

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

by Marty Ressler

The PSA started a new initiative: "Art Field Trips" March 30 with a private docent tour of "1934: A New Deal for Artists" at the Frick. (See the article elsewhere in this issue). Our positive experience started me on a quest to learn a more about the Federal Public Works of Art Project (PWAP). (Another PSA-sponsored private docents tour at the Carnegie, will take place about the time this issue of **PSA VOICE** is published.)



Marty Ressler, PSA President

At the Frick we learned that for five months starting in December of 1933, some 3800 artists were paid minimum wage to make art that enriched public spaces such as public schools, orphanages, and libraries. They produced about 15,000 works of art in those 5 months. Meanwhile workers employed on federal public works projects built 500,000 miles of roads, 40,000 schools, 3,500 playgrounds and athletic fields, 1,000 airports – and even helped erect the Pittsburgh Cathedral of Learning!

To follow up, I attended an April 22 lecture at the Westmoreland Museum of Art by Roger G. Kennedy in conjunction with the publication of his new book, **WHEN ART WORKED; THE NEW DEAL, ART, AND DEMOCRACY**. I was moved by Mr. Kennedy's description of how art became a vital tool in arousing an awareness of the suffering of people, drew attention to the need for natural resource conservation, and became a tool in building community.

Although we are living in a different time from the 1930's, artists today can figure out ways to use our art for public good as well as private enjoyment. Our exhibitions chair, Eva Trout, is doing just that this spring by participating in a trip to Guatemala to work with young people in creating an urban mural. I look forward to getting a report on her experiences, and on similar experiences by other members.

Another example is an award PSA made in the All High School Art Show. (See Article for details). A \$100 prize was awarded to a non-CAPA high school

artist. (Given the concentration of talent in CAPA, the board wanted to even out the turf so to speak).

PSA's purpose as stated in our bylaws is to "support and encourage artists." We are doing that in a variety of ways. Bit by bit we are rebuilding a vibrant organization. The time and talents of many members will make this possible.

We have a full schedule of exhibitions lined up for 2010 and are beginning to develop a schedule for 2011.

The next show is **URBAN DREAMS** at the Fein Art Gallery on the North Side. Following that will be **SHELTER** and a non-juried members show at the end of the year. A highlight of next year's exhibition agenda will be **HALO** at PCA.

We are actively looking for other venues in which members can show their artwork, both old and new works, to enrich the community (and also hopefully sell a little art)!

Seventeen new members were selected to join PSA at the April screening. They bring a lot of creativity and energy to the organization.

Volunteerism is the lifeblood of PSA and a well-organized committee structure is its heart.

A final note: to professionalize our operation, we have finally secured Officer's & Directors Insurance. In addition the board authorized an audit of the financial books, as mandated yearly in the by-laws. An audit by a licensed CPA is now nearly complete. The main benefit is professionalizing our finances.

ISSUE HIGHLIGHTS

- October Member Exhibition
- 2010 Exhibition Schedule
- New Members and Officers

SMALL ART WORKS AT BORELLI-EDWARDS

By Marty Ressler

"There was such a good public vibe," was the comment of one visitor to Small Art Works, the first show of 2010 by the Pittsburgh Society of Artists. Exhibitions director Eva Trout and her hard-working committee organized the show of 56 artists at Borelli-Edwards Gallery, 3583 Butler Street, in Lawrenceville. Trout commented, "Though the scale of work in this show is small, the works themselves are reflective of a large variation of artists from the Pittsburgh area. This diversity of area artists is celebrated by the PSA and the public alike in the common bond of regional pride. It's a pleasure to be a part of."

Juror Joy Borelli chose three \$100 prize winners: Craig Marcus for "Sunday Afternoon in the Park;" Alice Burroughs for "Cicada," and Robin Richards for "Earth Mother." The \$50 prize winners were Mayota Hill for: "An Orchestra of Color in Harmony with the Sun," and Karen Kaighin, "Untitled II."

In addition 16 honorable mentions were awarded: Audra Azwry, Duane Cacali, Fran Gialamas, Beth Havanec, Joseph Holtz, Ellen Keimkuehler, George Kollar, Daniel Kuhn, Margaret Laske, Marianne Marino, Marina Mozhayeva, Martha Ressler, Carol Skinger, Susan Sparks, Benjamin Thomas and Eva Trout.

