

Public Art Division

2005 Art Exhibits

Baubles, Bangles and Bling Bling

9/16/05 - 10/23/05

The David L. Pierce Art and History Center will sparkle with glitz and glamour this weekend with the opening of Baubles, Bangles & Bling Bling. From September 16th through October 23, 2005, the Aurora Public Art Commission will host Baubles, Bangles & Bling Bling, an exhibit focusing on Vintage Costume Jewelry of the 20th Century, curated by Aurora residents Shirley Flaherty and Mary Ann Signorelli.

More than 100 pieces of fantastic and some would call outrageous jewelry will be on display, highlighting the artistry and diversity of jewelry design throughout the century. Drawn from private collections, the jewelry will be presented in several categories focusing on designers-with a particular spotlight on two of America's best: Eisenberg, known for quality, and Miriam Haskell, recognized for innovative design and use of materials; Types-watches, pures and accessories, Themes-patriotic and nature; Alternate materials-plastics, bakelite, etc.: Periods-1920s and 1930s-the birth of American style; Men's jewelry Curator's Choice-an eclectic collection of 'special' pieces denoting particular styles and pieces that the curators, Shirley Flaherty and Mary Ann Signorelli, thought that people needed to see.

Highlights of the exhibit include:

- A rare collection of original watercolor sketches of Miriam Haskell jewelry. These sketches served as reference for Frank Hess, the first designer and creative inspiration behind the Miriam Haskell style, and at the same time were used to decorate the firm's showroom and the Miriam Haskell boutiques, which were only opened in the best specialty stores in the United States.
- Two very rare, luminous enamels by Boucher.
- A grasshopper, one of a nature series, which includes a praying mantis circa 1940,
- and perhaps most spectacular, Punchinello, a fur

clip inspired by a children's toy. This fur clip, complete with marionette-like movement, traveled the world in the first international exhibit of costume jewelry, Jewels of Fantasy, sponsored by the Daniel Swarovski Corporation in 1991.

Eisenberg Originals: clothing from the first 'label line' and haute couture of American fashion, and jewels, including a spectacular and rare ruby red necklace, from an early icon of American style and quality. This exhibit will be on display until October 23, 2005.

Images of a Downtown

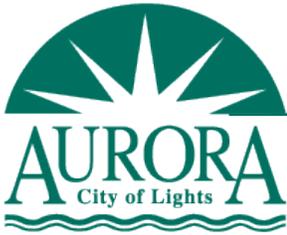
Photographs by Michael R. Sawdey

6/10/05 - 7/17/05

This series of Michael Sawdey's color photographs, many taken during Aurora's summer Downtown Alive! fests, captures the sense of the fleeting moment in the city-a child in her mother's arms against the slant sun, children running through a fountain under sprays of water, a couple preceding their long shadows.

Taken together, this series fixes these individual moments of people against the backdrop of a city, so familiar to all of us, allowing us to come alive to ourselves in all of our variousness. Sawdey notes that he has "spent the last twenty years wandering through downtowns, ranging from Aurora to London"

This particular series, a small segment of Sawdey's large body of work, emphasizes the heightened color and vibrant energy that emerges when people interact in urban settings. "I don't believe that photography really is a direct representation of reality," he says. "Rather, I think that all photographs are abstractions. It doesn't really matter whether the picture is of downtown Aurora or downtown London. What does matter is that the urban setting lets people interact in a certain way-with each other and with the built environment"



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Sawdey has been an active photographer since he was given his first Brownie Synchro fifty years ago. At the University of Michigan, he was a staff photographer for the campus yearbook, photographing visiting artists, such as Leonard Bernstein. His photographs taken on campus the day President Kennedy was shot have been shown locally at Aurora University and Waubensee Community College. Many of his works have been shown in a variety of exhibits in this area since he moved to Aurora in 1985, most recently in the Campbell House Gallery in Geneva and in the Downstairs Dunham Gallery at Aurora University.

Since 1997, he has worked primarily in digital formats, now using a Kodak digital single lens reflex. Although, like most digital photographers, he processes his images on the computer using PhotoShop, he also works with adapting unusual optics to the digital camera. Several of the pictures in the Images of Downtown show were produced by using antique lenses to achieve unusual pictorial effects.

Professor Sawdey teaches photography at Aurora University where he also serves as director of the Schingoethe Center for Native American Cultures.

New Works by Dr. Charles Smith 9/9/05 - 11/20/05

The Aurora Public Art Commission will present an exhibit of new works by Dr. Charles Smith. Dr. Smith, a sculptor, is the founder and Curator of the African-American Heritage Museum and Black Veterans Archive, which he established on land surrounding his home in Aurora, Illinois.

The 47th Annual Aurora Art League Members Show, 2005 7/29/05 - 8/28/05

This exhibit features the work of 24 artists and represents the 47th year of the Art League's annual Members Show.

The Urban Fingerprint and Other Observations, an exhibit of photographs by Perry Slade 6/10/05 - 8/28/05

Mr. Slade has widely exhibited his work in galleries, art festivals and other venues throughout the Chicago area.

Fox Valley Arts Council 2005 Invitational Show 4/1/05 - 5/29/05

Featuring works by:

Pamela Allnutt, Kim Bagwill, Brian DeWolf, Charles Durran, Joseph Gagnepain, Retta Hentschel, Salvatore Ingrassia, Nadine Janus Jones, Elizabeth Johnston, Eric Kohnke, Steve Lowery, Lin Maxwell, Gingie Noe, Ann Von Ehr.

This exhibit of more than 20 artists represents the 48th year of the Art League's annual Members Show. On display will be more than 50 works of art, including paintings in oil, acrylic, and watercolor, as well as works in collage, giclee and urethane carving. The exhibit features landscapes, portraits, sculpture and narrative pieces. Awards will be given for Best of show, first, second and third place.

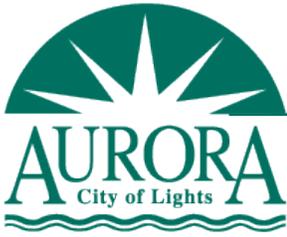
Formed in 1919, the Aurora Art League was one of the earliest arts groups to be created in the Fox Valley. The purpose of the association is to encourage and provide opportunities for those interested in all forms of the creative visual arts, to promote high artistic standards and to stimulate interest in and understanding of the fine arts.



Journey, A solo exhibition of paintings by Oscar Martínez

1/21/05 - 3/20/05

Artist Oscar Martínez who was recently includ-



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ed along singer Jennifer Lopez, Ricky Martin and baseball player Roberto Clement in the book Puerto Rican American by Nichol Bryan under the section "Role Models" The book is for the school library market and is part of a series called "One Nation" He will be exhibiting his artwork at the Aurora Public Art Commission's Gallery.

Winter Garden of Youth Art

12/9/05 - 1/6/06

The Aurora Public Art Commission Gallery will host the 9th annual Winter Garden of Youth Art, 2005, an exhibit of art by Aurora school children from K-12th grade.

The Migrant Project Photographs of Contemporary California Farm Workers by Rick Nahmias

11/4/05 - 1/6/06

The Migrant Project is an in-depth black and white photojournalistic portrait detailing the daily lives and struggles of today's California migrant farm workers. It was shot in over forty towns spanning the state, from Calexico to Sacramento, by photographer and writer Rick Nahmias during the 2002-3 harvests.

Art in City Hall - An Exhibit of 2 Dimensional Works by 13 Artists

10/26/05 - 2/06/06

The Aurora Public Art Commission presents Art In City Hall, an exhibit of 2 dimensional works by 13 artists. Curated by Cheryl Holz, the exhibit features paintings, pastels, drawings, photographs, and works of mixed media.

The artists represented are Deann Alleman, Bill Hottinger, Gregory Oakes, John Erdos, Brian Sullivan, Maya Didyach-Vahitova, Mark Robinson, Denise Riesen, George Turner, Susan Wilson, Charles Durran, Chris Theisen, and David Balinski.

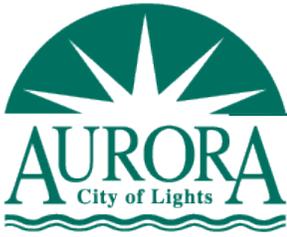
Aurora Mayor Tom Weisner established the Art In

City Hall series of exhibits in June of this year, as a means of creating a more dynamic environment in Aurora's City Hall. The Aurora Public Art Commission, produces the shows, which occupy all 5 floors of the building at 44 E. Downer Place. The Art Commission operates the David L. Pierce Art and History Center at 20 East Downer Place, where it sponsors six to ten exhibits per year. The City Hall series will feature three shows per year, representing a wide variety of artistic styles and traditions.

Brian DeWolf

1/20/06 - 3/19/06

Brian DeWolf is a self-taught landscape photographer living in Batavia, IL. Landscape photography has been his interest for more than 30 years. He's done portrait work, but only after having success in photographic competition did he decide to follow his heart and devote himself solely to landscape photography. In describing his work Brian DeWolf has written: "My work tries to reveal what we often overlook in our daily environment. It's what can be noticed when one takes time to examine the commonplace or the ordinary. We need not travel to faraway places to experience the way light falls seductively upon objects. Beautiful scenes are everywhere. And, making the final print is a process of emphasizing the important elements in that scene. A print can be the essence of feelings, memories, and nostalgia." DeWolf is a member of the Professional Photographers Association (PPA) and the Fox Valley Arts Council. His image of a bicyclist crossing the fog-shrouded bridge at the south end of Island Park in Geneva, IL was accepted into the PPA LOAN COLLECTION for 2002. Marathon press, publisher of the LOAN COLLECTION describes this collection as "the best of the best" images from over 8,000 entries. The PPA's international judging was held in Atlantic City, NJ in July 2002. It also won the Denise Kavanagh award at the St. Charles Fine Art Show 2003. In March of 2004 Brian DeWolf received First Prize for a body of work (Fishing Bud-



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dies, The Bridge Tender's Tower, and Little Home Church) in Spotlight On The Arts 2004 sponsored by the Fox Valley Arts Council.

Other images that have won merit in PPA international competitions are:

- Willows Reflecting (2002)
- Windmill in Mist (2002)
- The Meeting Place (2003)
- Awaiting the Late Train, Union Station (Chicago) (2003)
- Flock Over The Gazebo (2004)

DeWolf specializes in Fox River Valley and Chicago Images. He primarily uses a medium format camera with slide film and occasionally a digital camera. The film images are scanned using a high-resolution scanner and optimized in Adobe Photoshop. They are printed on watercolor paper and canvas using archival, pigmented inks.

The 48th Annual Aurora Art League Members Show, 2006

8/4/06 - 9/3/06

This exhibit of more than 20 artists represents the 48th year of the Art League's annual Members Show. On display will be more than 50 works of art, including paintings in oil, acrylic, and watercolor, as well as works in collage, giclee and urethane carving. The exhibit features landscapes, portraits, sculpture and narrative pieces. Awards will be given for Best of show, first, second and third place. Formed in 1919, the Aurora Art League was one of the earliest arts groups to be created in the Fox Valley. The purpose of the association is to encourage and provide opportunities for those interested in all forms of the creative visual arts, to promote high artistic standards and to stimulate interest in and understanding of the fine arts.

The Awakenings Project

3/31/06 - 5/28/06

The Aurora Public Art Commission Presents Awak-

enings, an exhibit of work by artists who are survivors of mental illness. The exhibit, which features over 100 paintings, sculpture and photographs, is part of an ongoing series of shows curated by artist Irene O'Neill. Awakenings represents a coalition of over 20 artists who have exhibited widely throughout the state of Illinois, and beyond. O'Neill states: "The mission of the Awakenings project is to assist persons with mental health issues in developing and enhancing their creative abilities through art in all its forms, and to raise public awareness of the creative talents and contributions of people living with psychiatric disorders. We hope that we and our contributors will benefit in our recovery from this activity, and our viewers will better understand the creative capacity and overall potential of persons living with mental ill health"

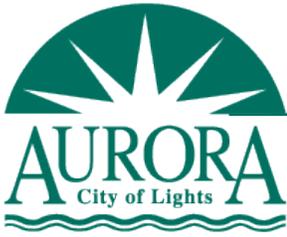
Art at City Hall - An exhibit of 2 dimensional works by 16 artists

3/6/06 - 8/6/06

The Aurora Public Art Commission presents Art In City Hall, Spring 2006, an exhibit of 2 dimensional works by 16 artists. Curated by sculptor James Jenkins, the exhibit features paintings, fiber art, collage, and works of mixed media.

The artists represented are Clark E. Bending, Elk Grove Village; Betty Butler, Skokie; Jessica Gondek, Chicago; Itala Langmar, Kenilworth; Lisa Lentz Manning, Aurora; Barbara Lipkin, Naperville; Robert Putnam, Park Forest; Allen F. Savel, Western Springs; David John Simcik, Naperville; Jerry Kykisz, Park Ridge, Sarah Armstrong Jones, Los Angeles, CA; Robert Buitron, Geneva; and Martine Stuckey, Geneva. In addition, three students at East Aurora High School will exhibit works: Alan Rodriguez, grade 10; Blanca Amaro, grade 11; and Antelmo Rojas, grade 10.

Many of the works on display are available for purchase.



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Aurora Mayor Tom Weisner established the Art In City Hall series of exhibits in June of this year, as a means of creating a more dynamic environment in Aurora's City Hall. The Aurora Public Art Commission, produces the shows, which occupy all 5 floors of the building at 44 E. Downer Place. The Art Commission operates the David L. Pierce Art and History Center at 20 East Downer Place, where it sponsors six to ten exhibits per year. The City Hall series will feature two shows this year, representing a wide variety of artistic styles and traditions.

Jewelry Trunk Show with Artist Valerie William 6/9/06 - 6/10/06

The Aurora Public Art Commission Museum Shop presents a Jewelry Trunk Show with artist Valerie William, featuring exciting sterling silver and Lake Michigan stone designs. This one night sale will take place Friday, June 9th, 2006 from 5-9pm at the David L. Pierce Art and History Center.

Interior Journey: A Furniture Renaissance 6/9/06 - 7/23/06

The Aurora Public Art Commission presents Interior Journey, Furniture Renaissance, an exploration of the materials and methods of furniture construction and design, from 1760 through the present. Interior Journey features the work of three artists, furniture designer and craftsman Tonino Stalteri, and photographers Tony Berardi and Sally Good. In addition the exhibit includes numerous pieces of period furniture from the collection of the Aurora Historical Society.

Tonino Stalteri

Tonino Stalteri, native of Calabria, Italy, has spent the past 20 years mastering his art to become a true artisan. Stalteri uses old world craftsmanship to design and create eclectic, contemporary furniture. His designs are built using traditional style joinery, dowels, finger joints, dovetails, mortise and

tenons. All pieces are made from natural materials including many hard and soft woods, concrete, and many types of metals (aluminum, copper, steel and iron). There is also a focus on recycled materials, for example, Stalteri has retrieved materials from demolition sites and incorporated them in various ways.

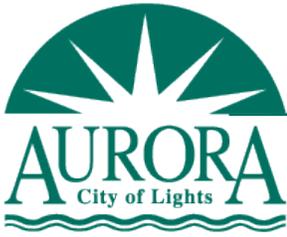
Stalteri's specialty includes metal weaving, which provides an intriguing look to a design. He also experiments with natural stains. The latest designs include hand-hammered hardware for cabinets and doors. He begins with a raw piece of copper and uses the tradition of hand hammered effects to create the rustic drawer pulls.

Tony Stalteri has said that his greatest pleasure is to complete a design within a customer's home and to see the significance it assumes in their living space. No two pieces are ever the same. Stalteri's work is represented at the following galleries: Casa De Artista in Old Town Scottsdale, Arizona, and Sawbridge Studios located in Chicago & Winnetka, Illinois. A photo gallery can be viewed at the website: www.designsbytonino.com

Tony Berardi

Chicago native Tony Berardi has been a professional photographer since 1956, when he started working for the International News Service. In July of 1957 he moved to the Chicago Herald American. That newspaper was afterwards renamed the Chicago American and then again renamed Chicago Today, where Berardi won many awards, nationally and internationally. During this time some of his photographs were hung at The Hague.

After working in sports and the Sunday magazine section, Berardi was appointed Director of Photography in 1971. When the paper folded into the Chicago Tribune in 1975, he became the chief photographer and director of the photo department.



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Under his guidance the paper won many photographic awards and honors.

After retiring in 1997, Tony Berardi and his wife Sally Good started the firm, Photo fields, a photographic company specializing primarily in interior design, architecture and landscaping photography. Sally Good As a thirteen year old, Sally Good's dream was to become an underwater photographer. Although she eventually decided to stay on dry land, her interest in photography led her to the Rochester Institute of Technology, Rochester, New York, where she received an associate's degree. She then continued her education at the London College of Printing in the U.K.

After college, Good found employment doing dark-room work for renowned agricultural photographer, Grant Heilman, but soon realized that "I needed to be in a job where I was doing the shooting." Having heard the old adage, "If you can't get a job in Chicago, you can't get a job anywhere!" she moved to Chicago and worked as an intern photographer at the Chicago Tribune. Good remained on the staff for ten years, working mostly on feature assignments and in the color studio, shooting food, fashion and portraiture. She won numerous awards, notably the Beck Award in 1983.

After taking time off to raise their four children, Sally Good joined her husband, Tony Berardi in 1997 and started the firm, Photofields, a photographic company specializing in interior design, architectural and landscaping photography. Their work has appeared in numerous publications including Design & Architecture, North Shore magazine, Midwest Home Chicago, Chicago Life and Time Out.

Aurora Historical Society Collection

Also included in this exhibit are numerous pieces of period furniture, on loan to the Public Art Commission by the Aurora Historical Society. This collection provides examples of furniture crafting from

1760 to the turn of the 20th century. Viewers are invited to note the similarities and differences between these old world pieces and Tonino Stalteri's contemporary works.

Aurora Art Walk

June 9, 2006

Aurora welcomes the first ever Aurora Art Walk, as two other downtown Aurora galleries will open exhibits on June 9, 2006. They are:

Gallery 44 On Friday evening, June 9, from 5:00-9:00 pm., Gallery 44, a cooperative of artists will open studios to the public as part of the Aurora Art Walk. Works on display range from abstract to realism, watercolor, pen and ink, acrylic, oil, pastel and collage/mixed media.

