

Three Cities Art Club

April 2011 Newsletter

Monday, April 4th 7 - 9 p.m.

Canton Township Hall

1150 Canton Center Road South

Lower Level - Meeting Room A



SNACKS FOR
APRIL
Liz Gullikson

MARCH POPULAR VOTE WINNERS



FIRST PLACE

Winter Scene, Photo by **Allen Brooks**



SECOND PLACE

Untitled, Oil by **David Lamb**



THIRD PLACE

John Lennon, Acrylic by **Marilyn Meredith**

APRIL PRESENTATION Member, Susan Aitken

Susan Aitken is an artist with many hats (berets?☺), one of them being a mother of four and another being the secondary art teacher at Plymouth Christian Academy in Canton. Originally from South Jersey, she earned a BA in



Art Education from Rowan University and revisited the college scene between child three and four to update a lapsed teaching certificate. There she discovered a penchant for watercolor!

The hat that might interest you most, however, for the sake of our April club meeting, is her foray into illustration. Through the years, she has illustrated twelve children's books (and authored one) for the Centering Corporation that deal with the grieving process. She plans to share the illustrations with you, discuss how she came to be doing this kind of work, and talk a bit about her paintings. Watercolor is her primary medium for both the illustrations and her paintings; she loves the challenge of having to leave the white areas and the surprise of colors flowing together creating various effects. Often she will incorporate colored pencil for details and use pen and ink in the illustrations as well.

In her paintings - and the illustrations - she tends to use that which is around her and with which she is most familiar as subject matter and no matter how many times she attempts to delve into abstraction or non-representation, she is continually drawn back to realism. Like the illustrations, her work usually has some narrative content beyond just the subject matter, leaving it up to the viewer to



determine any personal significance. Even though they are rendered a bit differently, there is most definitely a link between her illustration work and her paintings.

Be sure to visit the Plymouth Community Arts Council's Pure Art of Michigan Exhibit during the Month of April.

SPRING SHOW UPDATE



Allen Brooks has been busy working on getting us an exhibit at Westland Shopping Center. So far, he has visited the President Elect of the Westland Rotary, Mary Vellardita, to cement the vote of the Rotary board in our favor. They will take care of our insurance and maybe provide some monetary assistance. He visited Brookellen at the Chamber, their bylaws don't allow giving out money, but they will assist with advertising our event. Glen Shaw at the Westland Community Foundation said they may help with a donation/sponsorship. Sam Coraddo is a real firecracker of a community activist and Allen says he is excited about the idea.

Allen visited Michele at the Westland Shopping Center offices and they had a really good talk. She said she will again pitch our cause to her bosses.

If we secure the venue, here is his plan:

Thurs. a.m. - Set up

Thurs. p.m. - Reception with the Mayor's Award and/or Westland Shopping Center Award (if they are a sponsor and don't charge us for the show).

Saturday - Paint-off and possibly a couple of musicians from the Plymouth Symphony (now named The Michigan Philharmonic) to play classical music for an hour. This will be good publicity for them as well.

Allen would also notify the Wayne/Westland School Superintendent and Schoolcraft College to let them know about the Art Exhibit so they can pass the information. Marilyn can supply flyers for them to pass out/post.

Allen plans to write a couple of proposals for the Foundation and some other organizations he has yet to contacted. He will also check into the Westland Library in case the Mall falls through.

Thanks Allen for thinking big and doing all this leg work. The Club really appreciates your efforts!!

THREE CITIES ART CLUB WEB UPDATE!

Report by Marilyn Meredith

Visit our web site, www.threecitiesartclub.org, to access a calendar of events, copies of past newsletters, see member artwork and bios plus exhibition opportunities and more.

HOW DO WE HANDLE SALES??

The club is now set up with a PayPal account. We need to make some decisions on how we want to accept payment for membership and artwork sales.

Basically, the choices are as follows:

A. Direct deposit into the club bank account To pay club dues or for a buyer to purchase artwork, people would be able to do it via bank-to-bank transfer of funds or they can pay by credit card. For art sales, this would allow the club to take its 10% commission off the top then issue payments electronically to the artist (an Email is sent with a link that activates a payment into a PayPal account). For artists selling art online who don't have Email, we would have to issue checks. There are even payment plans options i) short term without interest fees or ii) various longer term at 12.9% interest. There are PayPal fees associated with these services which would come out of the price of the art. Currently, all artists are responsible for reporting and paying state sales tax and reporting income on tax returns when they sell their art. With this method, we would have to keep good records and may have to issue W-9's to each artist that makes a sale.

B. Invoice by Email A professional looking invoice would be sent to the person who wants to pay for membership or purchase art. They would then send a check by mail to the club or to the artist directly. There is a small fee through PayPal for this service - \$3.20 per \$100 + currency exchange & 1% for purchases made from outside US. Artists who sell their work would be required to issue a check to the club for its 10% commission and reimbursement of any PayPal fees.

C. EBay PayPal offers several financing options (various fees apply).

Each artist will have to handle shipping if the buyer is not from this area.

These decisions may impact the club and require some additional effort by members so if you have specific knowledge to help guide us through this process, please let us know.

PICTURES OF ART AND PRICING REQUIRED

If you are interested in selling your art on our website, you need to provide Marilyn with a list of the art (title, medium, size and price including 10% club commission, 6% sales tax and an estimated 5% for PayPal fees). Pictures of the art are required, many of which Marilyn may already have on file. If not, you can Email them to her or, if you don't have pictures of your art, please bring them to a meeting so they can be photographed. If it is easier for you, special arrangements can be made for Marilyn to come to your home to take the pictures and a \$10 fee will apply.