

Perspectives



grandvalleyartists.com

May 2021



You're probably noticing something different about our May Newsletter. If you haven't been following our Hunkering Down Facebook posts, you may not know that Mary Marin, our good friend and Newsletter publisher/editor/designer/writer/collator, has undergone unexpected and serious surgery. We are all sending her lots of love and positive energy during this uncertain time! Mary is such an important and valued board member that it will take two people to do the work she usually handles all by herself with incredible grace.

Our Secretary, Dana Donnell, has offered to step in to publish the newsletter while Mary recuperates. Mary Baine, our wonderful Membership Chairperson, is handling our Hunkering Down Facebook site and making certain our Mail Chimp articles are going out.

You can send Mary good wishes at [Mary | Journal \(caringbridge.org\)](http://Mary | Journal (caringbridge.org))

Submitted by Dana Donnell

Please Speak Up Regarding Our Move!

Grand Valley Artists boasts a 60-plus year history in West Michigan and currently has 240 members! Since 2018, GVA has been the beneficiary of a very generous lease agreement from Dave Bazen (GVA member) and Bazen Electric—but we cannot hope to replicate our monthly rent of approximately \$1700 on the open market. Our three-year lease on Service Road has expired, Bazen's business is expanding and Bazen Electric needs the space we now occupy. Grand Rapids' commercial real estate is booming! Premium lease rates and high demand mean limited choices in desirable locations. In addition, GVA needs parking space, studio/gallery space and program space, leaving very few affordable options. The GVA Studio Search Committee has looked at over twenty options and crisscrossed the greater GR area multiple times. It has considered members' demographic data and tried to target areas that would allow access to all of our members and be attractive to new members as well.

However... in order to do the job well, **it is imperative that we hear from our members!** We need to know what members want from GVA and how much they are willing to pay (with time, talent and money) to get what they want. So please take the time to write a few short sentences (cut and paste if you find that easier) in response to two questions. Multiple choice surveys just don't give us a complete understanding of your thoughts and opinions, so please help us represent you fully!

1. What kinds of services do you want GVA to provide? (classes, workshops, studio time, evening studio time, sketch groups, gallery space, gallery shows, renting to other groups, social gatherings, more/other?)

2. How would you choose to help pay for the services you desire? (help raise money, donate, pay higher membership dues, surcharges for sketch sessions, find matching funds, volunteer to keep the studio open to attract more members, volunteer with shows and exhibits, other/more?) Get creative...for example, having members volunteer to sit for Monday portrait sketch would save the organization \$1750 per year!

Send your responses **today** to danaBdonnell@gmail.com.... Thank you!

Submitted by the GVA Search Committee

Bliss & Vinegar

GVA has enjoyed a wonderful relationship with Bliss & Vinegar in Cascade. This upscale luncheon spot offers a great opportunity for our artists to share their work! The work of Rose Ellis is now on display. Be sure to swing by, grab a fantastic salad and check it out.

If you want to show your work at Bliss & Vinegar, you will need to share some of it in the gallery on our website, www.grandvalleyartists.com, so the owners can see what you do. They decide whose work they want to feature. Please do not contact them directly. Marty Klar coordinates this venue for us. Have questions? Call Marty at 616-813-7921.



Artwork by Rose Ellis

Art Around Town from WoodTV.com 8

Great news! There's a new art gallery and community center which opened in late April. Located at the corner of Burton and Division, **E'lla's Art Gallery and Community Center** offers a great destination "day out" for all art lovers.

"I want them to have a feeling of happiness, joy; I want them to feel good when they leave this place," said Webber.

"I'm a community person. I want all races, all forms of art; I just want it to be a big art blast here."

Those interested can find more information on the [New Art Gallery and Community Center Opens in SW Grand Rapids \(wgrd.com\)](http://www.wgrd.com)



Regular Zoom Critique: First Tuesday of the Month at 7:30 pm.

Anyone wishing to show work at the photography critique, please send images to Randy Nyhof at r.nyhof@comcast.net no later than the day before the meeting. Rus Barneveld is showing his work at the Lowell Branch of Kent District Library until the end of May. Randy Nyhof has work at the Lowell Arts venue in their spring *Getaway* show.

GVA Welcomes New Members:

Dale Kenel, Erica Sher, Jack Daleske, Holly Hoover, Tarence Lauchie

Opportunities for Artists

Feeling Good? Feeling Good!

Submitted by Mary Helmick

Have you heard about the annual *Shining Through* fundraiser here in Grand Rapids? It's a curated auction which takes place each fall to benefit The Mental Health Foundation of West Michigan. You'll receive 51% of the sale price, while the remaining 49% goes to support their valuable programs. *Feeling Good* is this year's theme. So...

IF you value mental health services

AND manage depression, anxiety, or other mental health challenges

THEN consider entering your 2D artwork!

Important Dates

Drop-off art: June 1 – 11

Art auction: Thursday, Oct. 21

Contact Person Kandice Sloop, 616-389-8601 KandiceSloop@benice.org

Kandice can answer any questions you have and mail you an entry packet. There is no entry fee for this show. Once pieces are accepted, matting and framing are provided free by a locally owned gallery to ensure they're looking their best for auction night.

Several GVA artists participate annually, including myself. Please take a look through your art stash and consider submitting up to 7 pieces for consideration in this year's art auction. The organizers set silent auction prices, but it's anyone's guess as to how high prices will rise on live auction pieces!