Gallery 44

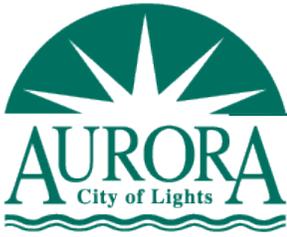
Gallery 44 is located at 50 East Galena Boulevard, across from the Paramount Arts Centre and east of the bridge. Refreshments will be served and admission is free. For more information call (630) 801-0818.

River Breeze

On Friday evening, June 9, from 5:00-11:00 P.M. River Breeze, Aurora's newest gallery will exhibit an eclectic collection of works by 20 emerging artists.

On display will be watercolors, oil paintings, furniture, sculpture, photography, collage, and jewelry. Also on exhibit will be works of art by children who currently live at Hesed House, A center for ministries providing services to poor and homeless persons. The children are participating in a Midwest University Psychology program that uses art as a counseling tool.

After 8:00, black and white movies will be shown on the upper deck. River Breeze is located at 14 West Downer Place, Suite 16. Refreshments will be served and admission is free. For more information call (630) 624-7369.



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Jewelry Trunk Show at the Museum Shop

12/8/06 - 12/8/06

Featuring artist Maureen Gasek of Epsilon Jewelry Design, Aurora, Illinois. Stop by from 5 to 7pm, Friday, December 8th, to meet the artist and select one-of-a-kind jewelry for the holidays. One night only!

The Paintings of Mary Hackney Wicker, Mid-western Impressionist 1868-1942

9/15/06 - 11/26/06

Mary Hackney Wicker is a 2006 inductee to the Fox Valley Arts Hall of Fame. She was nominated by the Aurora Public Art Commission. The Aurora Public Art Commission will host a retrospective of the paintings of Mary Hackney Wicker. The exhibit features oil paintings and watercolors as well as entries from the artist's journal, letters, sketches, greeting cards and photographs. The Aurora Historical Society will provide additional materials pertaining to the artist, her family, and the city of Aurora during the late 1800s.

Mary Hackney Wicker-A Brief History

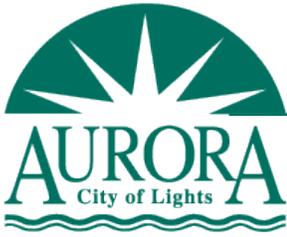
Mary Hackney Wicker was born in 1868 to a prominent family in Aurora, Illinois. Her parents, Benjamin and Lydia (Wightman) Hackney, were early settlers of Aurora. Benjamin Hackney (1820-1871), a native New Yorker, was the son of a revolutionary War veteran. He moved to Aurora in 1844, and pursued farming for a few years before turning his attention to the emerging railroad industry. Hackney was involved in the development of the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railroad, which linked Aurora to Chicago. He served as president of the C, B & Q, and it was during this time that one of his crews uncovered several mastodon bones that were later put on public display. It has been noted that upon viewing the bones, Hackney ordered the crew to stop work and contacted archeologists, who assisted in completing the dig. Hackney placed the bones on display and they are currently part of the collection of the Aurora Historical society.

In addition, Benjamin Hackney served in the state legislature, founded the Free Methodist Church, and secured the charter for Jennings Seminary, a coeducational high school.

Mary Hackney, or Mae, as she was called, attended East Aurora High School, pursuing art, music and literature with a group of friends who were later described as "Aurora's Intelligentsia." As her interest in painting grew she studied with two local artists, Howard Bagg and Wells M. Sawyer, who later established an international reputation as a landscape painter. Sawyer remained a lifelong friend to Mae, as did his daughter Helen, who was to become her traveling companion.

After high school, Mae moved to Chicago where she studied at the Art Institute. In Chicago she met Charles Gustavus Wicker Jr. Like Mae, Charlie Wicker came from a prominent family. His father, Charles Gustavus Wicker Sr., was a land developer whose enlightened views about city planning foreshadowed those of Chicago architects such as William Le Baron Jenney, Edward H. Bennett and Daniel Burnham. C. G. Wicker was one of the first leaders to fight for the preservation of Chicago's lakefront for public recreation. This would later become an important component in Bennett and Burnham's famous Plan of Chicago (1909). As a developer, Wicker's progressive vision is evident in his master plan for the large plot of land that he owned on Chicago's west side—a neighborhood still known as Wicker Park. He carefully staked out the lots himself, intermingling large and small parcels so that mansions and worker houses would be built side by side. This guaranteed that factory owners, managers and workers would coexist—an early example of mixed income development.

A strong advocate for a public park system in Chicago, Wicker donated the land for the green space in the heart of the neighborhood, and Wicker Park is thought to be the first privately donated park land in Chicago.



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In 1893 Mae Hackney and Charles Gustavus Wicker Jr. were married. In writing about her grandparents, Nancy Deborah Wicker has stated: "Charles Gustavus Wicker, Jr., born in Chicago, was raised in his parents environment of community work and concerns. In 1893 he married my grandmother, Mary Hackney, born in Aurora. They shared a love of people, books, art, music, nature and animals." The Wickers spent their honeymoon in Mexico, where they visited Guadalajara, Vera Cruz and Orizaba. Their close, loving relationship is evident in a letter that Mae sent to her sister in law Caroline: "Carrie he is quite as good as he can be-and we are very happy. I know he must be so, for I can't get him to leave me. I just had to make him go up the mountain, and he says he don't enjoy anything unless I am with him." During this joyful time Mae created many sketches and studies, which would later provide the inspiration for a series of paintings.

During the early years of their marriage, the Wickers lived on a farm in Indiana. After the birth of their son, Walter, Mae devoted herself to caring for him and attending to her household. Although tending a small child left her little time to paint, it is likely that she gradually began to work again as Walter approached school age.

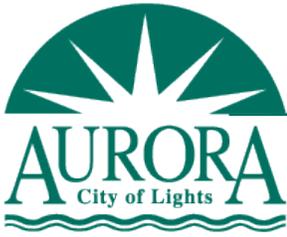
In 1906, with the support of her husband and of her brother, Mary Hackney Wicker traveled to Paris to study at the Academie Julian, a private art school that was popular with Americans. She was accompanied by 7-year-old Walter, who she enrolled in a private school in Passy. She then enrolled herself in one of the Julian's studios for women, which charged twice the fee of the studios for male students and offered half the instruction. Wicker thrived at the Julian. She continued to develop her skills in the academic tradition of painting while becoming familiar with the impressionist style that had first been exhibited in France in the 1870s.

Wicker studied in France until 1907. Her husband Charlie joined her in August of '06 and the couple, often accompanied by their son, toured Holland, North Africa and Spain. Wicker recorded these travels with her camera, sketchbook and paint. These studies provided the information as well as the inspiration for some of her finest paintings.

In 1909 Charlie Wicker was killed in a sailing accident, while saving the lives of four companions. Writing about her grandmother's life during this time, granddaughter Nancy Wicker has this to say: "She may not have been able to paint very much during those years as she was a deeply grieving, widowed mother of a young son. Unfortunately I know very little of her life then and can only imagine how very lonely and difficult that time must have been for her."

At some point Wicker began to paint regularly again but refused to exhibit until the 1920s, when she finally began to believe that her work was worthy of display. Beginning in 1922 she exhibited in many venues, including the Art Institute of Chicago; the Professional members of the Arts Club, Chicago; the Annual Exhibition of the Allied Artists of America, New York City; the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts; the Art gallery of the Women's Worlds Fair of 1928, Chicago; and the Annual exhibition of the National Academy of Design, a traveling exhibit. In addition, in 1929 her work was favorably reviewed by the Paris based periodical *Revue du Vrai et du Beau*. Of the later years Nancy Wicker writes: "When I knew her during the 30s, she was beautiful, reserved, elegant, and intensely and utterly involved in her work."

Mary Hackney Wicker was a fine painter and a strong, determined and independent woman. She spent years honing her skills as an impressionist, and showed her work in many prestigious venues. Although the Modernist movement eventually overshadowed the more traditional styles painting,



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there is no question that Wicker was an accomplished artist.

Mary Hackney Wicker died in 1942. The paintings that she had created over a lifetime of serious training and study were bequeathed to her granddaughter, Nancy Wicker. Ms. Wicker has offered to bequeath this collection of more than 100 works of art to the City of Aurora provided that they can be placed on permanent display. The Aurora Public Art Commission is currently exploring a variety of options for housing the collection. The possibility that this collection might become permanently available to contemporary and future audiences means that more than 60 years after her death, Mary Hackney Wicker might have the chance to influence new generations of artists. The Commission will sponsor a retrospective of the paintings of Mary Hackney Wicker from September 15th through November 26th of 2006.

The Piñata Project

12/8/06 - 1/7/07

Featured during the Winter Garden of Youth Art will be an exhibit of colorful pinatas created by students participating in the Pinata Project, a regional juried art exhibition and youth art exhibition sponsored by Nicor Services and Nicor Advanced Energy.

The opening reception for Winter Garden of Youth Art, 2006, which includes the Pinata Project, will be Friday, December 8 from 5:00-7:00pm, at the Aurora Public Art Commission Gallery at 20 E. Downer Place, Aurora. Santa Claus will attend the reception to discuss Christmas wish lists with the younger gallery visitors.

Admission to the reception of Winter Garden of Youth Art, 2006 and the Pinata Project, and during the entire exhibit is free.

Winter Garden of Youth Art 2006

12/8/06 - 1/7/07

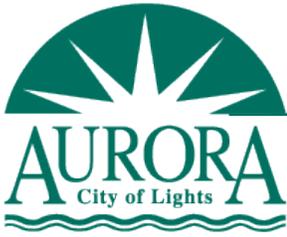
The Aurora Public Art Commission Gallery will host the 10th annual Winter Garden of Youth Art, an exhibit of art by Aurora school children from K~12th grade. All of the art works will be chosen by art teachers or other faculty members from each school. A variety of mediums will be on exhibit, including paintings in acrylic, watercolor, tempera and oil, drawings in charcoal, pastel and pencil, printmaking, photography, sculpture, 2D and 3D collage, computer arts, jewelry, and ceramics. The opening reception for Winter Garden of Youth Art, 2006 will be Friday,

December 8, from 5:00~7:00, at the Aurora Public Art Commission Gallery at 20 E. Downer Place, Aurora. Santa Claus will attend the reception to discuss Christmas wish lists with the younger gallery visitors. In addition, Santa's Art Workshop will be open during the reception and children may create an art project to take home. Admission to the reception and during the entire exhibit is free.

American Excess: Photographs by Ellen Vartanian-Maher

1/19/07 - 3/28/07

In the world of Ellen Vartanian-Maher, there is nothing unusual about a giant chicken atop a striped Cadillac or a tiny dinosaur emerging from an immense tipi. Vartanian-Maher has sought out the odd and unusual from American roadways since 1985, constructing striking black & white infrared images with universal visual appeal. Her photographs tap into a peculiar sort of American ethos, one of the roadside curiosity and carnivalesque aesthetic. The photographs function as a document of sorts. but the primary intellectual drive is one of construction, molding the medium to create intricate and strange new worlds. She uses these odd situational displays as a vehicle to playfully illuminate the culture that generated them. These types of curiosities have had an irresistible



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pull for photographers since the inception of the medium. The medium of photography has always been linked to the notion of documentation because of the connection to the “real world” in front of the lens at the moment of exposure. Photographers make images of the odd and unusual as a sort of cultural record, to prove that these things really existed and to verify their place in the world. Vartanian-Maher’s photographs function as testament to the existence of these objects. but more importantly, transform and exaggerate these objects through the choices made in the act of photographing. These carefully composed photographs are designed to spotlight the absurd, heighten incongruous elements, and expose bizarre juxtapositions. These choices are enhanced through the use of black & white infrared film, which enhances the surreal and dreamlike properties of her compositions. With these choices, Vartanian-Maher re-contextualizes this strange subject matter to simultaneously create a new hyper-reality and expose the artificial facade of the roadside curiosity. All of us have encountered similar curiosities in our own travels and Vartanian-Maher’s photographs transform these constructions of commerce and tributes to the bizarre into fanciful flights of fantasy. Her carefully constructed compositions instill a sense of child-like wonder in the viewer, offer us a taste of the fantastical, and tease us with the lure of the road. Ultimately, these photographs invite the viewer to enter a new reality, one in which dinosaurs coexist with traffic signals and anything is possible. Nate Larson, Assistant Professor of Photography Photography Area Coordinator Elgin Community College



Celebrating Women: Paintings by Andrea Harris, photographs and poetry by Jerry Kykisz and Francine Salerno

7/6/07 – 8/12/07

Paintings by Andrea Harris, photographs and poetry by Jerry Kykisz and Francine Salerno.

Aurora Art League 49th Annual Members Show **8/24/07 – 9/23/07**

Entre Carne and Espiritu/Between Flesh and Spirit: Paintings by Alejandro Mazon

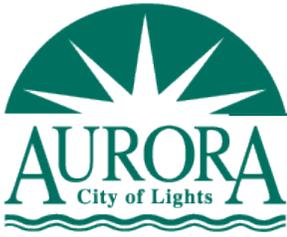
3/30/07 – 6/24/07

The exhibit will be on display in APAC’s third floor gallery from March 30 through June 24, 2007. The opening reception will be Friday, March 30 from 5:00-8:30. The Steve Gaugel Trio will perform during the reception. Regular gallery hours are Wednesday through Sunday from Noon-4:00 P.M.

Alejandro Maz’n was born in Havana, Cuba, in 1962. Maz’n and his family were permitted to leave Cuba in 1964

and the family relocated to Madrid, Spain. In 1974 the family moved to White Plains, New York, where Maz’n graduated from high school. Maz’n attended the School of Visual Arts in New York, where he majored in Commercial Art.

Alejandro Maz’n’s paintings feature narrative, dreamlike images that are at times contemporary and at times reflective of European tradition. These images, along with small relics, some singular and some ordinary, are juxtaposed against the vibrant patterns of vintage wallpaper. In writing about his work Maz’n has stated: “I approach every new idea believing that art is nothing without painting, that painting is nothing without color, and that color is nothing without courage. My paintings are always figurative, often narrative, and never planned.



Public Art Division

2007 Art Exhibits

Abstractions bore me, folklore fascinates me. My images move between folk and memory, fighting for recognition in an Art World full of clichés where “Cuban Art” and its artists are generally neatly grouped into compartments for mass consumption. Santero motifs, the anguish of exile, the politics of an island and its aging, babbling leader. The art world welcomes these manifestations, and the artist often embraces them simply because they have become profitable. Since I began painting in 1990 I have made a conscious effort to remove myself from these preconceived notions of what being a Cuban artist is, and what Cuban painting is about. When my work evokes a sense of exile, or an undertone of spirituality, it has never been planned, and in fact it’s always been pointed out by an art dealer or a critic. The effort has never been consciously mine. My paintings echo the themes commonly found in “Latin American Art”, like the power of memory, the need to preserve, the obsession to reconcile opposite worlds, and the urgency to find maturity and grace in an impersonal universe. These themes, however, are unavoidable in the human experience.

Art At City Hall, Spring 2007: Works From the Collection of Robert Morris College

3/26/07 – 8/24/07

The Aurora Public Art Commission will present works from the collection of Robert Morris College. This exhibition includes more than fifty works of art providing an eclectic mix of the Robert Morris College’s permanent collection.

The exhibit features the work of Robert Morris College Art and Design

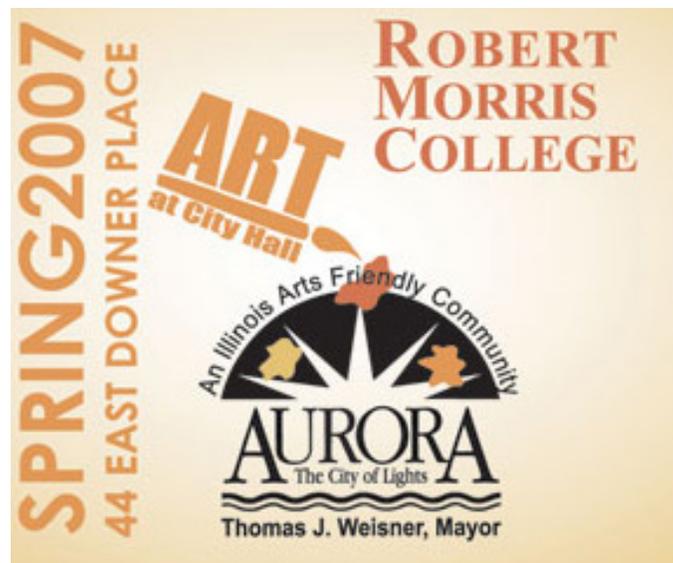
faculty members Shelley LaMantia and Lisa Sharpe, along with numerous student works in a variety of different media that reflect the artistic education provided while enrolled in Robert Morris College’s Bachelor of Applied Science in Graphic Design.

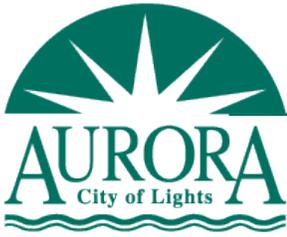
Also included are works by professional Chicagoland artists Tim Burke, Jason Lazarus, Phil Sapienza, and more. The collection will be on display from March 26 through August 24, 2007.

The State Street Gallery at Robert Morris College houses a permanent collection of over a thousand works of art ranging in time from the 19th to the 21st century. The collection contains a diverse group of media, including graphic design, painting, sculpture and collage that represent not only student and faculty artists, but also world famous artists as well, from Henri Toulouse Lautrec to Margaret Burroughs.

Robert Morris College is a not-for-profit, baccalaureate and graduate degree granting institution, accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools.* The College serves over 8000 students interested

in getting an education in business, graphic arts, nursing and health care, culinary and computer studies at its main campus in Chicago, as well as at locations in DuPage, Orland Park, Bensenville, Springfield, Peoria and Lake County. For more information, call 800-RMC-5960 or visit the web site at www.robertmorris.edu *Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools, 30





Public Art Division

2007 Art Exhibits

N. LaSalle Street, Chicago, IL 60602, 312-263-0456.

Art At City Hall

Aurora Mayor Tom Weisner established the Art At City Hall series of exhibits as a means of creating a more dynamic environment in Aurora's City Hall. The Aurora Public Art Commission produces the shows, which occupy all five floors of the building at 44 E. Downer Place.

