

2012-09-23

The General Membership meeting was called to order by President Joanne Brandt at 2:30 p.m., in the downstairs conference room of the Mobile Museum of Art. Twenty-six members were present. Joanne welcomed new member Gayle Hall. Since the minutes had been sent out previously, Joanne asked if someone would like to move that we dispense with the reading of them. Corky Goldman so moved, and Anne Festorazzi seconded; the motion passed.

Second Vice-President Kathy Friedline went over the details of the upcoming juried show in November and December at the USA library:

Take in: November 1, from 10 -1, in classroom 171 (downstairs)

One or two entries for \$20

Reception: November 8, 6-7:30 p.m.

Take-down: December 20, 10 a.m. -1 p.m.

Members are asked to bring a light snack to the reception

Joanne added that we had already received a check from Paul Bruckmann for the Best Watercolor/memorial award in honor of his dear wife, Ruth. Lynda confirmed that she will write a letter of thanks to him.

Barbara Cline asked about parking at USA, saying that she had received a ticket in the past. Clare King stated that no tickets were given after 3 pm or on weekends. Joanne said that Dean Wood could fix our tickets, except those for parking in handicapped spaces. Marcy Matherene said that she will check on that situation, and see if special arrangements can be made.

First Vice-President Karen McGahagin informed the membership about the judge for the show, Shirley Bryan, who is a member of the Quayside Gallery in Pensacola, FL. Karen also noted that Ms. Bryan had been published in Watercolor Magic magazine in 1997. More information about her and her work can be found on the internet.

Joanne mentioned that the Fall show will also be when we present 20-year pins to those qualified. As far as we know, those qualified will be Kate Seawell and Marian Stohrer. There was another person who had joined in 1992, but she has not been active in a number of years. Ainsley McNeely moved, and Mary Rodning seconded, that we only award pins to active members; this passed by acclamation.

Kathy reported that we have received word from ESAC confirming a show there for us in May and June of 2013. More details, such as exact dates, will be announced closer to that time. Joanne noted that this would also be the prospective members trial show. We also needed to decide whether the ESAC show would be a juried exhibition or a non-juried members show. It was noted that in the past the ESAC folks preferred our exhibit be juried. There was much discussion about the relative merits of having the juried exhibition at the ESAC and changing the USA Library show this fall to be our annual Members' Exhibition. Our bylaws specify that at least one exhibit a year will be juried. Kate said she thought it was important to have at least one non-juried members show each year so everyone would be able to show their work. Eventually Kate moved, and Clare seconded, that we make the upcoming USA show the non-juried members' show, and that we only are allowed to enter one piece in order to fit the available space. This passed on a voice vote. Karen will inform Ms. Bryan that she will be making awards, but not jurying out work.

To summarize:

Fall Members Non-Juried Exhibition at USA Library, limited to one artwork per member, entry fee of \$20; will also present 20-year pins.

Juried Exhibition at ESAC next spring and will also be our prospective members audition show; up to two artworks per member, entry fee of \$20.

Joanne reminded people that nominations for prospective members must be made eight weeks before the ESAC show. The exact date (in March of 2013) will be announced soon. This led to a discussion about the requirements for

nominating new members. Joanne reiterated that we had a problem with that last time. The procedure as specified in the bylaws is for two current active members to submit written nominations to propose a new member, before the cut-off date. The Secretary will then write to the prospective members informing them of their nomination and of the requirements: To submit a written resume (for reviewing their credentials) and two completed works of art for the exhibition. Corky admitted that he had been guilty of incorrectly submitting people last year, but that it was due to a misunderstanding. Joanne and Ernie both emphasized how important it was that, to be fair, we must stick to the rules. Conroy said that it would be wise to make note of this system in the minutes. * (See below excerpt from current bylaws regarding nomination and selection procedures).

The next item for discussion was the idea of a theme show of some kind, as raised during the annual meeting last May. The 'retro' show was mentioned again, and seemed to be of some interest, it being further suggested that we could wear retro costumes to the reception. This would not be a juried/judged show, but mainly an opportunity to exhibit. Kathy mentioned the seeming lack of interest for the "Hot Art for a Cold January" show we put on early this year. To some laughter, Conroy remarked that was a particularly broad theme. It was moved and seconded that we have a retro show. After the vote Kathy said there were slightly more ayes than nays, but that they were rather weak. She will check on venues and see what we might do.