Artists and visitors stayed until the end, enjoying the food and beverages organized by Sheila Golding, chatting with each other, and discussing the art.

PSA IN THE NEWS

PITTSBURGH SOCIETY OF ARTISTS EXHIBIT GIVES SMALLER WORKS A PLATFORM

By Kurt Shaw, PITTSBURGH TRIBUNE-REVIEW

Wednesday, April 21, 2010

Most in the know about visual art in Pittsburgh are well aware of the Associated Artists of Pittsburgh, the region's oldest -- not to mention, the country's second-oldest -- visual art organization. But many still don't know there are several other similar groups in the region, including the Pittsburgh Society of Artists.

The Pittsburgh Society of Artists has been in existence for 45 years. Currently, it is the largest art guild under the umbrella of the Pittsburgh Center for the Arts. There are approximately 300 member artists, whose work reflects all visual-arts media, and a variety of artistic levels, and like the Associated Artists of Pittsburgh, it is an organization that celebrates regional art and artists.

"A main goal of the PSA is to facilitate its artists with exhibition opportunities as well as educational opportunities in and around the Pittsburgh region," says the group's exhibition chair, Eva Trout. "In the past few years, the guild has undergone change, as a variety of new artists have joined, and interest has surged."

Reflecting that change, the show "Small Art Works," a Pittsburgh



Sunday in the Park.

By Craig Marcus.



Earth Mother.

By Robin Richards.



SUNPhony:

An Orchestra of Color.

By Mayota Hill



Shooting Star.

By Duane Cacali

Society of Artists sponsored exhibit, is currently on display at Borelli-Edwards Galleries in Lawrenceville.

This exhibit was open to all regional artists living within 150 miles of Pittsburgh. Joy Borelli-Edwards, owner of the galleries, juried the exhibit, choosing award winners among the 55 artists who are exhibiting, many of whom have two works of art in the show. The exhibit had no other criteria except a maximum size limitation of 14 inches in any dimension.

Like Trout's own works "Transcend" and "Staccato," encaustic and mixed media pieces respectively, much of the pieces on display incorporate several mediums.

Trout views encaustic, an ancient hot-wax painting technique, as a medium that opens doors for new ideas in combining paint with collaged elements.

"I love the layering and qualities of color that the medium offers, which allude to realities that are not physical but spiritual or emotional," she says. "Transcend" is particularly spiritual and illusive, much like a dream. And "Staccato" is more related to rhythm and dance.

Like Trout, Carol Skinger combined mediums to produce two collage-like pieces to great effect. So much so that one of her two pieces in the exhibit -- "August Wilson Homage" -- received an honorable mention and both pieces were purchased at the opening.

"In the August Wilson piece, I included the building where he grew up as the primary image, and the Carnegie Library in Oakland as the secondary image," Skinger says regarding the photomontage-like piece. "He went to that library to read and read after dropping out of high school when he was wrongly accused of plagiarizing a 20-page paper on Napoleon. Eventually, the Carnegie Library in Oakland gave him his high school diploma, and he is the only one to ever have received a high school diploma from the library."

In her other piece, "Rachel Carson Homage," Skinger incorporated an image of Rachel Carson's homestead in Springdale with images of coal burning smoke stacks there. The piece addresses a current environmental battle involving new scrubbers proposed by owners of the RRI Energy plant in Springdale that would reduce sulfur dioxide emissions but increase lead and mercury emissions.

"High school students, among others in the region, in Springdale have even gotten into the act and have mobilized to demand a better solution -- so that is a current news story that I have to think Rachel Carson would have to be proud of," Skinger says.

The remaining works are not as pointed, but just as compelling. First-prize winner Robin Richards' "Earth Mother," a hand-colored photograph of a figurine, offers an intriguing image of the female form. Another photograph, George Kollar's "Thorn II," a sepia-toned photograph of a thorn-covered stem, presents nature in its most raw form.

Others used traditional mediums in unique ways, such as Daniel Kuhn's "Brackenridge Avenue Ceramic," porcelain "rock" emblazoned with a photo decal of a decaying steel mill. And Duane Cacali offers up a piece in a whole new medium. His "Shooting Star" is an abstract "digital painting" that proves there are new horizons for painting.