The Art Commission operates the David L. Pierce Art and History Center at 20 East Downer Place, where it sponsors eight to ten exhibits per year. The City Hall series will feature two shows this year, representing a wide variety of artistic styles and traditions.

Medic: A Traveling Exhibit From The National Vietnam Veterans Art Museum

4/13/07 - 6/24/07

"A medic is someone who will die trying to keep you alive." National Vietnam Veterans Art Group Medic will be on display at the Aurora Public Art Commission's first floor Gallery from April 13 through June 24, 2007.

The opening reception will be Friday, April 13, from 5:00-8:30 P.M. Medic features images of battlefield medicine from the Vietnam War to the current war in Iraq. These include photos taken by nurses and doctors in operating rooms as well as by medics in combat zones. Most of the photos, paintings, prints and drawings are from the permanent collection of the National Vietnam Veterans Art Museum.

An additional section of the display is devoted to photographs taken by photographer Steve Danyluk, while he was serving in the Marine Corps as an Operations Officer in the central South Area of Operations in Iraq. The photographs depict a wide range of subject matter, from landscapes to scenes of daily life in Iraq, both for military personnel and for Iraqi civilians. Proceeds from sales of these

photographs are donated to several not-for-profit organizations assisting wounded service members and their families.

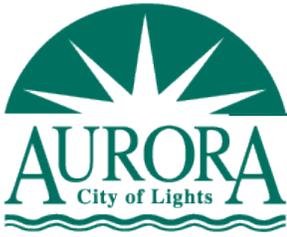
Steve Danyluk is a 1981 graduate of Naperville Central High School. He currently resides in Virginia. The National Vietnam Veterans Art Museum was first established as an artists' collective in 1981. A group of Vietnam veterans who had created art about their experiences in that war brought their work together for an exhibit. This soon became a traveling exhibit that toured the United States. In 1996 Mayor Richard M. Daley assisted the Vietnam Veterans Art Group in securing the current location at 1801 South Indiana in Chicago, now the National Vietnam Veterans Art Museum.

The Aurora Public Art Commission and the National Vietnam Veterans Art Museum have maintained an ongoing partnership since 1998. Medic marks the fourth traveling exhibition from the NVVAM to be featured at the Public Art Commission Gallery.

Susan Sensemann

10/05/07 - 12/2/07

Susan Sensemann is an artist, educator, and arts administrator who has lived and worked in Chicago since 1979. She is Professor Emerita at the University of Illinois at Chicago and has lectured at institutions in Italy, Germany and China among numerous others in this country. Awards include an Illinois Arts Council Artist Fellowship, a MUCIA grant to South Korea, a British Arts Council grant to Belfast, and Chicago Artists International Program grants to Prague and Turku, Finland. She has curated a number of exhibitions including 'Libidinal,' 'FABULOUS,' 'Heat,' 'Tangential Pleasures,' 'Brain/Body,' 'More,' and 'Skew: the Unruly Grid.' Her non-digitally produced photographs, drawings, paintings and sculpture have been exhibited nationally and internationally. She is now working to combine her poetry with the photographs, collage, performance, drawing and sculpture.



Public Art Division

2007-2008 Art Exhibits

Mexican Chicago: Images of America

6/29/07 – 8/26/07

The exhibit will be on display in APAC's first floor gallery from June 29 through August 26, 2007.

The opening reception will be Friday, June 29 from 5:00-8:30. Lucy Ariana y Grupo Amigo will perform during the reception. Regular gallery hours are Wednesday through Sunday from Noon-4:00 P.M. Mexican Chicago presents an intriguing visual record of the earliest beginnings of Mexican communities in the city. Based the book Mexican Chicago, by Carlos Tortolero and Rita Arias Jirasek, the exhibit explores such vibrant and distinct neighborhoods

as Pilsen, Little Village, South Deering, Back of the Yards, and other neighborhoods that reflect Mexican culture.



Mexican Chicago focuses on Mexican Chicagoans from the early 1900s to the present day. Rarely seen photographs help to break down stereotypical notions about members of these communities by documenting their urban experiences and illustrating the ways in which they maintain connections to their homeland and cultural traditions. The photographs, culled from family archives, museums, and university collections, tell the collective story of a cultural group that by the year 2010 will be the largest ethnic population in Illinois. These stories are told in first voice-the voices of those who lived and are living the history shown here. They reflect historical, political, and economic events on both a personal and international scale, ranging from revolution and annexation of territory, to immigration

and repatriation policies. Also on display during the exhibit are memorabilia that reflect the history of families within Aurora's Mexican-American community.

Opening Reception Friday, June 29th, from 5pm to 8:30 pm. Admission to opening reception is free. Lucy Ariana y Grupo Amigo will perform during the reception.

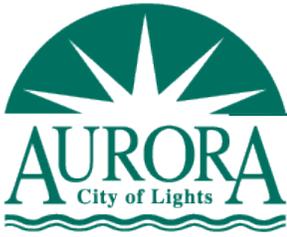
Winter Garden of Youth Art 2007

12/14/07 – 1/13/08

The Aurora Public Art Commission Gallery will host the 11th annual Winter Garden of Youth Art, an exhibit of art by Aurora school children from K-12th grade. This year 20 Aurora schools will participate, each entering five art works for a total of 100. The following schools will be represented: Annunciation Catholic School, Cowherd Middle School, East Aurora High School, Granger Middle School, Greenman Elementary School, Hall Elementary School, Hope D. Wall School, Jewel Middle School, Marmion Academy, McCarty Elementary School, McCleery Elementary School, Rosary High School, Simmons Middle School, Smith Elementary School, St. Joseph Catholic School, St. Peter School, Waldo middle School, Washington Middle School, Waubonsie Valley High School, and West Aurora High School.

All of the art works were chosen by art teachers or other faculty members from each school. A variety of mediums will be on exhibit, including paintings in acrylic, watercolor, tempera and oil, drawings in charcoal, pastel and pencil, printmaking, photography, sculpture, 2D and 3D collage, computer arts, jewelry, and ceramics.

The opening reception for Winter Garden of Youth Art, 2005 will be Friday, December 14, from 5:00~7:00, at the Aurora Public Art Commission



Public Art Division

2007-2008 Art Exhibits

Gallery at 20 E. Downer Place, Aurora. Santa Claus will attend the reception to discuss Christmas wish lists with the younger gallery visitors. In addition, Santa's Art Workshop will be open during the reception and children may create an art project to take home. Admission to the reception and during the entire exhibit is free. For more information call (630) 906-0654.

Art in City Hall: Kendall Arts Guild

9/24/07 - 2/29/08

The Aurora Public Art Commission presents Art In City Hall, 2007. This exhibit will feature 2-dimensional works by 22 members of the Kendall Arts Guild. The participating artists are: Laura Allen, Dan Brouch, Quen Carpenter, Annette Egan, Gayle Faber, Jamie Glaser, Suzanne Hetzel, Debbie Horaz, Sharyl Iwanski, La Veta Kirby, Joan Knutson, Joan McEachern, Helen McLuckie, Peggy McWethy Sutton, Mindy Mueller, Meggie Olson, Todd Pierson, Jim Rendant, Luise Renner, Ray Silva, Bonnie Stepan, Carla Taylor.

Formed in 2005 by a core group of artist friends, the Kendall Arts Guild helps encourage and educate local artists, fosters the Arts in and around Kendall County, Illinois, offers an annual \$1000 scholarship, and is very active in community art events. In addition to helping further its artists' knowledge and understanding of art, the Kendall Arts Guild offers art programs for area seniors and youth, furnishes a Guild display booth for local art shows and festivals, helps organize local art exhibits, paints sets and backdrops for local theatre productions for schools and community groups, helps organize and judge local art contests in schools and at the Kendall County Fair, and coordinates children's art activities at various local events.

Kendall Arts Guild meetings are held the 4th Tuesday of the month at 7:00 PM, at Castle Insurance (formerly Zeiter-Dickson Insurance), 215 Hillcrest Ave., Yorkville, IL 60560, just a block west of the

Rt. 47 and Rt. 34 intersection. The Guild hosts programs on different facets of art at the monthly meetings, and welcomes visitors!

Art In City Hall

Aurora Mayor Tom Weisner established the Art In City Hall series of exhibits in 2005, as a means of creating a more dynamic environment in Aurora's City Hall. The Aurora Public Art Commission produces the shows, which occupy all 5 floors of the building at 44 E. Downer Place. The Commission operates the David L. Pierce Art and History Center at 20 East Downer Place, where it sponsors nine to eleven exhibits per year.

Art In City Hall features two shows per year, representing a wide variety of artistic styles and traditions. The Aurora Public Art Commission is seeking 2D art works in all media for this ongoing series. All shows are juried by art professionals. Artists who are interested in participating may send a CD Rom of 10-15 works (hard copy photographs of art works will not be accepted), a resume, statement and a self addressed, stamped envelope to the Aurora Public Art Commission, Art In City Hall, 44 E. Downer PL., Aurora, IL 60507.

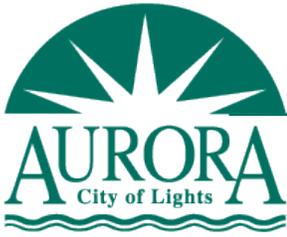
The Art of David John Simcik

2/1/08 - 3/16/08

Biography David John Simcik is an accomplished cartographer, graphic designer, photographer and web designer. In the spring of 2002, he began his life-long unfulfilled dream of becoming an oil paint artist. Although never having painted before, his talent was demonstrated early on. Portraiture became his special interest, working from photographs and life.

Artist' Statement

My paintings are calm, reflective, and intimate, while others are powerful, edgy and fun. They are a representation of the images in my mind, creative flashes that exist only for a moment. My paintings



Public Art Division

2008 Art Exhibits

attempt to capture that mental spark and activate a sense of wonder in my audience.

In 2002, my long awaited journey into the world of fine art began when I took up oil paint and brush for the first time. Perhaps it was because I waited so long, or possible it was the seductive power of oil paint, or my love of art, that I experienced a flood tide, an explosive wave of creative ideas that swept me along and carries me forward still.

The great masters saw beauty in every face. The face eloquently expresses the broad landscape of human emotion and experience. I believe a portrait should be more than a representation of the outward appearance. It should capture the spirit, and the inner hidden person of the heart. My portraits try to honor those personal thoughts and secrets. The emotional vocabulary of the face is fascinating and deeply moving to me, and it will continue to intrigue and interest me. I am always thrilled to experience the magical moment when marks of color, carefully placed, become a person.

Art In City Hall, Spring 2008 - Batavia Artists' Guild

3/31/08 - 8/29/08

The Aurora Public Art Commission presents Art In City Hall, Spring 2008. This exhibit will feature 2-dimensional works by 22 members of the Batavia Artists' Guild. It will be on display from March 31-August 29, 2008 at Aurora's City Hall, 44 East Downer Place. City Hall is open Monday through Friday from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm.

The participating artists are: Catherine Bushroe, Jerry Cai, Fatima Figueiredo, Gail Fitzsimmons, Phyllis Gilliam, Susanne Kroeger, Pat Lagger, Jerry Lake, Kathi Luedemann, Greta Northfield, Donald Patterson, Mary Powers, Cindy Ray, Pattie Lind-ed Seifrid, Gloria Snopko, Marilyn Staiger, Monica Stanton, Barbara Steinke, Marian Swenson, Rosalie

Vass, Sue West, and Karl Williams.

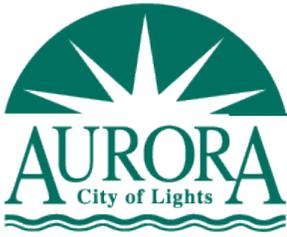
Batavia Artists' Guild

The Batavia Artists' Guild has been in operation since 1993. The Guild's purpose is to foster, create and encourage appreciation of the fine arts and to encourage artistic expression. Two or three member exhibits/sales are held each year at various times and locations. The Guild maintains a membership base of forty-five to fifty active members. New members are subject to a jury process. Artists who are interested in submitting work for membership may call 630-208-1017.

Art In City Hall

Aurora Mayor Tom Weisner established the Art In City Hall series of exhibits in 2005, as a means of creating a more dynamic environment in Aurora's City Hall. The Aurora Public Art Commission produces the shows, which occupy all 5 floors of the building at 44 E. Downer Place. The Commission operates the David L. Pierce Art and History Center at 20 East Downer Place, where it sponsors nine to eleven exhibits per year.

Art In City Hall features two shows per year, representing a wide variety of artistic styles and traditions. The Aurora Public Art Commission is seeking 2D art works in all media for this ongoing series. All shows are juried by art professionals. Artists who are interested in participating may send a CD Rom of 10-15 works (hard copy photographs of art works will not be accepted), a resume, statement and a self addressed, stamped envelope to the Aurora Public Art Commission, Art In City Hall, 44 E. Downer PL., Aurora, IL 60507.



Public Art Division

2008 Art Exhibits

Ancient Lands Modern Battles: Photographs and Paintings by Military Personnel Stationed in Iraq and Afghanistan

4/14/08 - 5/26/08

A travelling exhibit from the National Vietnam Veterans Art Museum

This show will be on display from April 4 through May 26, 2008. The opening reception will be April 4 from 5:00-8:30 pm.

Ancient Lands, Modern Battles explores the current conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq, documented by members of our military forces who have served and sacrificed in those countries. The exhibit features paintings and photographs by five artists, Steve Danyluk, Eric Edmundson, Aaron Hughes, Bill Smock, and Andres Zayas.



The Artists

- Steve Danyluk
- Lt. Col., U.S. Marine Corps Reserve
- Operation Iraqi Freedom

Steve Danyluk is a photographer with a pilot's point of view for the big picture of sweeping horizons as well as the pinpoint targeting of a street photographer. Upon his return from deployment, Danyluk became an advocate for the "Wounded Warriors," which led to the formation of the "Independence Fund," a non-profit organization dedicated to assisting the severely wounded in securing the freedom to live independent lives. Danyluk's wife, also a marine officer, has just recently been deployed and is a photographer as well.

- Eric Edmundson

- Sgt., US Army
- C Troop, 4-14 CAV
- Operation Iraqi Freedom

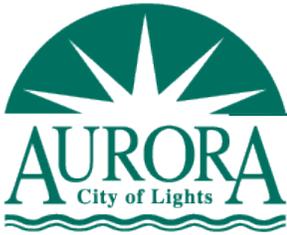
Eric Edmundson is a gifted photographer. His portraits of fellow soldiers and documentation of their interaction with the local population during military operations is both insightful and provocative. Edmundson was severely wounded in October 2005 by an improvised explosive device that has confined him to a wheelchair and has rendered him currently unable to use a camera. Neither Edmundson's spirit, nor his determination to share his experiences through the poignant images that he captured before his injuries, have been diminished. Edmundson was the first soldier to undergo treatment at the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago

- Aaron Hughes
 - Sgt., Illinois Army National Guard
 - Operation Iraqi Freedom
- On January 30, 2003 Aaron Hughes was pulled out of the University of Illinois and called to active duty with the 1244th Transportation Company Army

National Guard out of North Riverside, Illinois. On April 17, 2003 his Company was deployed to Kuwait under Operation Iraqi Freedom. There he supported combat operations by transporting supplies from camps and ports in Kuwait to camps in Iraq. After three extensions, totaling one year, three months and seven days, Hughes's Company was redeployed to home base in North Riverside Illinois on July 24, 2004. Hughes returned to the University of Illinois in the spring of 2005 as a student majoring in painting with the need to express and share his experiences with others.

- Bill Smock
- CW2, Indiana Army National Guard
- Operation Iraqi Freedom

Bill Smock is an elementary art teacher in Indianapolis, IN. In the National Guard he reached the



Public Art Division

2008 Art Exhibits

rank of Lieutenant Colonel. In 2004 LTC Smock resigned his commission when his name was not on the colonel's list by the Department of Defense to stay in the National Guard as a warrant officer to deploy to Iraq in 2005. Currently, Chief Warrant officer 2 Smock is deploying in Iraq with his second tour. In his spare time, CW2 Smock produces paintings of soldiers in their every day life, where they live, where they work, and out on mission in Iraq. CW2 Smock is deploying with Task Force 163, Rear Area Operations Center, 76th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, Indiana Army National Guard, and will be on Forward Operating Base Marez this year in northern Iraq near Mosul. Bill will retire at the age of 60 at the end of this deployment with 37 $\frac{12}{}$ years in the Indiana Army National Guard with two deployments to Iraq. CW2 Smock is planning to exhibit a new series of artworks upon his return in 2009.

- Andres Zayas
- PO1, U.S. Navy Reserve
- Operation Enduring Freedom

Andres Zayas was deployed to Afghanistan and served with the International Security Assistance Force. His photographs of the rugged individuals that populate the desolate landscapes are his testimony to the raw realism of an ancient culture still struggling to survive.

National Vietnam Veterans Art Museum

The National Vietnam Veterans Art Museum was first established as an artists' collective in 1981. A group of Vietnam veterans who had created art about their experiences in that war brought their work together for an exhibit. This soon became a traveling exhibit that toured the United States. In 1996 Mayor Richard M. Daley assisted the Vietnam Veterans Art Group in securing the current location at 1801 South Indiana in

Chicago, now the National Vietnam Veterans Art Museum.

The Aurora Public Art Commission and the National Vietnam Veterans Art Museum have maintained an ongoing partnership since 1998. Ancient Lands, Modern Battles marks the fifth traveling exhibition from the NVVAM to be featured at the Public Art Commission Gallery.

