

Milton Artists' Guild meeting

September 20, 2018

Art Center

10 - noon

Attending: Don Bennett, Donna Blatchly, Amy Cook, Sheila Franz, Barry Genzlinger, Cathy LaClair, Christina Lesperance, Richard Lyons, Lorraine Manley, Dean Moran, Linda Moran, Bonnie Palmer, Dave Russell, Linda Stech

- Linda Stech welcomed the group and provided an update on gallery activity. Sales have been steady, averaging well over \$3500 per month; in May it was \$5460, June was \$4,574, July was \$2,398, August was \$4,185.45, and September \$3,688 to date.
- The guild has become a member of the Lake Champlain Chamber of Commerce.
- Homeschooling Workshop update - There are five students in the current series which meets once a week. The next series will be taught by Julie Griffis and is STEAM based; including elements of science, technology, engineering, art, and math. The series following focuses on fiber arts, start to finish. This will be taught by Donna Blatchly, who is will also introduce a 'secret guest'. Class descriptions and dates are on the guild website under the Art Center tab. For questions, please contact Linda Stech at [lstech@comcast.net](mailto:lstech@comcast.net).
- The workshop committee, Jesse Swétel, Heidi Carlin, Stephen Webb, Nicole Gadouas, and Rose D'Elia are doing a great job. As a reminder, gift certificates can be used for workshops.
- Photo Calendar update – the deadline for submissions is October 1st. The day of the monthly meetings of the Photographers Anonymous group has recently changed to the fourth Tuesday of each month, but will still begin at 6 pm. and is open to all who have an interest in photography. For questions regarding the calendar submission, you may contact Bernhard Wunder at [almechd@mac.com](mailto:almechd@mac.com).
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Come as You Art - We set up our stations in front of the new field house, an ideally visible spot to catch the eye of passers-by at the Touch a Truck event. Carolyn Beaulieu demonstrated painting, Nancy Pecor invited kids to add to a community quilt project, Donna Blatchly introduced kids to pebble art, Heidi Chamberlain and Judy Tiplady manned the tile painting table, and Bonnie Palmer demonstrated felting. Frank McDonough was our photographer. The MAG's participation was well received by the guests.
- Leunig's fundraiser – In all, the MAG received \$2237 from the event. Leunig's donated 10% of the daily sales, and we received all the proceeds from the raffle. It was noted that the event was not well attended by our members. Amy suggested that a reminder email prior to the event would have been helpful to avoid any confusion.
- Cathy LaClair gave a recap of the MAG Meetups group. Cathy initiated the monthly group, which started in February. She hosted both morning and evening sessions for all who wished to share and work on art, however, the sessions were not well attended. We had a short discussion on the merits of continuing with the current schedule, reducing frequency to quarterly, or simply stopping, as the regular monthly members meeting will be re-focusing on art as opposed to guild business. It was suggested that if we get a vendor to operate a coffee service in the gallery, it would be a good draw to entice artists for sharing sessions. Cathy will take the comments under advisement.

- There was a question about the Champlain Valley Fair project. This was designed as member-run as opposed to a guild-run project. A recap will be given at the October meeting.
- Activities Fair - Jessie need a volunteer to help; it's on Thursday, September 27, from 6 to 8 pm. It's a meet & greet event to publicize the guild. To volunteer, please contact Gisela.
- Senior High Tea - Thursday, September 27, from 1:30 – 3:00, we will host another senior center group. Donna Blatchly will demonstrate pebble art, and the seniors will be provided with refreshments. We are asking for a volunteer to help with serving. Please contact Linda Moran [marblers2008@gmail.com](mailto:marblers2008@gmail.com) if you can help out.
- Plein Air - This 2nd event will take place at Claire Payne's studio Saturday September 29, 10AM-3PM, with a reception to follow immediately at the studio. A reception will be held at the MAG Gallery on October 11, 4-6 PM. It's held at a beautiful farm in Georgia, and Claire provides refreshments. Participants can sign up online on the Workshop page.
- Fall Open Studio - October 13 & 14; this is a statewide event. Our artists are invited to be available at the gallery to talk about their art and to give demonstrations of their process. This is a good opportunity to connect with the public. Please contact Gisela to sign up.
- An Art Supply sale will be held on Saturday, October 27th. We will be accepting gently used art supplies (October drop-off date to be announced). Proceeds will go to the Events Committee to fund music, refreshments, etc.
- 14th Annual Artfest, November 9th & 10th - there are still 7' x 8' booth spaces available, on a first-come basis for \$50. The show kicks off with a gala reception on Friday evening from 6 – 8 pm; the Saturday hours are from 9 to 4 pm. No commission is taken on participant's booth sales. To secure a spot, please mail a check to MAG at P.O. Box 369, Milton, VT 05468, or stop by the Gallery to pay there. For more information you may contact Gisela.
- The Barnes & Noble fundraiser will be held on November 17th, from 10 – 6 pm. We are looking for additional volunteers for the gift wrapping table, giving demonstrations, or simply greeting customers. These are only two-hour time slots, and any volunteer time counts toward the 25% commission incentive program.  
When a customer makes a purchase and shows the code number assigned to MAG, Barnes & Noble will make a donation to the guild. The rate of donation depends on the amount of sales; as the sales reach certain tiers, Barnes & Noble increases their donation to us. Donna Blatchly is the chair of this committee. Please contact her at [donna.blatchly@gmail.com](mailto:donna.blatchly@gmail.com) to participate.  
We also need a new Bob Ross; Gisela would like to hand over the wig!
- Holiday Card contest, deadline October 15th for entries; to be considered, please send a holiday-themed image, but not religion-specific, to Ellen Young at [youngellen@msn.com](mailto:youngellen@msn.com).

Linda turned over the meeting to our guest speaker, Dave Russell. He presented a fabulous program on how he used Instagram to make his art profitable. He addressed many topics including linking social media platforms, hashtag strategy, online security, blogging, business accounts, image posting, etc. Dave is available for private sessions for a minimal fee. For more information, please contact him at [dave@daverussell.org](mailto:dave@daverussell.org) or follow his blog, [davidarussell.blogspot.com](http://davidarussell.blogspot.com).

Respectfully submitted by Christina Lesperance