Joanne next reported on the work of the ad hoc committee – Kaye Hoffman, Clare King, Conroy Hudlow, and Ainsley McNeely – which was appointed to investigate allegations of fraud by one of our members, as presented during the May 2012 annual meeting, and to make recommendations for actions to take. The board met with the committee on August 7th, and confirmed there had been serious violations of WGAS rules. Joanne further stated that the Board had taken action against this transgression, but that the situation was not yet resolved, because the time given for a response by the offending member had not expired. Therefore, she was not in position to report at this time on any actions taken. However, as a result of this unfortunate situation, the Board has worked on recommended changes to the By-Laws. The Board believes that these changes will make the rules even clearer and emphasize the consequences of infractions. Conroy remarked that if such actions were just swept under the rug it would all be a useless exercise since there would be no perceived punishment. He and Clare emphasized that people need to know what will happen to violators. Kaye added that eventually the members deserved to know what had happened. Joanne responded that she could not disagree with these statements, but presently she could say no more regarding the specific infraction and sanctions. Also, we have been advised by an attorney (Kelly Hudlow, Conroy's daughter) not to release the specific evidence and discussion with the offender to the membership or the public; but any letter of apology we receive could be presented to the membership. Joanne indicated that she hopes we will be able to report more at some future time. Karen added that in the interest of preserving the well-being of the Society, we needed to get past this as soon as possible.

Derald Eastman commented that he had recently seen some of the same problems come up in the Alabama Watercolor Society exhibition in Birmingham, and that group seemingly did not take any action. So, it is not only our Society that has this type of problem. He further remarked that their meetings were disorganized and unprofessional. Joanne suggested that we look into the way the state society is set up, specifically with regard to its Signature Members, in case we want to institute something like that.

Next we addressed the proposed changes to the By Laws as drafted by the Board. Foremost the Board suggest that *Originality* be given its own bullet in the exhibition rules, thus emphasizing it more than currently, although it is already a part of the Constitution. Then ensued prolonged discussion on the thorny question of what constituted 'classwork', which would not be allowed. Corky asked for a definition. Anne said that if there was an instructor, that would make it a class. Liz Zirlott added that was true especially if there was a *paid* instructor. In a group, people would just be painting together, but not getting instruction as such. Karen pointed out that groups such as the "Momma Lisas" paint together, but do not receive instruction. Ernie stated that the people who come to paint in his group need to know if their work will be accepted into exhibitions or not. Ainsley pointed out that classwork is not professional, and therefore should not be deemed good enough for an exhibition. Ernie noted that if someone else paints on one's painting, it is no longer

one's own original work. He gave as example of classwork that if the class is instructed to paint a tennis shoe which is put before them, we wouldn't want 12 paintings of tennis shoes to turn up in our next show. He added that he had reported violators from his own students.

Joanne said that the restriction against artwork completed in a class or workshop has been in the bylaws/rules for quite some time (it is not a new requirement), and we didn't want to get into having to define what is a class. Corky suggested we should rely on the honesty of the member artists. Charmaine Neylon noted that adults should not have a problem telling the difference. Marcy agreed, saying that it has to come back to one's own integrity. Joanne held that we must be honest in our work. Carolyn Greene added that a person knows if it is their own original work.

Joanne then went over the changes the Board is suggesting. Joanne had printed out the changes for everyone's consideration. Ainsley suggested we add, "All work must be done on a blank substrate." This met with approval. The draft will also be sent out with the minutes, or at least before the next membership meeting. ** (See below outline of proposed amendments to the bylaws).

The bylaws require that any proposed amendments be provided in writing to the membership for review at least 2 weeks before a vote is scheduled on their approval. Joanne noted that our intent is to send out the proposed revisions to the bylaws for the members review, and hopefully vote for approval at the Annual Membership Meeting in the spring. Members were requested to review the proposed revision and provide any feedback as soon as possible, so any additional revisions could be considered.

Joanne announced that there will be a Farewell Party for Thomas B. Harrison, Arts Editor for the Mobile Press Register, on Sunday, September 30, at the Mobile Arts Council, 1 – 3 PM. She noted that Thomas has been very good to the WGAS over the past 15 years, and we wanted to present him a token of our appreciation. Kathy reported on the plaque we are giving to Thomas at his farewell party. Karen wanted to know what time the presentation will be made. Joanne asked Lynda if there was a formal plan for presentations; she did not know but will check with Wanda Sullivan who has organized the event.