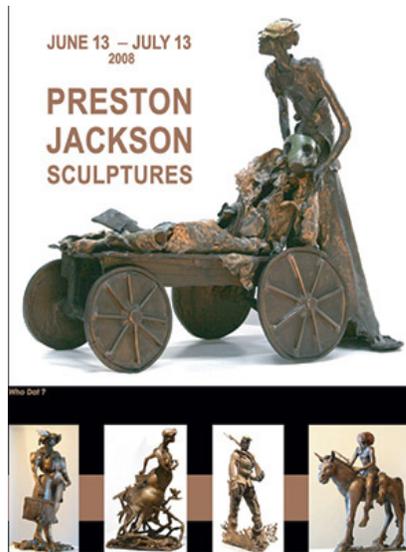
Preston Jackson Sculptures

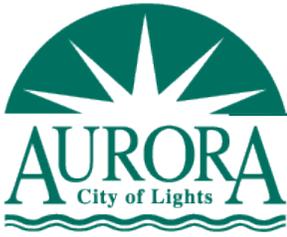
6/13/08 - 7/13/08

A Professor of Sculpture at the School of the Art Institute in Chicago, Jackson is the Head of the Figurative Area and has served as chair of the Sculpture Department. He also teaches children's art, painting, sculpture and Tai Chi at the Contemporary Art Center of Peoria on the RiverFront. Jackson's recent

work deals with the subject of out history - both precise depictions of well-known historical figures as well as innovative portrayals of individuals whose lives, though unfamiliar to us, are part of our history he wants us to learn. His latest series, 'Fresh from Julieanne's Garden,' reveals the lives and personalities of his ancestors and the stories of all our forbears who lived in the Southern United States in the 19th and early 20th century. This work reflects an admiration for the resolution and resiliency of each individu-

al. Jackson recently completed a life-sized bronze sculpture of civil rights activist Marie Wilkinson, a long time Aurora, Illinois resident. The sculpture, which was commissioned by the City of Aurora Public Art Commission, was unveiled on May 10, 2008. It is located in front of the downtown branch of the Aurora Public Library. He was recently awarded a Regional Emmy for hosting 'Legacy in





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Bronze,' a television show featuring his Julieanne's Garden sculptures. Jackson was also selected a 1998 Laureate of the Lincoln Academy of Illinois, the highest honor given to individuals in the State. His large-scale outdoor sculpture, as well as his smaller bronze pieces, have been exhibited widely throughout the United States. Preston Jackson and his wife Melba maintain homes in Dunlap and Chicago, Illinois. They have two daughters, Natalie and Alice, and one grandson, Blake.

Aurora Art League 50th Annual Members Show 2008

7/25/08 - 8/24/08

This exhibit represents the 50th year of the Art League's Annual Members Show. Awards will be given for best of show, first, second and third place. Formed in 1919, the Aurora Art League was one of the earliest arts groups to be created in the Fox Valley. The purpose of the association is to encourage and provide opportunities for those interested in all forms of the creative visual arts, to promote high artistic standards and to stimulate interest in and understanding of the fine arts.

Golden Legacy: Little Golden Books

9/5/08 - 10/12/08

How Golden Books won children's hearts, changed publishing forever, and became an American icon along the way. The year 2007 marks the 65th anniversary of a bold experiment: the launch of Little Golden Books during the dark days of World War II. At a time when the literacy rate was not nearly as high as it is now - and privation was felt by nearly all - quality books for children would now be available at a price nearly everyone could afford (25 cents), and sold where ordinary people shopped.

Golden Legacy is a lively history of a company, a line of books, the groundbreaking writers and artists who creat-

ed them, the clever mavericks who marketed and sold them, and the cultural landscape that surrounded them.

Jessica Gondek: Dissecting Paint, Ink and Pixels 12/24/08 - 11/30/08

The Aurora Public Art Commission presents Jessica Gondek: Dissecting Paint, Ink and Pixels, an exhibit of multimedia works that combine oil painting and digital printmaking.

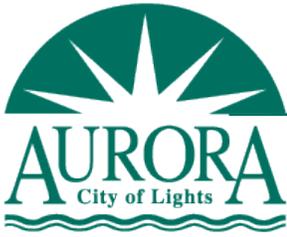
Jessica Gondek is an artist/teacher living in the Chicago area. Her paintings and prints are abstract and create a dialog about technology and the human condition. Ms. Gondek received her MFA from Washington University in St. Louis in 1992, and her BFA from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago in 1990.

Ms. Gondek joined the faculty at Loyola University Chicago in 1996 and teaches Drawing and Painting in the Department of Fine and Performing Arts. Ms. Gondek received her tenure and promotion to the rank of Associate Professor in 2002.

Jessica Gondek has received a number of prestigious grants and artist residency awards recognizing her creative work. Notable is a Pollock-Krasner Foundation Artist Grant in 2002. Further, Ms. Gondek has been recognized with a number of international artist residency awards. She has just returned from a residency at the Can Serrat International Art Center in Spain during 2008. Ms. Gondek has had several artist residencies at the Fran Maser-eel Center in Kasterlee, Belgium between 2000-2006. Her selection for these awards is an honor and external endorsement of her creative work.

Ms. Gondek has exhibited widely and has her work represented in many public collections. Her exhibition at





Public Art Division

2008-2009 Art Exhibits

the Aurora Public Art Commission in Aurora will be followed by exhibitions of her work at the Northern Illinois University Art Museum and Saginaw Valley State University Art Gallery in 2009.

In writing about her work Ms. Gondek has stated: "The primary focus of my work is abstract, stemming from an interest in technology, geometry, machine aesthetics, nature, and human invention. Over the past decade, my work has been concentrated in the areas of painting, printmaking, digital printmaking, and drawing. My aesthetic concerns can be traced back to several art historical references. Some of these paradigms can be found in Da Vinci's inventions and war machines, Piranesi's whimsical architectural spaces, and the Futurist's works celebrating technology. The Pre-Dada works of Duchamp and Picabia that take a more uncertain view on technology represent another influence on my work that is more closely aligned with my perspective."

Jessica Gondek: Dissecting Paint, Ink and Pixels will be on display until November 30, 2008.

Art at City Hall Featuring Northwest Cultural Council 9/29/08 - 2/27/09

Art In City Hall, Fall 2008
Northwest Cultural Council
The Aurora Public Art Commission presents Art In City Hall, Fall 2008. This exhibit will feature 2-dimensional works by 10 members of the Northwest Cultural Council. It will be on display from September 29, 2008 through February 27, 2009 at Aurora's City Hall, 44 East Downer Place. City Hall is open Monday through Friday from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.

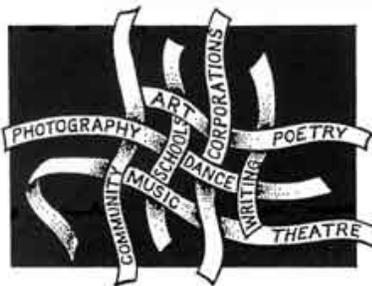
The participating artists are: Tony Armendariz, Frank Tumino, Irene Oleksiuk, Mike Barret Kolasinski, Cheryl Quick, Beverly Miotke, Mirella Scully, Robert R. Cobb, Linda S. Goesling, and Carl Jalowiec.

The Northwest Cultural Council

Established in 1988, the Northwest Cultural Council serves almost 800,000 people, including 200,000 families from O'Hare to Elgin. The mission of the NWCC is to enrich the life of the community by providing opportunity for all people to attend cultural events close to home. This includes cooperating with existing arts organizations, assisting in the promotion of cultural events, co-sponsoring and supporting development of new programs and activities, and creating future audiences by exposing young people to the arts. The NWCC Gallery is located in Palatine.

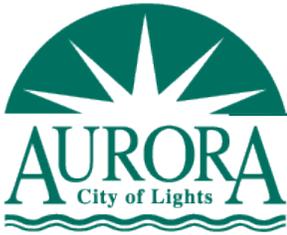
Art In City Hall

Aurora Mayor Tom Weisner established the Art In City Hall series of exhibits in 2005, as a means of creating a more dynamic environment in Aurora's City Hall. The Aurora Public Art Commission produces the shows, which occupy all 5 floors of the building at 44 E. Downer Place. The Commission operates the David L. Pierce Art and History Center at 20 East Downer Place, where it sponsors nine to eleven exhibits per year.



*weaving the arts
into the fabric
of the community*

Art In City Hall features two shows per year, representing a wide variety of artistic styles and traditions. The Aurora Public Art Commission is seeking 2D art works in all media for this ongoing series. All shows are juried by art professionals. Artists and art groups who are interested in participating may send a CD Rom of 10-15 works (hard copy photo-



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graphs of art works will not be accepted), a resume, statement and a self addressed, stamped envelope to the Aurora Public Art Commission, Art In City Hall, 44 E. Downer PL., Aurora, IL 60507. CD Roms must be labeled with the artist's name and titled "Art In City Hall."

Winter Garden of Youth Art 2008

12/12/08 - 1/11/09

The Aurora Public Art Commission Gallery will host the 11th annual Winter Garden of Youth Art, an exhibit of art by Aurora school children from K-12th grade. This year twenty Aurora schools will participate, each entering five art works for a total of one hundred. The following schools will be represented:

Annunciation Catholic School, Aurora Central Catholic School, East Aurora High School, Gates Elementary School, Greenman Elementary School, Hill Elementary School, Jewel Middle School, Johnson Elementary School, McCarty Elementary School, McCleery Elementary School, Marmion Academy, Rosary High School, Simmons Middle School, Smith Elementary School, St. Joseph School, St. Peter School, Waldo Middle School, Washington Middle School, Waubonsie Valley High School, and West Aurora High School.

All of the art works were chosen by art teachers or other faculty members from each school. A variety of mediums will be on exhibit, including paintings in acrylic, watercolor, tempera and oil, drawings in charcoal, pastel and pencil, printmaking, photography, sculpture, 2D and 3D collage, computer arts, jewelry, and ceramics.

The opening reception for Winter Garden of Youth Art, 2008 will be Friday, December 12, from 5:00-7:00 pm, at the Aurora Public Art Commission Gallery at 20 E. Downer Place, Aurora. Santa Claus will attend the reception to discuss Christmas wish lists with the younger gallery visitors. In addition,

Santa's Art Workshop will be open during the reception and children may create an art project to take home. Admission to the reception and during the entire exhibit is free. For more information call (630) 906-0654.

Lincoln Portrait in Snow by Joseph Gagnepain

1/26/09 - 1/30/09

In honor of the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial the Aurora Public Art Commission has commissioned a portrait of Lincoln, to be carved in snow by sculptor Joseph Gagnepain. This large-scale bust will be located in APAC's sculpture garden, which is adjacent to the Pierce Center at 20 East Downer Place.

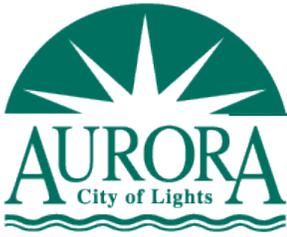
Gagnepain, a local freelance artist, has been carving snow for the past 4 years. With his teammates from Eau Claire, WI "The Starvin' Carvists" have participated in multiple national and international snow sculpting competitions and commissions in Michigan, Illinois, and Italy. Last year his team placed 1st and 2nd in an international competition held in two villages in Northern Italy.

To create the Aurora Public Art Commission's Lincoln Bicentennial snow portrait, Gagnepain is assembling a team of local talent including Ed Pineada, Pete "Blast" Barrett, and Marcus Mason.

After foot packing (imagine stomping grapes for wine) the snow into a concrete form with snow plowed off of Mastedon Lake, the artists will use a model and photographs to scale the image onto the 8 foot block of snow. Differing from Ice Sculpting, the artists only employ hand tools; shovels, scrapers, horse brushes, saws, and homemade sanders.

In writing about his outdoor winter works Gagnepain has stated:

I love snow sculpting, being close to nature, enjoying crisp/dry winter air, and being hands on with the pristine beauty of wonderful, white snow. I look forward to a good, snowy, cold winter each year.



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Joseph is honored to have the opportunity to create a sculpture of Abraham Lincoln. A long time admirer of this former president, he has always wanted to use him as the subject for a work of art. The project also strikes a personal chord of pride for Gagnepain, as ancestors on his mother's side are cousins to Mary Todd Lincoln.

The Lincoln portrait will be on display as long the cold weather holds.

Unlimitations: Pastels by George Shipperley **1/23/09 – 3/8/09**

The Aurora Public Art Commission presents *Unlimitations, Pastels by George Shipperley*. The opening reception for this exhibit will be Friday, January 23 from 5:00-7:30. There is no admission fee for the reception.

George Shipperley is a highly acclaimed impressionist painter with an emphasis on landscapes and other natural themes. A U.S. Army veteran, Shipperley began painting following a thirty-three year career in sales. During this time, he and his wife opened the Henrich Art Gallery and Custom Frame Shop in Aurora, which is still owned and operated by his wife. Shipperley is a first signature member of the Oil Pastel Society. He also holds memberships in the Palette & Chisel Academy of Chicago and numerous suburban art organizations. In addition, he shares his talent as an instructor at the Fine Line Art School in St. Charles, Illinois. Shipperley's work is represented by Edgewood Orchard Galleries, Fish Creek Wisconsin, as well as Henrich Art Gallery. He also exhibits every autumn at the Riverwalk Fine Art Fair in Naperville and at various fine art venues in metropolitan Chicago.

As an impressionist painter, Shipperley specializes in soft pastel, acrylic and oil pastel. In writing about his work he has stated:

To be an artist means to have an insatiable appetite to create and explore. We are not hobbyists; we are innovators: always searching for new and original thoughts. Although my work is mostly comprised of landscapes and still life, the subject is not my priority. Interpretation through feeling and emotion is. That is how we distinguish ourselves from others. How we paint, not what we paint, is the essence of a good work of art. For example, the trees and landscape should reflect their poetry and grace, not just their structure. The sky and land must stir our emotions by the very nature of their rhythm and communication with each other. Only then will we as artists convey the true meaning of a work of art.

Unlimitations will be on display until March 8, 2009.

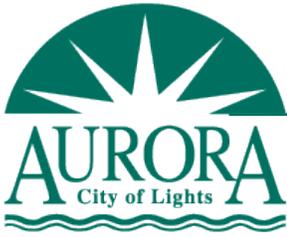
Aurora and the Grand Army of the Republic In the Age of Lincoln

2/13/09 – 5/25/09

February 12, 2009 marks the 200th anniversary of Abraham Lincoln's birth. To commemorate the occasion, the Aurora Public Art Commission (APAC) and the Aurora Historical Society (AHS) will present *Aurora and the Grand Army of the Republic in the Age of Lincoln*, an exhibit that explores life in Aurora before and during Lincoln's presidency and after the Civil War, when Union veterans established Aurora's Grand Army of the Republic, Post 20. APAC and AHS have assembled artifacts that document Lincoln's enormous influence on the lives of Aurora residents and his continuing legacy in our community. This exhibit will be on display from February 13 through May 25, 2009. The opening reception will be Friday, February 13 from 5:00-7:30. There is no admission fee to the reception. Regular gallery hours are Wednesday through Sunday from Noon to 4:00 P.M.

Grand Army of the Republic, Aurora Post 20

The Grand Army of the Republic section of the exhibit, which was organized by historian and guest



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curator Eric Schuster, includes information about the GAR from its inception in Decatur, Illinois, to the formation of Aurora's GAR, Post 20, established by the Soldiers Monument Association and the Ladies Auxiliary in 1868. Over the course of sixty years, Post 20 boasted a membership of 700 veterans. For these men, Lincoln was Commander-In-Chief.

The exhibit includes many of the artifacts that were on display in the GAR Memorial Hall, such as photos, statuary, books, medals, engravings, as well as information describing the history of the organization, the history of the building, and brief biographies of some of the most colorful and influential founders and members. In addition, the exhibit features information about the restoration of the building, which is currently in progress. The Aurora Public Art Commission oversees GAR exhibits and operations. The GAR Museum will reopen in 2010.

Aurora In the Age of Lincoln

This section of the exhibit, curated by the staff at the Aurora Historical Society, provides a glimpse of what Aurora was like during and just after Lincoln's life time, when he was known as a shrewd lawyer and promising young politician, and not as a mythic American icon.

On display are unique items from the Aurora Historical Society collections, including an 1860 map of Kane County; men's and women's clothing of the pre-Civil War era, such as the 1853 wedding dress of Mrs. Samuel McCarty, wife of Aurora's founder; Civil War artifacts such as swords from Col. Silas Miller of the 36th Illinois Volunteers and a surgical kit carried by Dr. Abner Hard, Surgeon of the 8th Illinois Cavalry; and Lincoln-related items including images, sculpture, and a Lincoln letter from 1855, written to Aurora's Charles Hoyt.

Aurora and the Grand Army of the Republic In the Age of Lincoln will be on display through May 25,

2009.

Lost and Found: the Art of Making Art After an Extended Interlude

3/27/09 - 5/24/09

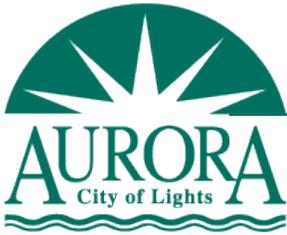
The Aurora Public Art Commission presents Lost and Found: The Art of Making Art After an Extended Interlude. This exhibit will be on display from March 27 through May 24. The opening reception will be Friday, March 27 from 5:00 through 7:30. The reception is free and open to the public.

Lost and Found: The Art of Making Art After an Extended Interlude features works by artists who have stopped making art for a time, and then have found their way back to their craft. Many outside forces can derail the creative process for artists—such as demanding job schedules, child rearing, illness, financial difficulty, or simply becoming discouraged. Lost and Found has no narrative theme, rather its purpose is to celebrate the ability of artists to endure and overcome external pressures and above all, to define themselves as artists once again.

Lost and Found represents a diversity of works by 25 artists:

Jenny Evans, Chris Evans, Karen Fullett-Christensen, Valerie Fuqua, Soterios Gardiakos, Maureen Gasek, Lisa Gloria, Peter N. Gray, Jarrett Hawkins, Eileen Hinkle, Karl Gunder Johnson, Cheryl Le Cropane, Nancy Legner, Stephen Lowery, Brandi Martin, Laura Nicholson-Tom, Samantha Oulavong, Robert Putnam, Cheryl, Rausch, Jim Rourke, Georgia Schwender, Maria C. Sosenko, Kenneth Webster, Jane Wilcoxson, and Hisham Youssef.

Lost and Found: The Art of Making Art After an Extended Interlude will be on display until May 24, 2009



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Ricochet, an exhibit featuring ten Waubonsee Community College mentors

6/12/09 - 7/26/09

The Aurora Public Art Commission, in partnership with the Waubonsee Community College Art Department will present Ricochet, an exhibit featuring ten Waubonsee Community College mentors along with ten current and former students. This exhibit will be on display at the Aurora Public Art Commission from June 12 through July 26, 2009. The opening reception for Ricochet will be Friday, June 12, 2009, from 5:00-7:30 pm. The reception will include live music by the Papo Trio, light hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar.