The Mental Health Foundation of West Michigan has been a major player in the field of promoting mental health awareness, suicide prevention, stomping out the stigma of mental illness, and so much more. They serve our local area and beyond! Please visit their website to learn more: www.benice.org/

Hope you are feeling good!



Watercolor by Jim Johnson

Festival Calling Plein Air Painters

Submitted by Dana Donnell

Festival of the Arts 2021 is hosting a Plein Air weekend and Exhibition, June 4, 5 and 6. It is free to register and participate.

All painters will be asked to sign up for at least one shift. Completed works will be turned over to Festival 2021 for a show following the

weekend. A maximum of 50 pieces will be selected for the Plein Air Exhibition and all of those works must be for sale. Each selected entry will be digitally photographed and the artist will own the digital file. Festival pays for all framing and digital photography costs. Three \$300 Awards will be selected by the Plein Air Jurors, Stephan and Taylor Smith of Muse Gallery. The award winners agree to have prints of their work sold by Festival of the Arts. The submission and delivery process will be sent with all instructions and the assignment of locations to the artists registered shortly after the **May 17 deadline**.

For important details about this event read the call for artists at <https://festivalgr.org/plein-air-artist>

Email pleinairpainting@festivalgr.org with questions.

Next GVA Member Critique Session, Thursday, May 6th

Zoom at 7:30. Images must be emailed to r.nyhof@comcast.net by Wednesday, May 5th.

Please send ideas for programs to Randy as well!

ArtPrize Gears Up for Fall 2021 Exhibition

Submitted by Mary Helmick

With fingers crossed, ArtPrize organizers are planning on Covid-19 numbers being down this fall for their Sep. 16 – Oct. 3 citywide exhibition! New this year: artists can choose to participate in an art auction, setting a minimum bid and receiving 100% of the sale price. Entry fees are \$50 for individual artists and \$100 for collaborations. Grants and cash awards hope to entice a wide array of provocative and delightful art-- something for everyone!

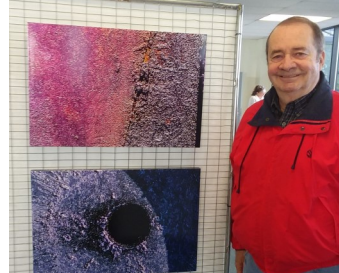
Check out details at <https://www.artprize.org/>

Important dates

Artist registration: April 19 – June 10

Connect with a venue: May 3 – June 23

Exhibition: September 16 – October 3



Wayne Pierce, ArtPrize 2018



From The Franciscan Life Process Center

Submitted by Kathleen Bechtel

The Franciscan Life Process Center Artist Retreat Center is located on 230 acres of farmland in Lowell, MI. It provides artists with an opportunity to learn from nationally known instructors in a workshop setting.

FLPC invites artists, writers, musicians and other artisans to use its overnight accommodations to renew their creative spirits.

Are Art Workshops Safe?

The Franciscan Life Process Center observes the protocols for safety during the coronavirus pandemic. Below you will find comments from participants in FLPC Art Workshops:

"I felt the Center takes the caution and protection of the visitors very seriously."

"Masked. Rooms clean! Lots of ways to get outside. Good circulation. Well spaced out."

"More than adequate social distancing. Masks were required and worn properly. Windows were opened and healthy ventilation. Very clean."

"All the staff wore masks."

"When I arrive, it feels like home."

"Every precaution has been taken!"

"The staff followed all safety protocols and reminded workshop participants regularly to adhere to protocols. Facility is clean and comfortable. Each student is given plenty of space to paint and approximately distance from other students. Awesome facility!"

To learn more go to [Art Program – Franciscan Life Process Center](#) .

Why not ask your kids to support GVA for Mother's/Father's Day?

www.gofundme.com/f/grand-valley-artists?

Exhibition News: Award Winners

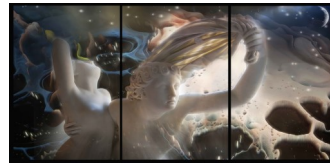
Congratulations to the award winners in the Van Singel Fine Arts Center Show!



1st Place: *Franciscan Field*
by Mary Serra Veneklas



2nd Place: *London Tower Wall and Tree* by Mary Reusch



3rd Place: *The Wind and Psyche* by Evie Carrier



Honorable Mention: *Paul* by Leon Lou

The Grand Valley Artists Exhibit opened March 24th at the beautiful Van Singel Arts Center (8500 Burlingame SW, Byron Center). The show may be seen in person by appointment only. Please email Sara Bower, sbower@bcpsk12.net, to schedule your visit. View the Van Singel show virtually at [VanSingel 2021.pdf \(grandvalleyartists.com\)](http://VanSingel2021.pdf(grandvalleyartists.com)). An off-the-wall reception is planned for June 13th from 1:00-3:00 pm with juror Stephen Duren discussing the artists' works and the award selections at 2:00 pm. At 2:30 artists may take their work down. The event will be subject to CDC guidelines requiring masks and social distancing. Mark your calendars! We will update everyone if plans change, as our first priority is to keep GVA safe and healthy.

GVA is an all-volunteer organization.

It needs your help in order to thrive in the next five years. Please email President Joanne Swann (joswann@sbcglobal.net) to contribute your time and talent to Grand Valley Artists.

Officers, Board Members and Committee Chairs of GVA

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Reeds Lake Art Festival

Open Position

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GVA Library

Open Position

Grand Valley Artists

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