Joanne announced the appointment of Patti Vickery as Treasurer to replace Denise Inge, who has resigned her office. Patti & Joanne hope to meet with Denise next week to get the books turned over, the signature cards at the bank, and so on. Patti received a round of applause.

Joanne noted that we needed to set up an auditing committee for next fiscal year; as well as a nominating committee. She encouraged those asked to help out to please agree to do so.

Joanne asked for announcements.

Ainsley announced that the Miniature Society prospectus has been posted this week on their website. The show will be at MAC in March 2013.

Marcy reminded everyone that the MAA take-in is this Saturday, September 29 @ CSG.

Joanne declared the meeting adjourned, and suggested that everyone help themselves to the goodies provided.

Respectfully submitted,



Lynda Smith Touart
Secretary

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ARTICLE I MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Membership in this Society shall be limited to active and honorary members.

Section 2. To be eligible for membership a person must be living in Mobile or vicinity at time of invitation and must be duly invited as a guest exhibitor at the Exhibition.

Section 3. Names of candidates shall be submitted in writing by two members in good standing to the Secretary eight weeks preceding the Exhibition.

Section 4. The Secretary will inform the candidates of the criteria for nomination to, and selection for, membership.

Section 5. Criteria for nomination to, and selection for, membership shall be:

1. Professional interest, as demonstrated by a one-page résumé of professional experiences mailed to the Secretary. The Secretary will distribute the resume to the active membership either before or at the reception for the Exhibition.
2. Technical ability in Aqua Media and/or Graphics, as demonstrated by two works submitted for the Exhibition.

Section 6. A majority of the members of the Society present and voting at the reception for the Exhibition will select new members by secret ballot.

Section 7. A three-person Selection Committee, to be named by the Society President from those members not making nominations, will meet at the reception for the Nonjury Exhibition and distribute, collect, and tally the ballots from the members present and voting. The Committee will inform the President of the results in writing, who in turn will inform the Secretary, the new members, and the entire membership.

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Proposed changes and additions are in red.

ARTICLE VI ANNUAL EXHIBITIONS

Section 4. Exhibit Rules and Definitions of Media:

- *Aqua Media* shall consist of watercolor, acrylic, casein, gouache, egg tempera, water-soluble crayon and pencil. Such must be on paper, or on paper mounted on board. No collage material other than original aqua media on paper executed by the artist shall be allowed. Pastel may be used, but water media must dominate.
- *Graphics* shall consist of
 1. Printmaking: Intaglio, lithography, screen prints, relief prints, and monoprints
 2. Drawing: Charcoal, pen and ink, graphite, ink wash, charcoal wash, scratch board, conté crayon, colored pencil
 3. Pastel painting
- *Originality: Original work only*
 1. No class work, copies, digital images, or commercial prints
 2. The artwork may not be a copy or likeness of another's work (i.e., painting, drawing, digital image, or print) or a published source.
 3. Photographs or other reference resources may be used only with appropriate authorization, or if demonstrated that the source is not copy righted and/or in the public domain.
- *Altered Reproductions: All work must be done on a blank substrate.* Altered reproductions, aka "paint-overs" are not allowed. These include, but are not limited to:
 1. Work done over giclées, prints, photos, or any other non-original substrate
 2. Computer (digitally generated) work
- *Timeliness:* Entries must have been executed within the past two years and not exhibited in WGAS shows before.

- *Framing*: All work must be properly framed for hanging, under glass or Plexiglas. Extremely ornate frames, mats or liners of distracting textures or colors, or that which otherwise does not conform to these rules may be cause for removal from the exhibition at the judge's discretion.
- *Dptychs or triptychs* are not allowed unless in a common frame

Section 5. Violation of Exhibition Rules: Any artwork deemed not conforming to these rules may be denied entry into the exhibition or cause for removal by the Exhibition Committee or the Judge at their discretion. Any awards later determined to violate these rules may also be rescinded by the Exhibition Committee or the Board.

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2. Technical ability in Aqua Media and/or Graphics, as demonstrated by two works submitted for consideration in the Exhibition. *Artwork so submitted must comply with the current exhibition rules.*

Section 8. It is an honor to be nominated, accepted, and to serve as a member of the Society. The Society will promote the highest professional and ethical standards in member artists and Society-sponsored exhibitions. Fraudulent, misrepresented, or unprofessional work will not be tolerated by the Society. Members who violate these standards may have work removed from Society exhibitions, be barred from entering Society exhibitions, or be removed from the Society, as determined by the Board.