Each mentor partnered with a student of his/her selection. The work reflects the diverse disciplines and various styles encountered in the Waubonsee Community College Art Department. Some students are still in the program while others have moved on to universities. Some are artists in their own right while others have temporarily put art aside to

concentrate on surviving financially. Participating artists are:

Albina McPhail Oswego, Alexandra Eiva Wheaton, Chloe Garrison Elburn, Deborah Shamsuddin Yorkville, Diana Gabriel Hoffman Estates, Doug Jeppesen Sugar Grove, Emily Held North Aurora, Jean Therrien-Gottschalk St. Charles, Jennifer Evans Aurora, John Stanicek Aurora, Jonathan Underwood Plainfield, Joseph LoPresti Downers Grove Katie Moritz Aurora, Mark Sheehan Chicago, Martine Stuckey Geneva, Nikki Baird Yorkville, Steve Haye North Aurora, Wade Duerkes DeKalb, Watcharee Roeksamret Plainfield and Wendy Connell Aurora.

In describing the exhibit, Waubonsee Instructor Martine Stuckey has written: "Art keeps us all connected. We yearn for time to indulge in making our work, no matter how tedious and challenging it might be. In this exhibit we join in sharing our passion with a wider audience."

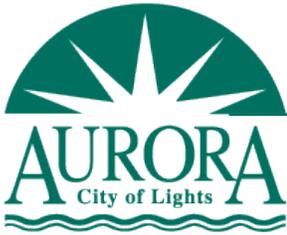
The Human Condition: Photographs by Samantha Oulavong and Her students

6/12/09 - 8/30/09

The Aurora Public Art Commission presents The Human Condition, photographs by Samantha Oulavong and her students from Nicaragua, Haiti and Cambodia. This exhibit will be on display from June 12 through August 30, 2009. The opening reception for The Human condition will be Friday, June 12 from 5:00-7:30 pm. The reception will include light hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar.

Sam Oulavong is an award winning photographer who has exhibited widely in the United States and internationally.





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In writing about her work Oulavong has stated: "When I was younger, I would often wonder why anyone would want to take photos of people suffering. I could not stand to see these images because it draws too much emotion out of me and makes me uncomfortable. Now in my 30's I have accidentally discovered the power of photojournalism and the impact this genre have on people's beliefs and values.

My career as a photographer began in the summer of 2007 when I had the opportunity to do a photography workshop with the children from the barrio of Villa Esparanza in Nicaragua. While there, I started documenting the children at home, at play, and at work. Then I got interested in documenting their community. From there, my passion to teach photography to marginalized children, travel, and the art of photography itself grew into an obsession.

This obsession led me start LOVE, Lens Of Vision & Expression, a non profit organization that works to transform the lives of marginalized children through the art of photography. In March 2008, I did a photography workshop with the children of La Chureca, Managua's landfill which is home to over 200 families. There are over 1,200 people digging through society's waste to find food and make a living by searching for recyclables. There in the landfill you see men, women, and children competing with live-stock and to survive.

The photographs in this series are images that I was able to capture through my trip to Nicaragua. I want to capture not only the grace of the people, but their lives as well. Photojournalism, I have realized, is not limited to showing the sufferings of humans, but it can also document the joy of human accomplishments and interactions.

Today, more than ever, images are shaping our understanding of the world and its social issues. Exciting new means of distribution and publishing

have provided imagers with new opportunities to bring to light issues of importance.

Because photographs inspire great change Just look at history: ninety years ago, young children labored long and often dangerous hours in fields, factories and mines throughout the United States. Upon seeing a groundbreaking "photo story" exposing this situation, public outrage forced legislators to pass stricter labor laws that ended the horrors of child labor in the United States."

Aurora Public Art Commission Sculpture Garden 2009

6/12/09 - 10/18/09

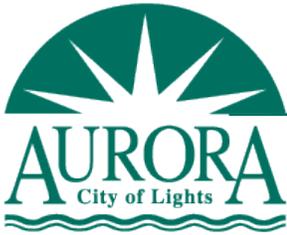
The Aurora Public Art Commission will present works by three sculptors in the Aurora Public Art Commission Sculpture Garden at 20 East Downer Place, adjacent to the APAC Gallery. James Jenkins, Joseph Gagnepain and Marcus Mason will display large scale sculptures from June 12 through October 18, 2009. The opening reception for this exhibit will be June 12 from 5:00-7:30 pm. The reception will include musical entertainment by guitarist John Ivan. Light hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar will be available on the first and third floors of the APAC Gallery.

James Jenkins-Geneva, Illinois

James Jenkins is a sculptor who has exhibited widely throughout the Chicago area. He has completed numerous fine art, large-scale public art and functional art projects for both public and private organizations.

"My sculptures provide a theme for both intellectual and visual curiosity. They contain roadmaps directing the observer through a process of distillation and fusion of contrasting ideas and investigative humor. Each piece offers a message for the owner to enjoy privately and outwardly.

I welcome the opportunity to share this artistic



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experience with those looking for a higher level of enjoyment and harmony with their surroundings.”

Joseph Gagnepain-Geneva, Illinois

Joseph Gagnepain is a freelance artist working in most mediums. In addition, he is a co-founder of Water Street Studios and School of Art in Batavia. Gagnepain produces monumental sculptures out of recycled bicycle parts, assorted junk, and scrap metal. An award winning snow sculptor, Gagnepain created an 8' tall portrait of Abraham Lincoln last

January for the Aurora Public Art Commission's celebration of the Lincoln Bicentennial. Joseph Gagnepain's passion is bridging art to the community; creating works that inspire and enhance our surroundings.



Marcus Mason-Saint Charles, Illinois

“My art career began in 1982, the year I was born. What began with Legos and coloring contests developed into a creative force that drives my imagination. I draw inspiration from all things but am especially stimulated by both nature and architecture. My work rarely contains one primary theme. I create these pieces hoping that viewers will connect with an element within my work and compose their own diverse interpretations. I work with found objects that tend to have great sustainability. My artistic process normally begins on the train tracks, mountain trails, and scrap yards from which

I gather my materials. These steel, wood and stone elements all have their own story and assembling them into sculptural form is a practice that I have great devotion to.”

The Aurora Public Art Commission Sculpture Garden opened in 2008 with the Aurora River Benches, hand carved limestone benches by sculptor Walter Arnold. The benches are part of the APAC collection and are on permanent display in the garden.

The Aurora Public Art Commission presents: The 51st Annual Aurora Art League Members Show, 2009

11/3/09 - 11/13/09

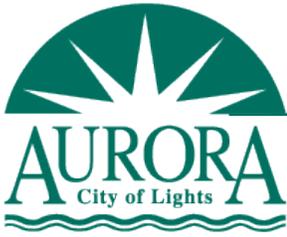
This exhibit represents the 51st year of the Art League's annual Members Show. The 51st Annual Aurora Art League Members Show, 2009 will be on display until November 13, 2009.

Formed in 1919, the Aurora Art League was one of the earliest arts groups to be created in the Fox Valley. The purpose of the association is to encourage and provide opportunities for those interested in all forms of the creative visual arts, to promote high artistic standards and to stimulate interest in and understanding of the fine arts.

The Aurora Public Art Commission presents: Art At City Hall: Yellow House Artists

9/28/09 - 2/26/10

This exhibit will be on display from September 28 through February 26, 2010. The Yellow House Artists is an organization of artists who work in oil pastels. The group of 38 artists was formed in 2008 for the purpose of supporting and promoting the artwork of its members as well as informing the public about the qualities of this little known but rapidly growing medium. Yellow House Artists present several shows each year as well as providing social and learning experiences for the mem-



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bers. The artists have been painting together for several years with artists/teachers George Shipperley of Aurora and Carol Zack of Elgin.

The group originated with 17 oil pastel/oil stick artists who had a gallery in a yellow house during the 2007 St. Charles Fine Art Show.

Participating artists are:

- Deann Alleman
- Sandy Antonelli
- Eileen Botic
- George Bruce
- Susan Bruce
- John Carman
- Mary Enck
- Carol Gorman
- Carol Kazwick
- Maureen McKee
- Dotti Matson
- Lillian Pagni
- Joan Rieck
- Ellen Shelhamer
- Sandy Smith
- Fran Stilwagner
- Teri Tossey
- Jane Wilcoxson
- Carol Zack

Developed in the 1940s at the request of Pablo Picasso, oil pastels are oil paint in a stick form, as are oil sticks. Picasso wanted a medium with the qualities of oil but with ease of application and portability. Pure pigment is suspended in inert mineral oil, formed into sticks with a color palette much like oil paint. To the casual viewer the appearance of the round or square sticks may belie the serious artistic application of this medium. Colors can be layered and blended, smeared and smudged, using fingers, some type of tool, or left as applied. It's an artistic decision made by the artist. The works are generally framed under glass to protect the surface image.

The artwork of each artist in the Yellow House Artists group is unique. All share a passion for using color in the creation of their paintings.

Further information about Yellow House Artists and a schedule of their shows, as well as information about the medium can be found on their web site.

The Aurora Public Art Commission Presents: Winter Garden of Youth Art, 2009

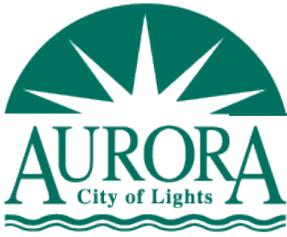
12/11/09 – 1/8/10

The Aurora Public Art Commission Gallery will host the 12th annual Winter Garden of Youth Art, an exhibit of art by Aurora students from K-12th grade. This year 28 Aurora schools will participate, each entering five art works for a total of 140.

Annunciation Elementary, Aurora Christian Elementary, Middle and High, Cowherd Middle, Deiterich Elementary, East Aurora High, Fearn Elementary, Freeman Elementary, Greenman Elementary, Hall Elementary, Hill School, Jefferson Middle, Jewel Middle, Marmion Academy, McCarty Elementary, McCleery Elementary, Metea Valley High, Nicholson Elementary, Rosary High, Saint Peter Elementary, Saint Rita of Cascia, Simmons Middle, Smith Elementary, Waldo Middle, Washington Middle, Waubonsie Valley High, West Aurora High.

All of the art works were chosen by art teachers or other faculty members from each school. A variety of mediums will be on exhibit, including paintings in acrylic, watercolor, tempera and oil, drawings in charcoal, pastel and pencil, printmaking, photography, sculpture, 2D and 3D collage, computer arts, jewelry, and ceramics.

Also on display during this exhibit will be a selection of doll houses from the collection of the Aurora Historical Society.



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The opening reception for Winter Garden of Youth Art, 2009 will be Friday, December 11, from 5:00-7:00, at the Aurora Public Art Commission Gallery at 20 E. Downer Place, Aurora. During the reception there will be a trunk show in the Museum Shop, featuring photographs by Perry Slade and jewelry by Laura Nicholson-Tom and Valerie Williams. In addition, Dick Blick Art Materials will sponsor an art Workshop in the third floor gallery and children may create an art project to take home. Admission to the reception and during the entire exhibit is free. For more information call (630) 906-0654.

The Aurora Public Art Commission presents: Transformations 2/5/10 – 5/21/10

The Aurora Public Art Commission presents Transformations, a group show of works focusing on discarded industrial materials from the urban culture and objects found in natural environments. The opening reception for Transformations will be Friday, February 5 from 5:00-7:30 PM at the Aurora Public Art Commission at 20 East Downer Place in Aurora.



Transformations features sculptures, photographs and paintings by eleven artists who call their group 3D12. They are: Shelley Gilchrist, Peter N. Gray, Alan Emerson Hicks, Ruyell Ho, Beth Kamhi, Jim MacRoberts, Bill Moll, Mimi Peterson, Robert Putnam, Eric H. Steele, and Michelle Stone.

In a statement about the works, the group has written:

“In sculpture, a new art piece may be created using bits and fragments of discarded material, such as iron and steel scraps, odd aluminum pieces, rusted metal, wire, leather, glass, plastic bottles, architect-

tural stone pieces, glacial drift stones, and leftover wood pieces. In two-dimensional work, painting, for example, the content is influenced by and thus transformed by the various materials used.”

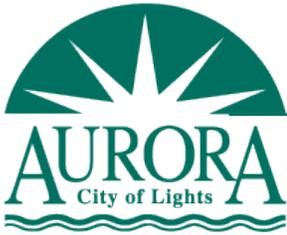
In addition, the opening reception for Transformations will feature music by guitarist John Ivan and a trunk show highlighting hand-crafted jewelry created by Laura Nicholson-Tom and Carolyn Krainak.

The Aurora Public Art Commission Presents: Art At City Hall: Greg Governale, Photography 3/29/10 – 10/1/10

Greg Governale was born in Chicago in June 1956. He grew up in the Humboldt Park area of the city, and moved to Hanover Park in 1967. He graduated from Schaumburg High School in 1974. He completed an Associate’s degree in Science at Harper Jr. College and became a department manager at a local grocery store.

At age 18, his life changed forever. A pop bottle exploded in his hand, driving glass deep into his finger. Years of treatment, and the subsequent loss of his finger taught him the patience that would prove to be the greatest of assets in his pursuit of animals in their natural habitats. He would often wait hours before sunrise, making himself a part of the landscape and allowing the animals to come to him. He prided himself on not taking photos of animals in captivity. He preferred “wild” animals to humans who he characterized as the most difficult “animal” to photograph.

His travels took him to several exotic locations as well as many nature areas in the U.S. His most recent works include pictures of bears that reside at a nature preserve. One of his favorite animal encounters was with a cougar named Baby. He was out looking for a perfect shot and suddenly found himself on his back looking up into the face of what he thought was a wild cougar. The huge animal sat on his chest. He became aware of a voice calling



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out “Baby, NO!” The man, it seems, had raised the cougar and then returned her to the wild. She just wanted to play he assured Greg. The result of that encounter is the picture of the cougar currently on display.

Greg Governale died suddenly, on September 3, 2008 of a heart attack. He lives on in the many captivating images he collected in his lifetime.

The Aurora Public Art Commission Presents: DreamCycles 6/11/10 – 8/15/10

DreamCycles will be on display from June 11 through August 13, 2010 in the Aurora Public Art Commission Gallery. The APAC Sculpture Garden, located adjacent to the gallery will be open until October 17. DreamCycles features sculptures, paintings, collage, conceptual pieces, photographs and even live garden art by 16 artists, including Nasim Abolghasem, Walter Arnold, the Aurora Tuesday Garden Club, Fawn Clarke-Peterson, Joseph Gagnepain, Soterios Gardiakos, Keith Gerling, Rae Ann Hoehn, John Hooker, Siew Lian Lim, Marcus Mason, Emma Nolley, Jessica Seitz, Peg Steinhebel, Nancy Wicker, and Valerie William.

DreamCycles artists creatively address the practical issues of:

- Recycling
- bicycles (and other active transportation) as primary transportation
- public transit systems
- land protection and sustainable agriculture
- local economic networks/productive work in the new economy

DreamCycles artists were asked to choose any or all of these themes, and to approach their chosen subjects with ingenuity, resourcefulness, imagination, pragmatism, whimsy and even hilarity.



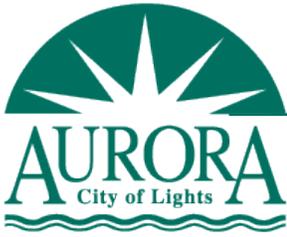
The Aurora Public Art Commission Presents: Donnell Collins

10/15/10 – 12/3/11
The Aurora Public Art Commission presents *Skillets*, a Photo Essay by photojournalist Donnell Collins. Collins examines the theme of race and the beauty industry: how negative messages and stereotypes pervade the so called beauty world, and how African-American children are made to feel less than beautiful

for having Afrocentric features. This exhibit will be on display from October 15 through December 4, 2010. The opening reception will be Friday, October 15, from 5 7:30 p.m.

Collins has been working on *Skillets* for more than 15 years. In writing about his work, he has stated:

“Race is and has been one of the more exhausting themes in my life. It has caused me, and I am sure many others, a great deal of stress. As a child it



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appeared to me that what was considered beautiful or attractive according to the media (and in many cases people within my own community and my own race), looked nothing like me.

“The question has come full circle. Since I started working on this particular presentation, I have had parents of darker-complected children that don their natural hair, inform me that their children are still being made to feel less than beautiful. I find this type of ignorance despicable. I grew up in the 1960s, by the way, the freest decade in the history of mankind.

“I also hear and talk to friends of other ethnic groups that inform me that one is still considered more acceptable if they have a complexion of fairer skin and straighter hair.

“At the end of the day, I as a child was faced with some of these same types of ignorant, backward-thinking individuals. If a child constantly hears from the people they look up to, that they are less than beautiful in the eyes of God and everyone who claims to love them, what can we expect from that child when he or she becomes an adult? What can you expect if they are told that their skin is too dark or their hair is too kinky or curly, regardless of the ethnic group? Unless of course they have a strong and supportive circle of family and friends to catch them where they may otherwise fall from this attack on their psyche.

“Well for one, they will probably go out and try to change the way they look. They will constantly find themselves beholden to whatever type of beauty product that is available. They will probably accept treatment of any type from any friend, lover or spouse. They may never reach their full potential.

“So I came up with the concept of Skillets to address what some of us may be going through and to help alleviate some of the hurt or at least shed

some light on one of our societal illnesses and also to let someone know that they are not only beautiful, they were created in perfect purpose in the eyes of God.

“Skillets’: soulful.....kindred....intelligent.....lasting.... lovely.....embracing....tested.

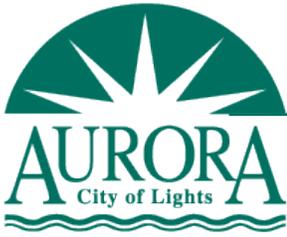
“Somewhere along the way I have noticed within the so-called beauty world that many of us will go out and attempt to purchase what someone else has been naturally blessed with. We will sit in a salon or spa for hours adding on, cooking our skin, changing our eye color, bleaching our skin, avoiding the sun and having no fun.

“I wonder if God is amused or just disappointed in His art. After all, we are a major part of His divine canvas. He added color here and coarse hair there. I think He wants what any other artist would want. He wants you to appreciate the art but not to envy what someone else has. He added melanin here and freckles there. Deal with it! Love yourself!”

Donnell Collins, 54, is an award-winning professional photographer who resides in Aurora, Illinois. Born in Mississippi, Collins attended Oak Park Elementary, Simmons Junior High and East Aurora High School in Aurora. He holds an associate’s degree from Waubensee Community College and a bachelor’s degree from Northern Illinois University. He served in the U.S. Army from 1974 to 1977 and was honorably discharged.