Untitled II
By Karen Kaighin



Soulful Splendor
By Joseph Holtz



All Around Town.
By Marty Ressler.



Transcend. By Eva Trout.

MARCH 30 PSA-FRICK INTERACTIVE: "A REAL BENEFIT!"

By Holly Pultz

The PSA-organized private docent's tour of *1934: A NEW DEAL FOR ARTISTS* at the Frick Museum of Art on March 30 proved to be a most enjoyable and enlightening event.

We viewed paintings by artists all across the country that reflected the American spirit through the tough times of the Great Depression.

From mid-December 1933 to June 1934, artists participating in the short-lived federal program were encouraged to depict the American scene, but were free to portray any subject. The 54 paintings in the exhibition were created by artists whose birthplaces spanned the country (and in some cases the globe). They rendered distinct and diverse visions of the country.

In 1934, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt's administration created the Public Works of Art Program—the first federal government program to support the arts nationally.

Nearly 15,000 works were created by over 3,800 artists during the six-month life of the program.

Eight members and friends: Peg Caine, Louise Davis, Elizabeth Donohue, Maureen Hahn, Anne Lee, Holly Pultz and Marty Ressler were guided by two Frick docents, Adrienne Daner and Veronica Lopez.

We had time while in the galleries to sketch images that moved us before walking through the gardens to the Frick Studio to further develop our ideas using a wide variety of provided materials. Let us not forget the delicious spread of fruits, cheeses, wine, and soft drinks that added to the festive experience. Best of all, we had fun just getting to know each other better! A real benefit!



“ I never paint dreams or nightmares. I paint my own reality. The only thing I know is that I paint because I need to, and I paint whatever passes through my head without any other consideration.”
— ***Frida Kahlo***

MEMBERS' CORNER

The Voice welcomes contributions from PSA members about ways they are contributing to the Pittsburgh arts community.

CREATIVE REUSE PITTSBURGH

By Jill Lena Ford

One way that I contribute to the advancement of the Arts in Pittsburgh is through my involvement with Creative Reuse Pittsburgh which can be found on the web at: www.creativereusepgh.blogspot.com.

CRP promotes creativity, resource conservation, and community engagement through the creative reuse of discards from local businesses. I help CRP by developing and facilitating hands-on creative arts workshops for all ages and communities, including school programs, business teambuilding and community events.

Join us at the upcoming Three Rivers Arts Festival. We seek to make Pittsburgh a stronger, happier and more creative community!

Creative Reuse Pittsburgh's retail space is located upstairs inside Construction Junction, 214 N. Lexington Street, in the Point Breeze section of Pittsburgh. It is always open Wednesdays from 12-5pm. While occasionally open on weekends, other times are by appointment. Visit CRP on Facebook or sign up for CRP's e-bulletin to be informed about additional hours and activities.

FIVE QUESTIONS TO A MEMBER

By Marty Ressler

With this issue *PSA Voice* is starting a new column: "Five Questions to a Member." We will interview a PSA member in each issue, starting with those who have won awards in recent shows. Our first spotlighted member is Alice Burroughs, who was one of the \$100 award winners in "Small Art Works" at Borelli-Edwards Gallery in April, 2010.

PSA Voice: Can you tell us about your art -- which is your preferred medium at present? How has that evolved in recent time?

Alice Burroughs: I started out in water colors, then learned oil painting and etching. Currently I am torn between both media. For a period of time when my children were small, I worked in linoleum block, because it was an uncomplicated medium.

PV: Can you share a bit about your life -- which part of town you live in, family, job or other interests?

AB: I worked for many years for Horne's and other department stores in retail advertising. That type of work died out. Then did free-lance art work locally where I live in Washington, PA. I am proud that I have two children who both earned an MFA (Master in Fine Arts Degree). My husband also paints.

PV: Can you describe your studio and/or working methods?

AB: I have a small studio for my painting, but for printmaking, I have a press in my basement. I use my washer and dryer as a work surface, then have to put everything away when I am done printing. I do some kind of art work 5 days a week. Sometimes I get involved, and I put in more hours. Now that it is spring, my garden will draw me outside more.



