. We had a room overlooking the golf course with natural light to display the art. We had 33 exhibiting artists, plus five additional workshop participants. We had an impressive and diverse gallery. View it on the AWA website. Marla Brenner was our judge and workshop host. She conducted an informative and interactive workshop on composition. She taught techniques and exercises to achieve balance with lights and darks. She made sketch books for everyone to use and take home with them. Following lunch, we enjoyed a fun, educational, and inclusive critique session. Marla had prepared comments for each artist in attendance.



Photo caption: Judge/speaker Marla Brenner critiqued the art.

Hartford by Patricia Gergetz, photo via shakeragalley.org

Kettle Moraine Arts Guild sponsored the WRAP at Schauer Arts Center in Hartford. It ended on Saturday, May 13, 2023, with a workshop attended by 16 artists. Guest artist and judge, Frank Hoeffler, provided a morning demonstration about painting, and gave suggestions about exhibiting and submitting artwork on a broader level. The afternoon concluded with a critique session and presentation of awards.





Waukesha/Oconomowoc article and photo by Kathy Prondzinski

The WRAP workshop was Saturday, May 20, 2023, at the Oconomowoc Arts Center, with 39 artists. Juror/Presenter Pat Dobrinska began the day with a fabulous interactive critique session. Her presentation explored ways to keep our work exciting using risk-taking and continuous experimentation. It was an enjoyable day spent with fellow artists.

Photo caption: Pat Dobrinska critiqued Dream Layers by Jane Johnson.



Whitewater article and photo by Ashe McDarison

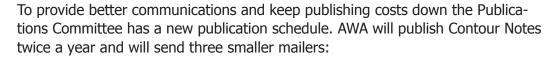
On Sunday, May 7, 2023, at the Cultural Arts Center (CAC) juror/presenter, Larry Schultz, held a discussion and demonstration of his style of painting/drawing. Larry's topic was on creative vs logic sides of the brain. Discussion turned to charcoal portrait demonstration with Ashe McDarison, WAA manager, as model. Larry said, "become a better painter by becoming a better drawer. Become a better drawer by becoming a better seer." Eight attendees joined the workshop, the majority being artists and Whitewater Arts Alliance members.



Photo caption: Larry Schultz's demonstration drawing and Coordinator, Ashe Darison.

WRAP News

by Becky Herb



- The State Conference Mailer will provide the conference agenda and Tiny Treasures information.
 - Late Summer WRAP Mailer will provide the Summer and Fall WRAP schedules.
 - Winter WRAP Mailer will provide Winter, Spring and Early Summer WRAP schedules.

Each of these mailers will have the appropriate forms for entry. The board hopes to make it easier for you to join in.

Becky Herb,



Letter to the Editor

I thought Beverly Anderson's essay, "Do Not Believe Everything You Think", was a perfect guide to allow a creative person to be in the moment of the creative process and let it happen without the "self" getting in the way. I have a note scrawled on a torn piece of paper on the wall in my little basement studio ~ it reads "Don't be afraid".

- Bill Schuele

Statewide Teen Art Mentor Program, STAMP Summaries

by Jeanne Ferreira

This year celebrated more venues and artists. More than 25 high schools participated. AWA is grateful to have coordinators'/mentors' support. AWA invited 40 young artists to exhibit at the AWA State Exhibit in August.

Antigo: Nine State Awardees will be eligible to exhibit in August at the Pyle Center. The regional exhibit was at the Antigo Public Library. Retired art instructor, Stephen Loftus, was the juror for the event. More than 40 people attended the reception and viewed the show of young Northwoods artists.

Richland Center aka RAHSAE: In April family and friends gathered at UW-Richland to celebrate the exciting art exhibit of artists from six area high schools. The artist, Carol Spelic, was the juror,

awarding six State Awards. The attendees enjoyed the musings of Aron Meudt-Thering of Travel Wisconsin and the camaraderie of the art community. Our thanks to UW-Richland for their support over the years.

Beloit: STAMP exhibit is always exciting at the Beloit Art Center and the 14th annual was no exception. The exhibit included 2D and 3D creations of the area's young artists. The works included painting, digital art, mixed media, pottery, and sculpture. The reception was a lovely evening to announce the State Awardees.