A photojournalist for The Beacon-News for 20 years, he still works regularly as a freelance photographer for that newspaper. He also has his own studio - donnell collins Photography which he shares with several colleagues in downtown Aurora.

Collins has received numerous awards for his photojournalism including first place finishes in Associated Press, Illinois Press Association and Northern



Public Art Division

2010-2011 Art Exhibits

Illinois Newspaper Association contests. He has traveled across the United States as well as to two other continents for his work.

In 2004, he was honored by the City of Aurora's African-American Heritage Advisory Board for his outstanding achievements.

In October 2007, Collins was appointed to the Kane County Board to fill the seat of State Senator Linda Holmes and then won the seat in the 2008 election.

The Aurora Public Art Commission Presents: Art At City Hall

10/25/10 - 4/1/11

A new exhibit of two-dimensional works from Aurora Art League members will line the hallways at City Hall through the fall and winter months.

The Aurora Public Art Commission's "Art at City Hall, Fall 2010" series will run through April 1 at City Hall, 44 E. Downer Place. Residents can view the art free of charge during regular business hours, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Friday, and can find off-street parking available one block west of City Hall at the Downer Place and Stolp Avenue parking garage.

Participating artists are Laurel and Richard Capps, Thomas Curry, Mary Ann Dykstra, Danielle Ebersole, Terri Gerhard, Phyllis Gilliam, Barbara Gore, Nancy Griffin, Vernice Hurd, Audrey Reininger, Jill Steininger, Anna Trotter, Gina Trotter-Barnick and Lucy Welter. Founded in 1919, the Aurora Art League encourages artist participation and promotes the understanding of fine art.

The "Art At City Hall" program, which began in 2005, features two shows a year on all five floors to provide a more dynamic environment at City Hall. The Aurora Public Art Commission is seeking two-dimensional works in all media for this ongoing series, which is juried by art professionals.

The Aurora Public Art Commission Presents: Winter Garden of Youth Art, 2010

12/17/10 - 1/14/11

The artistic talents of Aurora students will be on display during the Aurora Public Art Commission's 13th annual "Winter Garden of Youth Art."

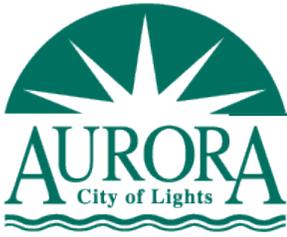
Children from kindergarten through high school will have their artwork showcased through Friday, Jan. 14, at the Art Commission Gallery, 20 E Downer Place. The gallery will kick-off with an opening reception scheduled from 5 to 7 p.m. Dec. 17.

The presentation features a variety of mediums including paintings, drawings, printmaking, photography, sculpture, collage, computer arts, jewelry and ceramics. All works in the display will have been selected by art teachers or other school faculty members.

Participating schools are Aurora Christian Elementary and High School, East Aurora High School, McCarty Elementary School, McCleery Elementary School, Jewel Middle School, Marmion Academy, Metea Valley High School, Simmons Middle School, Rosary High School, St. Joseph Catholic School, St. Peter's Catholic School, St. Rita's of Cascia School, Waldo Middle School, Washington Middle School, Waubonsie Valley High School and West Aurora High School.

The gallery, which has free admission is open Wednesdays through Saturdays from noon to 4 p.m.

The Aurora Public Art Commission is a civic organization dedicated to the preservation of public art in all of its forms. For more information on the Commission or the gallery, visit the City of Aurora's website.



Public Art Division

2011 Art Exhibits

Warm Light, Cool Shadows, the Life and Art of Ruth Van Sickle Ford

5/20/11 - 8/12/11

The opening reception for "Warm Light, Cool Shadows" will be May 20, 2011 from 4:15 - 7:30 p.m. and will include a presentation and book signing by Nancy Hopp, author of the newly published book "Warm Light, Cool Shadows, The Life and Art of Ruth Van Sickle Ford." The reception will also feature music by dulcimer player Bill Robinson, a 2006 inductee into the Fox Valley Arts Hall of Fame. The reception is sponsored by the Fox Valley Arts Hall of Fame.

Ruth Van Sickle Ford

Born in 1897, and raised in the Fox River Valley of Illinois, Ruth Van Sickle Ford graduated in 1918 from the Chicago Academy of Fine Arts. She continued her studies in Chicago and New York under the tutelage of some of the most respected painters of the time, John Carlson, George Bellows, and Guy Wiggins.

Ford returned to the Chicago Academy of Fine Arts to teach, and in 1937, became the president and director of the institution, a post she held until 1960. Pulitzer-prize winning editorial cartoonist Bill Mauldin is but one example of the hundreds of talented students she nurtured. Others include Helen Rose, an Oscar-winning costume designer who designed the wedding dress worn by Princess Grace of Monaco.

Ford was the first woman from Illinois to be invited into the prestigious American Watercolor Society and the first woman artist member of Chicago's

renowned Palette & Chisel Academy. Known for her bold use of color and free sense of perspective, Ruth Van Sickle Ford exhibited her paintings throughout North and Central America for more than 5 decades.

Nancy Hopp

Nancy Hopp, who grew up a few blocks from Ruth Van Sickle Ford's home, is a lifelong resident of the Aurora area. In the mid-sixties, Hopp had the opportunity to study watercolor painting under Ruth Van Sickle Ford.



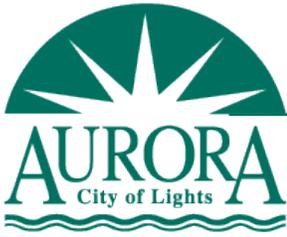
In 1968 Hopp earned a B.A. in Social Sciences from Aurora University, followed by an M.S. in Business Management in 1982, as a member of the first graduate class. She enjoyed a long career in marketing communications before retiring in 2007. She has been an active community volunteer for more than 40 years and is currently serving as Trustee for the Fox Valley Park District.

Published in March of this year, Nancy Hopp's book,

"Warm Light, Cool Shadows, The Life and Art of Ruth Van Sickle Ford" culminates more than 7 years of research. Hopp has written a wide variety of publications over the years, including more than 36 short stories for her grandchildren, but "Warm Light, Cool Shadows" is her first full-length illustrated biography.

Bill Robinson

Bill Robinson, who will play the hammered dulcimer during the reception, is a third generation



Public Art Division

2011 Art Exhibits

hammered dulcimer player living in St. Charles. Known for his upbeat playing style and unique dulcimer traditions handed down from generation to generation, Robinson is a master of the instrument. He has been honored with several Country Music Association awards and was inducted into the Fox Valley Arts Hall of Fame in 2006.

Fox Valley Arts Hall of Fame

The opening reception for "Warm Lights, Cool Shadows" is sponsored by the Fox Valley Arts Hall of Fame, an organization founded in 2001 to give public recognition to artists associated with the Fox Valley by birth, education, residence, or service who have achieved national or international acclaim. The artists honored with induction every other year represent the visual arts, performing arts, literary arts, media arts, or educator/curator/benefactor. Each must have served at least twenty years in his or her profession. A second objective of the Fox Valley Arts Hall of Fame is to ensure a strong cultural legacy for future generations.

"Warm Light, Cool Shadows" will be on display until August 12, 2011.

Three Artists Entwined, Works by Helen Humay, Priscilla Humay and Anton Witek

9/9/11 – 11/18/11

"Three Artists Entwined" represents the works of three generations of artists, Helen Humay, Priscilla Humay and Anton Witek. Although the works differ immensely in style and narrative, all three artists are joined not only by family bonds but by a delight in investigating their world-- through their art, through their travels, and sometimes by combining the two.

"Three artists Entwined" will be on display from September 9 through November 18, 2011.

The opening reception will be Friday, September 9, from 5:00 through 7:30 P.M. For the opening, the

Tuesday Garden Club of Aurora will create interpretive floral arrangements inspired by the art works.

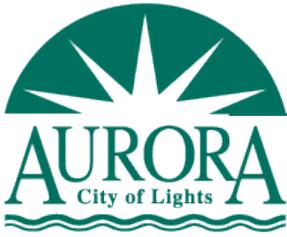
"Three Artists Entwined" artist biographies

HELEN HUMAY

Learning was her lifelong activity. Helen Humay attended college in Chicago, and later attended College of Lake County. She started traveling the world at a time when it was unheard of for women to travel alone, reaching Japan, Singapore, China, Malaysia, Indonesia, and countries in Europe. She enjoyed learning about the world's various cultures, respecting and taking great joy in all races, religions, and ethnicities. Her Father made clay sculptures, daughter (Priscilla) and grandson (Anton) were pursuing their artistic careers, so she enrolled in classes to share in the creative process. Her pottery has a touch all her own and was stimulated by her respect for different cultures and love of working the clay. She passed through this world just short of her 96th birthday, each day creating and making notations and sketches of pieces yet to be made.

PRISCILLA HUMAY

Creating is an integral part of Priscilla Humay's life. Her earliest childhood memories are of drawing, painting, and fondly watching her grandfather carve wooden sculptures. She frequents favorite places to observe, sense, and draw. Through a very personal process, Priscilla works to capture the essence of nature's beauty. In the studio, she uses these preliminary drawings to create final works. Composites of drawings past and present weave their way into her final pieces. An award-winning artist, her artworks are in private and corporate collections nationwide. She is widely published, has extensive gallery representation, and major exhibitions. She lectures and teaches at universities, museums, and the Chicago Botanic Gardens. Her BFA is from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago.



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go, MS from the Illinois Institute of Technology, and Post Graduate Study at Charles University, Prague, Czech Republic.

ANTON WITEK

Anton Witek was immersed in a family of artists. His love for family and their talents influenced his passion for creating art. And on and on it went since the first crayon and marker was used by him at age 1-1/2. A former student of the Art Institute of Chicago, Anton left his Chicago home traveling the world in search of “things” that have meaning to him and that define his artistic style. He has visited more than 30 foreign countries in search of symbols in the form of “found objects” used in creating his unique works of art. Anton has witnessed a vast array of cultures, traditions and customs thoroughly experiencing the nuances of the places he has visited. His experiences are reflected in these collected treasures which creatively make up his very remarkable art.

Ground Level: September 11-14 9/11/11 – 10/1/11

The Aurora Public Art Commission will host Ground Level: September 11-14, Photographs by Tom Pasquarelli, Steve Bova and Vincent Piccolo, digitally produced by Michael Sawdey for the Aurora Public Art Commission.

The exhibit features photographs of the World Trade Center during the September 11th bombing and in the days immediately following. The photographs were taken by Tom Pasquarelli, a New York City Sanitation Supervisor, Vincent Piccolo, a New York City Sanitation worker and Steve Bova, a crane operator who witnessed the tragedy.

Michael Sawdey, who digitally produced the exhibit states: “The pictures in this exhibit, taken or collected by Vincent Piccolo and his colleagues are about the ground level, how it looked and felt in the weeks following September 11. The photos were

all enlarged digitally, without cropping, from the original 4x6 “one hour” prints, taken with point-and-shoot cameras by people who had a workaday reason to be there. Vince’s collection is about being there, which, we should occasionally remind ourselves, is what all of the “infrastructure people” of a city do-being there, working in order to make the wheels go round; usually not dying as part of the bargain, but, then, sometimes”

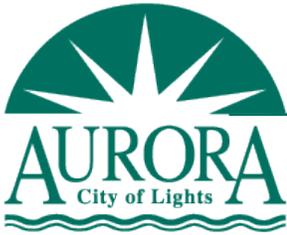
If I should not write you again: Remembering life in Aurora during and following the Civil War 4/15/11 – 1/20/12

The Aurora Public Art Commission and the Aurora Historical Society are teaming up to present a new exhibit commemorating the 150th anniversary of the start of the Civil War.

“If I should not write you again: Remembering life in Aurora during and following the Civil War” is on display during regular gallery hours from noon to 4 p.m. Wednesday to Friday at the David L. Pierce Art & History Center, 20 E. Downer Place. Admission is free.

The exhibit features war-related items such as weaponry, photos and gear from local regiments, including a surgeon’s kit and field notes from Auroran Dr. Abner Hard, 8th Illinois Calvary unit; and the sword of Colonel Silas Miller of the 36th Illinois Infantry.

Artifacts from the home front on display includes images of Aurora in the mid-19th century, an 1860 Kane County map, clothing, tools and other household items of the era. Patrons also will be able to view historical treasures from Aurora’s former Grand Army of the Republic Post 20, such as the original charter, medals from various encampments, organization meeting minutes and photographs.



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2011-2012 Art Exhibits

The Grand Army of the Republic, a national Civil War veterans' organization, existed in Aurora from the 1860s to the 1920s. The GAR Memorial Hall, which was built in 1877-78, stands across the street from the Art & History Center.

The City of Aurora's Public Art Commission (APAC) is seeking to raise at least \$800,000 through public and private partnerships to complete both exterior and interior renovations at the GAR Memorial Hall. Once work is complete, the building will be opened as a veterans' center and museum to learn about Aurora's role in America's wars and genealogical research.

People looking to make a donation to APAC's GAR restoration effort can:

- Go online to the Community Foundation of the Fox River Valley's website.
- Send a check or money order to the Aurora Public Art Commission Fund, Community Foundation of the Fox River Valley, 111 W. Downer Place, Aurora, IL 60506; or
- Call Aurora's Customer Service Center at 630-256-INFO or call the Community Foundation of the Fox River Valley at 630-896-7800.

The Civil War exhibit will be open to the public during regular gallery hours from noon to 4 p.m. Wednesday to Friday through Jan. 20, 2012. Daily admission is free.

Art At City Hall, Spring 2011, the Common Thread, A Group Show

4/29/11 - 2/3/12

The Aurora Public Art Commission presents "The Common Thread, A Group Show."

This exhibit will feature 2-dimensional works by eleven artists: Brian DeWolf, Eileen Hinkle, Judith Laczó, Ann MacFarland, Gwen Meeder, Diana Mitchell, Heide Reimann Morris, Laura Nicholson-Tom, Deirdre Schanen, Anne Von Ehr, and Carol M. Wiesman.

The exhibit will be on display from April 29, 2011 through February 3, 2012 at Aurora's City Hall, 44 East Downer Place. City Hall is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

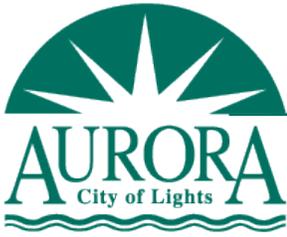
In a statement, the group describes the bond that connects them:

"The studio is a lonely place. If you can find a learning environment where people support each other, give constructive criticism and just pal around you know you have found something special. This group met at a pastel class in a suburban art center. Somehow, through the years we have still remained a united group that paints together, meets for breakfast and occasionally shows artwork together. The thing we have most in common is that we love to paint, even in different mediums, and find continual joy in sharing our work."

Art At City Hall

Aurora Mayor Thomas Weisner established the "Art In City Hall" series of exhibits in 2005, as a means of creating a more dynamic environment in Aurora's City Hall. The Aurora Public Art Commission produces the shows, which occupy all 5 floors of the building at 44 E. Downer Place. The Commission operates the David L. Pierce Art and History Center at 20 East Downer Place, where it sponsors four to six exhibits per year.

"Art At City Hall" features two shows per year, representing a wide variety of artistic styles and traditions. The Aurora Public Art Commission is seeking 2D art works in all media for this ongoing series. All shows are juried by art professionals. Artists and art groups who are interested in participating may send a CD Rom of 10-15 works, a resume(s), statement and a self addressed, stamped envelope to the Aurora Public Art Commission, Art In City Hall, 44 E. Downer PL., Aurora, IL 60507.



Public Art Division

2012-2013 Art Exhibits

Winter Garden of Youth Art

12/16/11 - 1/20/12

The 14th annual Winter Garden of Youth Art spotlights the artistic talents of Aurora students ranging from kindergarten through high school. The artwork, which will be displayed through Jan. 20, 2012, will feature a variety of mediums chosen by teachers and school faculty members. Admission to the opening reception, which will be held on Friday, December 16 from 5 - 7 p.m., and gallery is free.

The Aurora Public Art Commission Presents: Works by Dr. Charles Smith

3/15/12 - 5/16/13

From the Permanent collection of the Aurora Public Art Commission

The Aurora Public Art Commission is featuring an exhibit of works by Dr. Charles Smith. On display are more than twenty-five pieces from the commission's permanent collection.

Dr. Charles Smith, a sculptor, is the founder and Curator of the African-American Heritage Museum and Black Veterans Archive, which he established on land surrounding his home in Aurora, Illinois. That property is currently under restoration.

In the late 1980s, Dr. Smith began work on a series of sculptures that would tell the story of African-American experiences in the United States, from the slave ships to contemporary life. With no formal training in the arts, Smith, a Vietnam veteran and recipient of the Purple Heart, has said that he was compelled to create by the voice of God saying "Use art. I give you a weapon."

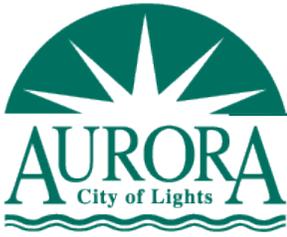
Inspired by his passion for African-American history, Smith transformed concrete, wire, wood, paint and found objects into sculptures. He filled his house and yard with portraits: captured slaves, manacled together, field slaves carrying their in-

fants, Harriet Tubman and her Underground Railroad, Sally Hemmings, Rosa Parks, a tender likeness of his own "Grandma Churning Butter" as well as cultural icons such as Sammy Davis Jr., Snoop Dog and Michael Jordan. In addition, Smith created memorials, such as the tribute to African-Americans who died in Vietnam and a sculpture of Eric Morse, the five year old dropped to his death from the 14th floor of a Chicago housing project.

By the mid 1990s, Dr. Smith's African-American Heritage Museum featured more than 800 sculptures, most of which surrounded the house. Speaking about the effect of his works on passers-by, Dr. Smith has said that the Aurora site was "A cemetery where people are not in the ground, but standing up, holding their obituaries and ready to be seen by you and you and you."

In 1999 the Art Institute of Chicago designated Smith's African-American Heritage Museum as a Millennium Site, recognizing its cultural and historical significance. In 2001 the Kane County Board provided funds for improvements to the museum. In 2002 The Kohler Foundation of Sheboygan, Wisconsin purchased 500 pieces from Charles Smith's collection. Working with the artist, conservators removed the sculptures for conservation treatment at their facility in Wisconsin.