Eva Trout, Joy Borelli, Alice Burroughs



Cicadas. By Alice Burroughs.

PV: How long have you been a member of the PSA. When did you join? In how many PSA exhibits have you exhibited? Highlights of your membership? PSA members who have influenced your art?

AB: I have been a member for a year. Robin Richards [a PSA member for 20 years, and co-incidentally an award winner in the Small Art Works show as well] brought me to a show last year in Lawrenceville, and I decided to screen in and join PSA. This is my first award.

PV: Which other art organizations are you active in (if any)?

AB: I was a member of the Artists' Co-op in Washington for 8 years, but it recently closed. I go to the Carnegie Museum on Fridays for their Open Model Studio.

PSA AWARD AT ALL-CITY STUDENT EXHIBIT

By Holly Pultz

We are pleased to announce that PSA has awarded a \$100.00 Prize to an art student from a comprehensive Pittsburgh Public High School this year. Our own Susie Sparks and Ruthanne Bauerle had the pleasure of choosing the recipient of the award during several days of jurying at the Man-

chester Craftsman’s Guild. The opening for the Pittsburgh All-City Art Show will be May 13, 2010 from 6:00-9:00PM at the Guild where the award will be presented to Manchester Craftsman Guild student Joyce Flannery for her silver Gelatin Print “Deer’s Head in Nature.”



“ I have always been amazed at the way an ordinary observer lends so much more credence and attaches so much more importance to waking events than to those occurring in dreams. Man is above all the plaything of his memory.”

—André Breton



WELCOME NEW PSA MEMBERS

Seventeen new members screened into PSA On April 11 and were introduced to the membership at the April 25 meeting. Again, a big “Welcome!” to a talented bunch.

David Schwartzmiller	J	Christina Zaris	V-PD-MM
Danna Rzecznik	CE	Anne Trimble	PA-G
Cristina Saucedo	D-PI-W-M-PD	Nina Sowiski	PD
Jessica Kalmar	P	Firdausi Bey	OP
William Ceriani	AP-OP-PA	Stephen E Douglas	S
Kara Snyder	AP-PA-CH-PI	Ian Green	OP-AP-W
Cathy Barabas	W-MM	Charlena Cunningham	P
Adam King	S-OP-CH	Sue Schneider	W-F-CA-MM-F
Chialing Bull	MM		

PSA EXHIBITION SCHEDULE 2010

Urban Dreams

Fein Art Gallery
Screening Drop Off (at Fein Art Gallery):
Saturday, May 29 – 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM
June 4 - July 9, 2010

Shelter

Society for Contemporary Craft
Digital Submission, Mail to SCC
Postmarked before June 30, 2010
October 1 - December 5, 2010

PSA Annual

Art Institute
December 6 - January 2010

Halo

Pittsburgh Center for the Arts
Digital Submission
April 8 -- May 22, 2011

OFFICERS FOR 2010-2011

All email addresses are: @pittsburghsocietyofartists.org

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Members at Large:

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Sheila Golding sheilagolding@

Alice Lieb alicielieb@

Holly Pultz..... hollypultz@

Peter Sandstrom..... petersandstrom@



**Demonstration of
Abstract Expression-
ist Painting at April
25 Membership meet-
ing by Julie Bernstein
Engelmann**



PSA VOICE is produced under the direction of the Board of Directors, Pittsburgh Society of Artists.
Martha Ressler, President
Jay Ressler, Editor this issue
Cristina Saucedo "Pastilla CCSG", Layout & Graphics
Photographs: Ruthanne Bauerle, Holly Pultz, Jay Ressler, Cristina Saucedo, and Carol Skinger.

2010 NEW MEMBER SCREENING

Date: October 24

Drop Off: 12:15 PM to 1:00PM

Pick Up: 3PM to 4PM

MEMBERSHIP MEETING SCHEDULE

November 14, 2010 1PM

Program: Roger Costello

All held at Simmons Hall, Pittsburgh Center for the Arts.



Exhibition Chairs Suzie Sparks & Eva Trout



Marianne Marino



Ronald Coleman talks with Joy Borelli



Joseph Holtz



Second Prize winner Mayota Hill at Small Works Opening

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