Photo via Beloit Art Center



NEW! Watertown article and photo by David Pawl

On March 9, despite winter conditions, in the Watertown High School Endeavour Art Gallery, 44 pieces were exhibited, created by 29 artists. Watertown Art Teacher, Dave Pawl, curated artworks from Jefferson, Marshall, Waterloo, and Watertown schools. During the reception, a button-making activity happened followed by refreshments. Artists received an art supply gift courtesy of the Wisconsin Art Education Association and Watertown High School. Judge, Olivia Wieland, was unable to attend due to severe weather. Artists received written judges' comments/scores. About 300 people viewed the exhibit.

Wausau article and photo by Bobby Walker

The results from this year's STAMP exhibit won't be known until this issue of Contour Notes goes to press. We anticipate that the exhibit will take place in the Loft Gallery at the Wausau Center for Visual Arts, from June 24 to July 22. The awards reception will be Saturday, July 22, starting at 1 pm. Schools represented will be Wausau East and West, Auburndale, Marathon, and Edgar.





By Teresa Vicars.

In her first life, Becky was a mathematics professor at the University of Maryland. Upon retiring, she moved back to Madison and, much to her delight, she discovered she was an artist.

Becky started taking a Communicating Nature Class at the UW Arboretum, which included writing, photography, and art. To her surprise, Becky liked the art part the best, so she started watercolor classes with a teacher who did challenging botanical illustrations. Then she attended the Rhinelander School of the Arts with a friend and took a class with Mary Ann Inman. She was excited to learn that making art could be fun and fell in love with the process of creating!



Becky Herb, photo by Teresa Vicars



Hens Night Out, by Becky

Her favorite media are watercolor, pastel, acrylic and mixed media. Becky enjoys learning new techniques, such as silk painting, monotypes, clay, mosaic, and cyanotypes.

Becky has served on the AWA board since 2014 as WRAP Liaison, which entailed communicating between the UW Madison and AWA. She also schedules the WRAPs, works on the Timely Treasures calendar, transports arts and assists with art installations. When Covid hit, UW Madison cut the 80-year-old program. This changed everything. Becky jumped in and worked tirelessly, along with others, to save WRAP. AWA continued WRAPs during Covid, through the new world of Zoom, led also by Becky.

Why does Becky love WRAP so much? She believes art should be for everybody! AWA provides an environment where non-professional artists can be part of a supportive art community, having a place to show their art and to learn from other artists while becoming art friends. AWA has amazingly dedicated volunteers and could always use more!

Walking in nature, birding, plein air painting, and attending Mary Ann Inman's Open Studio in Fitchburg are her hobbies. She enjoys traveling in Wisconsin to The Clearing in Door County, taking class-

es along with her husband and going north to the Duck Lake Art Retreat. Traveling to Iceland, Portugal, Spain, and Croatia have inspired her paintings.

I will leave you with words of wisdom from Becky.

"Art is more fun with friends!"





ASSOCIATION OF WISCONSIN ARTISTS

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Getting to Know Your Wisconsin Artists

by Jeanne Ferreira

Born in Racine, Wisconsin, in 1904, George Bobholz was a self-taught artist. Having left grade school, he found his way to painting via an extraordinary path. He began painting as a hobby and, to support his family in 1930, went door to door in affluent neighborhoods, selling his paintings and taking orders for commissions. At times, historians referred to him as a "paint to order" artist. He was rewarded with commissions that included works for the altar at St. Boniface Catholic Church, a diorama at the Milwaukee Public Museum and work with the Work Progress Administration (WPA).



Apparently, selling his art was not enough to keep his family sustained so he became a building general contractor. Eventually in 1949, he opened a business, Bobholz and Sons, with his three adult children.

While always an artist at heart, Bobholz did not resume exhibiting art after the late 1930s. He painted from 1920 to late 1930. While this was a brief time span, he was very prolific. His work is reminiscent of the Regional Art Style and consisted of landscapes and figure studies. Bobholz died in Brookfield, Wisconsin, at the young age of 54.

Photo caption: Untitled (Snowy Creek), 24 x 29, oil on board

Credit source: Gallery of Wisconsin Art https://galleryofwisconsinart.com/artist