The works purchased by the Kohler Foundation have been distributed to museums across the United States, including the Anacostia Museum of the Smithsonian; the John Michael Kohler Arts Center, Sheboygan WI; the Aurora Public Art Commission; the National Vietnam Veterans Art Museum; the Houston Museum of Fine Arts; Louisiana State University-Lafayette; Hampton University, Virginia; the Paris Gibson Square Museum, Great Falls, MT; the Lucy Craft Laney Museum, Augusta, Georgia; and Intuit Gallery, Chicago.



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2012 Art Exhibits

Dr. Smith now lives and works in Hammond, Louisiana, where he is creating a new sculpture site. In addition, eighteen of Smith's sculptures are now on display in the exhibit *Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness*, at the American Visionary Art Museum in Baltimore, Maryland.

Art at City Hall, Spring 2012, Aurora In Pictures, 175 Years

2/17/12 - 1/11/13

The Aurora Public Art Commission presents "Aurora In Pictures, 175 Years." This exhibit features more than 120 photographs and other images of Aurora from the 1840s through the present day. The show includes photos of Aurora during its earliest years, such as streetscapes depicting the construction of the downtown and bridges from the mid-1850s to the early 1900s. The exhibit focuses on the themes of Land, water, energy, transportation and work, and how these elements influenced the growth and character of the city over the years.

The exhibit will be on display from February 17, 2012 through January 11, 2013 at Aurora's City Hall, 44 East Downer Place. City Hall is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Off-street parking is available in the Stolp Avenue parking deck, which is located at the corner of Downer Place and Stolp Avenue. With the Downer Place bridges under construction, the deck can be accessed from Stolp Avenue from either Galena Boulevard or Benton Street.

Art At City Hall

Aurora Mayor Thomas Weisner established the "Art In City Hall" series of exhibits in 2005, as a means of creating a more dynamic environment in Aurora's City Hall. The Aurora Public Art Commission produces the shows, which occupy all 5 floors of the building at 44 E. Downer Place. The Commission operates the David L. Pierce Art and History Center at 20 East Downer Place, where it sponsors

four to six exhibits per year.

"Art At City Hall" features two shows per year, representing a wide variety of artistic styles and traditions. The Aurora Public Art Commission is seeking 2D art works in all media for this ongoing series. All shows are juried by art professionals. Artists and art groups who are interested in participating may send a CD Rom of 10-15 works, a resume(s), statement and a self addressed, stamped envelope to the Aurora Public Art Commission, Art In City Hall, 44 E. Downer PL., Aurora, IL 60507.

Jesse Howard, the Urban Abyss Series

2/24/12 - 4/20/12

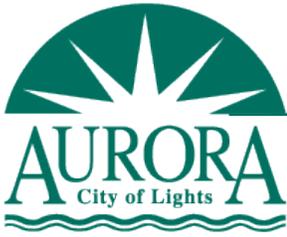
The Aurora Public Art Commission presents "Jesse Howard, the Urban Abyss Series."

Howard's works delve into contemporary urban life, addressing such issues as homelessness, alienation and the connections made between people in various locations.

"I'm interested in the interaction of people in an urban setting whether it's societal issues, the disenfranchised or the homeless," he said. "I want to capture their experiences, the effect they have on one another, as well as on the environment they are in at a particular point in time."

Howard has had his work displayed widely in the Chicago area as well as nationally. His paintings have been included in such venues as the Museum of Science and Industry, the Chicago Cultural Center, the Chicago Union League, the Minnesota Museum of Art and the Chautauqua 21st National Juried Drawing Show in New York.

Admission to the gallery is free. The exhibit will be on display from noon to 4 p.m. Wednesday to Friday through April 20.



Public Art Division

2012-2013 Art Exhibits

Off-street parking is available in the Stolp Avenue parking deck, which is located at the corner of Downer Place and Stolp Avenue. With the Downer Place bridges under construction, the deck can be accessed from Stolp Avenue from either Galena Boulevard or Benton Street.

The Aurora Public Art Commission is a civic organization dedicated to the preservation of public art in all of its forms. For more information on the Commission or the gallery, visit the City's website or call the Customer Service Center at 630-256-INFO.

From the Ground Up, A History of Architecture in Aurora

5/4/12 - 8/17/12

The Aurora Public Art Commission presents "From the Ground Up, A History of Architecture in Aurora."

The Aurora Public Art Commission and the Aurora Historical Society will help tell the story of Aurora's first 175 years through two new exhibits that will be unveiled Friday, May 4 at the David L. Pierce Art and History Center, 20 E. Downer Place.

The Art Commission will be holding an opening reception from 5 to 8 p.m. May 4 for its new exhibit, "From the Ground Up, A History of Architecture in Aurora." The exhibit honors Aurora's 175th anniversary and showcases the City's premier architects, dwellings and commercial buildings. The opening reception will include light hors d'oeuvres, cash bar and music by John Ivan.

The reception also will feature two different presentations celebrating Aurora's architectural treasures including:

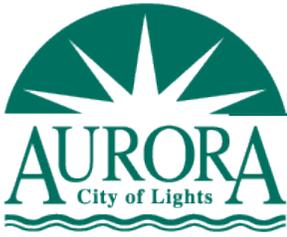


- 5:30 to 6 p.m.: "From Post-Modern to Historic: The Homes of Builder Don A. Tosi," given by Charlie Wilkins, City of Aurora Planning and Zoning staff member.
- 6 to 6:30 p.m.: Mayor Tom Weisner will announce the Mayor's Awards for Excellence in Historic Preservation for 2010-11.

The Aurora Historical Society will be unveiling a special exhibit titled "The Aurora Story: A Journey through 175 Years of Aurora History" in conjunction with the Art Commission's opening reception at the Pierce Art and History Center. Patrons can tour a comprehensive exhibit of 175 years of local history ranging from Native American dwellings to Aurora becoming Illinois' second largest city. The exhibit is sponsored by the City of Aurora and Caterpillar.

Admission to the reception and both galleries is free. The exhibits will be on display from noon to 4 p.m. Wednesday to Saturday through Saturday, Aug. 18 at the Pierce Art and History Center.

Off-street parking is available in the Stolp Avenue parking deck, which is located at the corner of Downer Place and Stolp Avenue. With the Downer Place bridges under construction, the deck can be



Public Art Division

2012-2013 Art Exhibits

accessed from Stolp Avenue from either Galena Boulevard or Benton Street.

The Aurora Public Art Commission is a civic organization dedicated to the preservation of public art in all of its forms. For more information on the Commission or the gallery, visit the City of Aurora's website.

Winter Garden of Youth Art

12/14/12 - 1/25/13

The Aurora Public Art Commission presents "Winter Garden of Youth Art, Art by Aurora Students from K-12"

An Introduction to the World of Comics

8/23/13 - 11/22/13

The Aurora Public Art Commission and Rotten Apple Studios present:

An Introduction to the World of Comics, works by 22 comic book artists. Rotten Apple Comics is an up and coming multi-media studio stationed in downtown Aurora, IL, that centers on creating high quality comics, both print and digital, live-action and animated web shows, and video games. The studio creates content for a variety of audiences, ranging from the adult crowd to family friendly entertainment. Created in 2011, the studio primarily focused on producing comic strips for local newspapers. Now, the group is moving in a new creative direction, which encompasses both printed and digital forms of entertainment. Twenty of the twenty-two artists are members of Rotten Apple, including Jason Arthur, Michael A. Cook, Gabrielle Domena, Thomas Lee Frye, Gaiter, Daimon Hampton, Matt Hansel, Tim Jensen, Marcel Little,

Suzie Little, Sean Luke, Angel Medina, Keith Mesch, Erik Perez, Brandon J. Santiago, Sam Schultz, Tony Smith, Brad Sun, Jason Szczyrk, and J. Thunderbird.

Also participating in the exhibit are artists Charley Krebs and Jon Stanicek.

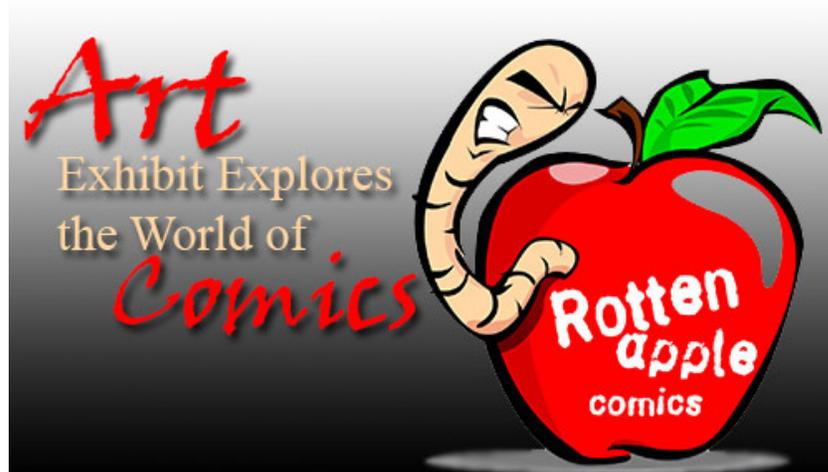
Charley Krebs

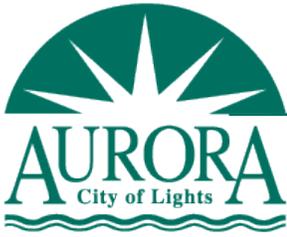
After being the staff cartoonist for his high school and college newspapers in Cicero, Illinois, Charley Krebs was hired by the Suburban LIFE Newspaper chain in 1978 as their editorial page cartoonist. He was the cartoonist for all of their newspapers at various times for the next 30 years. From 1996 to 2006 his work was recognized with one National Newspapers Association award, six Suburban

Newspapers of America awards, and ten Illinois Press Association awards including first place IPA rankings in 1996 and 2001.

Krebs also has served as cartoonist for

the Chicago arts weekly NewCity, the Copley newspaper chain and for the online AOL Patch among many other periodicals. His life-long influences from Mickey Mouse and Marvel Comics to Mad Magazine and Bill Mauldin are well-represented in a body of work that was featured in a 2008 career retrospective at the Riverside Arts Center. Since then he has participated in over two dozen art exhibits. For the past decade he has created a monthly music cartoon feature for Chicago Jazz Magazine. The Riverside resident continues his career in the arts as an illustrator for McKinsey and Company.





Public Art Division

2013-2014 Art Exhibits

Jon Stanicek

Jon Stanicek studied Graphic Art at the American Academy of Art from 86-88 and has been working as a freelance artist since 97 mostly doing storyboard work. This after working at the Ad agency Leo Burnett Chicago for nine years. Stanicek started his comic book career with the graphic novel "Jeremiah Cooper" in 2009 and it has continue with the titles "Black Clover", as well as "Blossoming Bushido" and "Washington Year One". Jon recently finished a comic book for Blue Water Productions following the history of the United States Air force.

Art at City Hall

2/15/13 - 10/11/13

Works by students from five Aurora high schools will participate on February 15 through October 11, 2013.

- Aurora Christian High
- East Aurora High
- Marmion Academy
- Rosary High
- West Aurora High

Located at city hall, Mayor Thomas J. Weisner established the Art At City Hall series of exhibits in 2005 as a means of creating a more dynamic environment in Aurora's City Hall. For information, please call (630)256-INFO.

Up From Bedrock - Restoring the Grand Army of the Republic Memorial Museum, Post 20

5/17/13 - 12/31/13

The Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) Memorial Museum, Post 20 is one of Aurora's most beloved landmarks. It was constructed in 1878 with funds raised by the citizens of Aurora, many of whom had fought in the Civil War. Their intention was to create a sacred space. It was a shrine to their fallen comrades: men who had died in the cause of preserving the union and ending slavery. It would

also serve as a veterans' meeting hall and as Aurora's first free public library. The GAR organization operated the building until 1939, and then, with membership dwindling, they organized the Sons of Union Veterans, who held meetings in the hall until the late 1990s, when the city was forced to close it due to structural problems.

In 2007 the City of Aurora began the stabilization and restoration of the exterior of the GAR. The project was funded by the city, as well as with grants from the Kane County Riverboat Fund, the National Trust for Historic Preservation/American Express, the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Activity, and the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. Between 2007 and 2012, the City of Aurora completed phases one and two of the exterior restoration and phase one of the interior restoration. Up From Bedrock documents this process through photographs and text.

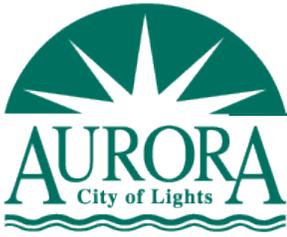
Although much has been done, there remains one last phase of interior restoration. Once this is completed, the Aurora Public Art Commission, which oversees operation of the GAR, plans to open the building once again, as a museum and center for veterans, for historical and genealogical research, and as an educational venue about Aurora's role in America's wars.

Student Artwork Brings Warmth to Winter Garden Exhibit

12/14/13 - 1/24/14

Aurora students with a flair for creativity will have their work highlighted in the Aurora Public Art Commission's 16th annual "Winter Garden of Youth Art"

Children from kindergarten through high school will have their artwork showcased from Friday, Dec. 13 through Friday, Jan. 24 at the Art Commission Gallery at the David L. Pierce Art and History Center, 20 E. Downer Place. The exhibit will kick-



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2014 Art Exhibits

off with an opening reception scheduled from 5 to 7 p.m. Dec. 13.

The presentation features a total of 130 pieces of art from 26 schools, including a variety of mediums such as paintings, drawings, printmaking, photography, sculpture, collage, computer arts, jewelry and ceramics. All works in the display have been selected by art teachers or other school faculty members.

Participating schools in the "Winter Garden of Youth Art" are Allen, Annunciation, Aurora Christian High, Beaupre, Brady, Dieterich, East Aurora High, Fox River Academy, Fred Rodgers Magnet Academy, Gates, Granger, Hall, Hermes, Hope D. Wall, Jewel, Johnson, Krug, Marmion Academy, O'Donnell, Oak Park, Rollins, Rosary High, St. Peter's, Waldo, Washington and West Aurora High.

Admission to the reception and gallery exhibit is free. The gallery will be open from noon to 4 p.m. Dec. 14 and 18-21; and Jan. 2-3, 8-10, 15-17 and 22-24.

The Aurora Public Art Commission is a civic organization dedicated to the preservation of public art in all of its forms. For more information on the Commission or the gallery, visit the City of Aurora's website.

WOMEN

2/21/14 - 4/11/14

The Aurora Public Art Commission and Rotten Apple Studios present: Women, Works by 16 artists

Co curated by the Aurora Public Art Commission Rotten Apple Studios, Women features works

by Carmen Class, Barbara Colbert, Maureen Gasek, Solange Marie Henson, Kau, Laura Lein-Svencner, Maria Malayter, Dianne Martia, Patti Parish, Jennifer Rauch, Mary Rodriguez Elizabeth (Betty) Palella, Tiana Solomon, Marita Valdizan, Janet Wickham and Jeannine Worthington.

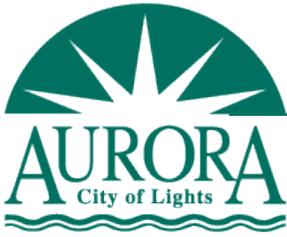
Women features works in a wide range of media, including oil, acrylics, watercolor, jewelry, and photography. The opening reception for the exhibit is Friday, February 21 from 5:00 - 7:30 pm. Women will be on display until April 11, 2014.

February 21 - April 11, 2014

Opening Reception: Friday, February 21, from 5:00 - 7:30 with light hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar
Musical entertainment provided by John Ivan

Regular Gallery Hours: Wednesday - Friday from Noon - 4:00 pm. Admission is free.





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Jazz Occurrence, Works by 31 Artists

5/23/14 - 8/23/14

Jazz Occurrence, which opens Friday, May 23 from 5:00 – 8:00 pm, celebrates the eclectic and all-encompassing nature of creative music. It is a musical event with visual accompaniment. The show will be headlined by the Vince Davis Achtet, featuring Association For the Advancement of Creative Musicians legend Ari Brown, and sonically supported by recording artists and international jazz stars Har-

rison Bankhead on bass, Mars Williams on reeds, Jim Baker on keys, Scott Hesse on guitar, and Preyas Roy on vibes. Lewis Achenbach will be the brushes on canvas to round out the Achtet. During the opening reception, the Achtet will play free jazz and Achenbach will paint on canvasses placed around the band. Achenbach's goal, he has said "Is to capture the frequency of the room through form and color and create an environment of complete freedom."

Achenbach, who founded Jazz Occurrence, has been drawing and painting the local jazz scene for several years. Normally a sketching spectator, Achenbach has said that he "will be an active participant during this event. All those who attend the opening will be participants also, as the room itself will be a character in this play of sound and vision."

In addition, Jazz Occurrence features the work of 31 visual artists. Notably, music based works by Jeff Schlanger the Music Witness (musicWitness®) will be on display (www.musicwitness.com). Schlanger has been painting live free jazz for four decades. Achenbach writes that "while I am the novice, Jeff Schlanger is the consummate master." Mr. Schlanger will be receiving a lifetime achieve-

ment award along with Charles Gayle at this year's VisionFest 19 in New York City.

Participating artists are:

Geoffrey Beadle, John Begansky, Karl Bielik, Alison Brady, Ayn S. Choi, Michelle Connolly, Lauren Deutsch, Joseph Gagnepain, Scott Hesse, Andrea Jablonski, Michael Krasowitz, Kenneth Lawler, Steve Lowery, Michael Mahalchick, Adrian Mills, Daniel Murtagh, Dave Naydock, Jim Newberry, Sam Oulvong, Alberto Paniaya, Michael Parque, Jennifer Peters, Grace Pickut, Buddy Plumlee, Lance Rautzhan, Ken Reif, Jeff Schlanger, Alex Velazquez, Brett Whitacre, Lewis Achenbach and Mars Williams.

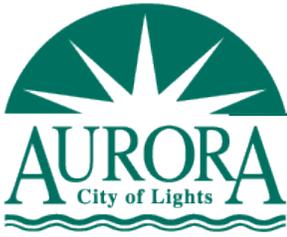
During the event the Vincent Davis Achtet will be recorded for a CD release by David Zuchowski and it will be filmed by David Weathersby, and streamed live for viewers outside the area. The short film will be comprised of on-site interviews and actual footage of the Occurrence.

Jazz Occurrence has held events in many venues in Chicago, including Constellation, Elastic, the Hideout, Bar DeVile, the Hungry Brain, Skylark, Whistler, Myopic Books, City Winery and the Green Mill.

Admission to the reception for Jazz Occurrence is free. There will be light hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar. The exhibit will be on display until August 23, 2014, The Aurora Public Art Commission is located at 20 East Downer Place in Aurora Illinois. A preview of the artwork will be showcased on the Facebook page ACHENBACH IN CHICAGOLAND.



ARI BROWN @ Constellation Chicago January 17th 2014 @ lewisachenbach/ARS



Public Art Division

2014 Art Exhibits

Autumn 2014 Invitational Exhibit, Works by 6 Artists

9/5/14 - 12/6/14

The Aurora Public Art Commission presents:

Aurora Public Art Commission Autumn 2014 Invitational Exhibit Works by 6 artists:

Luis DeLaTorre , Alejandro Mazon, Lazarus Nazario, Alberto Paniaya, Domingo Parada, and Joseph Sen-trock Perez.

This exhibit will be on display from September 5 through December 6, 2014. The opening reception for the Autumn Invitational is Friday, September 5 from 5:00 – 7:30 pm.

Artist Statements

Luis De La Torre <http://www.delatorrearts.com>
Luis De La Torre arrived in Chicago's neighborhood of Bridgeport at the age of seven. Although he had spent most of his childhood in the states of Jalisco and Nayarit in western Mexico, he was actually born in McAllen, Texas, near the U.S.–Mexico border in 1969. These early years may continue to unconsciously inspire the work of this accomplished and dedicated artist. While his paintings and illustrations do not appear to be overtly Mexican on the surface, many of the ancient Mexican concepts of life and symbols of faith and power continue to appear among his many layers of imagery.

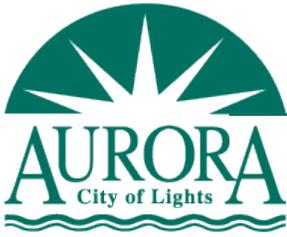
De La Torre's work expresses the many dualities the artist experiences in his own life. Like the artist, who grew up Mexican in the heart of the U.S. Midwest, his paintings reveal two cultures, two histories, and two distinct worlds fused together into a single enigmatic hallucination. The dreamlike scenes De La Torre often represents hail from the diverse lands that fuel his imagination – the real and the subconscious, the urban and the mythical. De La Torre feeds his muse a diet of U.S. pop cul-

ture, current world events, and rituals that mimic ancient ceremonies, then starves her with his own sleep deprivation exercises to see what she reveals. Like an archaeologist, he digs far down into his weary conscience in order to unearth metaphors from the past into the present.

Alejandro Mazon <http://alejandromazon.com>
I am Cuban by birth, Spanish by blood, and American by choice. Since I began painting, my artistic vocabulary has centered on the exploration of these identities. Like many Cuban-American artists of my generation, I have used the feelings of exile and alienation, assimilation and rebirth, struggle and triumph, as the foundations of my work.

While most artists pursue artistic originality, I intentionally deny it by appropriating images from the old masters – Goya, Velasquez, Bosch and Ingres – to name a few. My aim is to establish a dialogue between them and myself and to experiment with the tensions between artists at opposite ends of the spectrum and separated by considerable amounts of time. Ironically, over the years, my very denial of artistic originality through my appropriation of images has produced an extensive and original body of work. Integrating these outside images into my paintings also reflects my struggle to integrate into a country in which I often feel I don't belong. It can be as difficult to "fit" an image into a painting – to make it work – as it is to fit into a society that frequently feels alien.

I have never consciously given much thought to how leaving Cuba at an early age might have affected me as an adult. It is only when I begin a new work, searching through images from the past to reshape, redraw, and repaint and then try to find a place for them in my canvas, that I begin to wonder if I am trying to connect with something familiar, something remembered, maybe even something innate. In the end, I make them fit and once they do, the work is finished. Then I start all over again."



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Lazarus Nazario <http://lazarusnazario.com>

"I'm a painter creating Underground Black Market Devotional Propaganda: Sociopolitical art using pop surrealism and magical realism. Using devotional propaganda I reclaim my connection to the past, using the vernacular of the present, to change the course of the future.

I received scholarships to attend the National Academy of Design School of Fine Arts where I studied under Sharon Sprung. I studied at the Art Student's League and The School of Visual Arts, NYC. I've taught at Snug Harbor Cultural Center and Wagner college in New York.

My art is featured in collections across the United States including Co-Chair of the 1199SEIU National Benefit Fund Dennis Rivera and Light Show and Installation Artist Joshua White.

In 2006 I received an Original Work Grant from the NY State Council of the Arts & Council on the Arts & Humanities for Staten Island, 2005 Grant from the George Sugarman Foundation. I received the James Amster Memorial Award from The National Arts Club, New York and won first prize for portraiture at the National Academy of Design School of Fine Arts."

Alberto Paniaya <http://www.birdcitysaints.com>

In his work, Alberto focuses on the surface of biological objects. He explores their organic forms, colors and textures to capture these visual elements and translate them into a personal expression. As described by Alberto, his

work is a microscopic fragment of God's perfect creation. It reflects on the beauty of the world in which we live and gives honor to the creator of all things. Paniaya has exhibited in Chicago, Mexico, Vienna and Italy.

Domingo Parada <http://www.birdcitysaints.com>

"I believe that, as a painter, my creative work is fruit of my awareness of the world which surrounds us. But the world is not only a visual world. It is also the immensurable world of our interior mind, its landscape of emotions, imagination and fantasy.

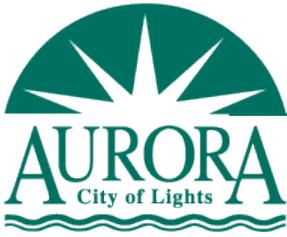
All that exists in the Universe is constantly created by energy. This energy manifests itself in billions of vibrations, among this is light. Light is color. The infinite colors of the spectrum together with the geometric forms that are essence of the Universe give me a palette that I can use to demonstrate the moments of my conscious experience.

My work can be interpreted by consciously or un-consciously grasping the vibrations of the light in all of its forms and colors as if they were a form of pure music."



Joseph Sentrock Perez <http://www.birdcitysaints.com>

Joseph "Sentrock" Perez is an artist originally from Phoenix, AZ. He moved to Chicago to pursue a change in scenery and obtain a Bachelors of Art & Design at Columbia College. Perez is known for using bright colors, intense lettering and characters that grab the attention of viewer. A believer in the quote "Art cannot deny the environment that it is in", Perez allows his surroundings of living in Chicago to influence his latest works.



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Materiality

Curated by Jen Evans and Rena Church, Works by 7 artists

2/27/15 - 4/25/15

Materiality features seven artists whose works are informed by the intersection between the materials that they use and the stories that they wish to tell. The exhibit includes painting, sculptures, installation and photographs.

Artist Statements

Andrew Barco

I work with optical and pneumatic technologies whose unfamiliarity to me keeps me in a state of attunement, surprise, and wonder as I develop the work. When I approach these materials I call upon my background in playwriting, indulging in the new vocabularies of worlds being explored, and composing the system to bear witness to the material resistance and my own care or recklessness towards specific elements in the process of its production. In fine woodworking, in which I am trained, the joint is the moment where the inherent strength of the material or object is both revealed and tested. I use this sense of “joinery” with all the materials I bring together, unleashing a drama between them and the worlds and values they each materialize. These approaches all fight towards allowing the assemblage a sort of eloquence on its own terms, a material vibrancy that challenges the viewer.

Tom Berenz

My paintings are about my relationship to the world around me; cerebral and physical, intellectual and visceral. I use the disaster motif as a metaphor to discuss personal, sociopolitical, environmental and ideological issues. Through the motif of disaster, I explore the existential self and examine personal narratives, with some being more literal and others more enigmatic. Notions of loss, place, memory, space and time are central as I reexamine personal experiences from my past and present. The imagery is in constant flux, but always returns to a pile. A pile is everything and it is

nothing. It is a mound that once was and now isn't; a mass of information, both physical and metaphysical, organized and chaotic.

Melanie Brown

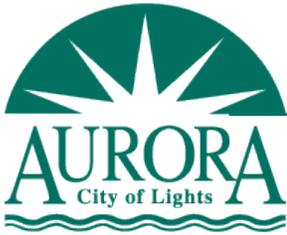
I allow the physical material I am working with stay fresh and alive. The image I hold in my head or observe with my eyes and the material I use to put it on canvas or paper create something that is neither purely abstract nor figurative, but rather something in between. I'm telling stories as I observe the world, but the act of painting allows the narrative and image to evolve as it is told and seen.

Anni Holm Unwanted

My contribution to the Materiality exhibition is an interactive installation titled “Unwanted”. The piece is inspired by the loss of my mother-in-law, who passed away after a short encounter with cancer in 2014. Like me, she was not keen on throwing things away. She left behind a four bedroom house chock full of stuff, which took a few months to sort through, divide up and clean out. On some days we all, (her four kids, spouses and grandchildren), worked together tackling different areas, sharing memories out loud as specific objects emerged. To me the sorting and sharing provided an opportunity to process her death, but also reflect fondly upon her life. To me it became a valuable lesson in holding on and letting go.

Inspired by projects such as Freecycle and The Free Store Chicago, the “Unwanted” installation seeks to act as a conduit for exchange of unwanted goods. Anyone visiting the exhibition can bring objects and place those as they see fit in the installation. Unlike most art exhibitions, anyone can also freely remove objects from the installation and take them home. It is my hope, that the installation will change organically as the objects are exchanged to illustrate how we each experience “the same” objects but assign them value differently.

James Jenkins



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My sculptures provide a theme for both intellectual and visual curiosity. They contain road maps directing the observer through a process of distillation and fusion of contrasting ideas and investigative humor.

Each piece offers a message for the owner to enjoy privately and outwardly.

I welcome the opportunity to share this artistic experience with those looking for a higher level of enjoyment and harmony with their surroundings.

Michael Meilahn

“Contemporary glass and mixed media” is the label I use to describe my artwork. The glasswork ranges from purely blown forms to cast, cut, and polished glass assemblages that deal with classical form, function, and decorative pattern. The conceptual themes are drawn from my personal experience and often take the form of mixed media sculpture and installation.



Early in my career I was involved with the mystery and mastering of glass blowing techniques. Once that was accomplished, I turned my energies toward aesthetic composition and concepts of design.

Upon taking on the label of artist, I have a commitment not only to originality, creativity, and experimentation; but I must also push to the edges of my ability. I draw from past experiences and make the choices that ultimately unfold into what I am willing to present to

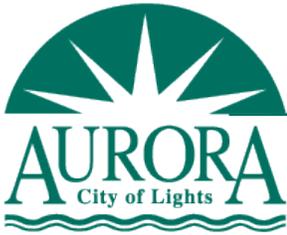
the world.

In handling a material again and again and again, I discover what the limitations of that material are and where the design of my imagination may go. The challenge is in the process of bringing what is in my head to the limitations of the medium.

Sara Willadsen

I make pictures that satisfy my curiosity in aesthetics and found materials. Combining these articles with reappropriations of my own work allows me to employ past patterns and marks as prompts for new structures and environments. The aggressive process used to

construct these secretive spaces is kept in balance with the consciousness to know when to stop.



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Latin Jazz Occurrence #5, Works by 11 artists 5/15/15 - 7/11/15

The opening reception for Latin Jazz Occurrence #5 is Friday, May 15 from 5:00 – 8:00 pm. 11 visual artists represent the Latin Jazz Occurrence. They are Lewis Achenbach (founder Jazz Occurrence, documentary painter), Renee Baker (graphic scores, CMOP Executive Director and Artistic Director/Music Director Chicago Modern Orchestra Project and, AACM), Douglas Ewart (sculpture, SAIC, AACM), Cameron Pfiffner, Lisa Flahive (live jazz painter), Jordi Pedrola (Barcelona, Spain), Spencer Hutchinson and Lara Oppenheimer (installation), Bob Stickloon (Pennsylvania), Perry Slade (photographer and JazzO alumni), Alberto Paniaya (Mexico City).

The opening reception for Latin Jazz Occurrence #5 is Friday, May 15 from 5:00 – 8:00 pm. The opening will feature music by James Sanders' PROYECTO LIBRE (free project). During the reception, Achenbach will paint on canvasses placed around the band. Achenbach's goal, he has said "Is to capture the frequency of the room through form and color and create an

environment of complete freedom." The evening will be filmed by David Weathersby of SubVerse Studios (City Vanguard), recorded by David Zuchowski of DaverNoise, and photographed by artist Perry Slade.

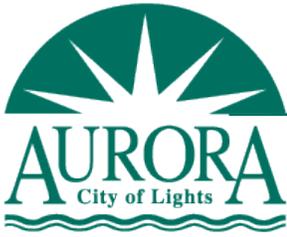
Proyecto Libre is James Sanders' ongoing collective that merges Afro-Latin folkloric traditions with

Chicago-style free improvisation. Proyecto Libre includes James Sanders on Violin <http://www.jamessandersviolin.com>, Harrison Bankhead on bass (<https://harrisonbankhead.bandcamp.com>), Avreeayl Ra (<http://www.chicagomusic.org/artist/avreeayl-ra>) on drums and Jean-Christophe Leroy as Percussionist (<http://jclpercussion.com/>).

In writing about his work, James Sanders has said: "In music we sometimes feel a need to categorize what we are playing by genre or a combination of genres (i.e. Latin Jazz, Free Latin Jazz, Soul,

Blues-tinged Bebop, etc.). These can be useful labels but they can also set limits if we confine ourselves to one category or another. Often times a performance really contains myriads of elements and musical DNA from hundreds of sources that could be influencing even the most genre specific performance. We will





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always draw from the well of prior experience in reacting to the music, but perhaps we can open more possibilities by not setting as many parameters that will dictate how we will react. Creative breakthrough often comes as a result of “stumbling” upon something or “accidental” discovery.

Fred Anderson once told me that the language of Bebop evolved out of much trial and error and gradually took shape. Indeed, Django Reinhardt developed his signature style of playing the guitar after being horribly injured in a fire and losing the use of two fingers on his left hand. He revolutionized guitar technique forever.

It seems that getting beyond our comfort zone, a willingness to try ideas that may not work, can allow for unanticipated possibilities. Is there a term for that? Avreeyl Ra calls what happens in truly creative moments “Intuitive Expression”.

“Sonido Solido (Solid Sound) is our ongoing collaboration with Achenbach as he paints us live in performance, transforming aural art into its visual counterpart as it happens. The artist has been chronicling Chicago’s improvising music scene in his distinctive way for many years, including two shows with Proyecto Libre at Elastic in 2014.”

Admission is free. Refreshments will be provided and there will be a cash bar. Donations are graciously accepted. There will be Harrison Bankhead JazzO tee shirts available to purchase, the first of their kind.

Jazz Occurrence has held events in many venues in Chicago, including Constellation, Elastic, the Hideout, Bar DeVille, the Hungry Brain, Skylark, Whistler, The Aurora Public Art Commission (2014), Myopic Books, City Winery, the Velvet Lounge, the Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art Chicago, Instituto Cervantes Chicago (Jazz Occurrence 3), Glen Ellyn Bookstore, Matoaca Elementary School (residency) and the Green Mill.

To keep the Jazz Occurrence free to the public, artist Lewis Achenbach is selling sketches of the Jazz scene in Chicagoland at \$100 each. The funds go directly to the artists. Please go to <http://lewisachenbach.com/products/> to purchase artwork and get a complimentary Harrison Bankhead tee shirt (please specify size S-3XL when ordering).

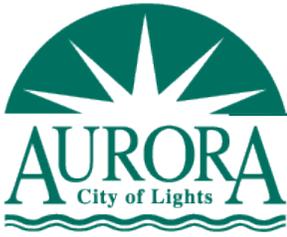
Admission to the reception for Jazz Occurrence is free. There will be light hors d’oeuvres and a cash bar. The exhibit will be on display until July 11, 2015. The Aurora Public Art Commission is located at 20 East Downer Place in Aurora Illinois. A preview of the artwork will be showcased on the Facebook page **ACHENBACH IN CHICAGOLAND**.

Art for the Public—rediscovering WPA era artwork in Aurora.

May 29, 2015

Art For the Public highlights some of the ongoing research, discoveries made, and mysteries still yet to be solved surrounding the artwork created in Aurora by the work relief efforts of the artists employed by the Works Progress Administration (WPA). The Works Progress Administration was established by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt in 1935 and ran through June of 1943. The WPA was the largest program created by Roosevelt’s New Deal Agency, employing millions of unemployed men and women for public works projects such as construction of public buildings and roads. Within the WPA, Federal Project Number One was created, which employed artists, musicians, writers, actors and directors to create large scale fine arts projects.

Art For the Public features images of many WPA murals that were created for Aurora, with a special focus on schools in Districts 129 and 131. Also on display will be a portion of a mural by WPA artist Paul Stoddard, created for the old West Aurora High School in 1933. The mural, which depicts the story of writing, is currently undergoing restoration.



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In addition, there will be images of what Signorelli describes as “one of the most exciting discoveries”-- a ‘lost’ mural at Freeman Elementary School. The mural, Landing of the Pilgrims, was painted by Emmanuel

Jacobson in 1937. It was known to have existed but was nowhere to be found on the walls of the school. Signorelli and officials at Freeman, armed with a photo of the 1937 mural, searched the school’s hallways but found nothing. The mural was finally discovered by Faith Greising, a fifth grade teacher at Freeman.

She searched the walls of the school, found some chipped paint and called in Signorelli. The two identified what appeared to be canvas under painted walls. They lifted off some ceiling tiles, revealing a portion of the brightly colored mural. The lower piece, which was below the drop ceiling, is under many coats of paint. The next morning Greising shared the discovery with her students. Said Greising: “There was tons of buzz and chatter and of course this super

excited teacher telling them the story...they were really excited about the Freeman mystery! ...they want to fix it, restore it, share it with everyone!!”

The public is invited to come share in the discoveries and perhaps help solve some remaining mysteries. Art for the Public opens Friday May 29, 5-7pm and runs through August 1. Exhibit hours are Wednesdays through Saturdays, 1-4pm.

