



Lemont Artists Guild Newsletter

Building Appreciation for the Arts

www.lemontartistsguild.org

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Wednesday, February 9, 2022

7:00 pm (via Zoom, ends before 9 pm)

Illustration/Comic Art

presented by Mark A. Nelson



On February 9, 2022, in partnership with the Homer Township Public Library, the Lemont Artists Guild is pleased to present, via Zoom, Illustration Artist **Mark A. Nelson** who will talk about his life in the field of **Illustration and Comics** and **he will demonstrate sketching, drawing, and inking.** A lot of his artwork leans on the fantastic

side, in which he enjoys designing new worlds and new creatures and telling stories with his art. Mark holds a Master's in Fine Art in Printmaking (1978) from the University of Michigan (Ann Arbor, MI) and a Bachelors in Fine Art in Drawing (1976) from the Cleveland Institute of Art (Cleveland, OH). He loves printmaking and says that his experience in lithography, etchings, and wood engravings has helped him in his career define how he uses strokes and marks in his drawings and inks of his comics and illustrations.

Throughout his career, Mark has held many hats in the illustration, comic book and video game industry including also being a Professor of Art from Northern Illinois University (DeKalb, IL). After he retired from N.I.U. he worked for Raven Software (Madison, WI) as a Senior Artist and some of his responsibilities included concept drawings of characters, world scenes, perspective drawings of environments, painting character skins and their variations and models of machines and world objects. He went on to be the Lead Teacher in the Animation Department at Madison Area Technical College and then moved to Texas to work for Pi Studios as their Art Director/Lead Concept Artist. During his career he has also undertaken many other projects collaborating with authors and other artists including the following: Fantasy World Building (Dover Publications), Innsmouth-The Lost Drawings of Mannish Sycovia (Alaxis Press), Blood and Shadows-four issue mini-series (DC Comics), Feud-four issue mini-series (commissioned by Epic Comics [Marvel]), Nightbreed and Hellraiser-various stories and comics for Marvel, Aliens (Dark Horse Comics) #1-6 with 24 pages of artwork, pencils and inks. He has been an Inker on various projects at Marvel, DC Comics, First, Just Imagine Comics, and Eclipse Comics, and worked on comics for Tonka Toys: Rock Lords and Steel Monsters. He has been a Juror for Spectrum 20: The Best in Contemporary Fantastic Art and also

**OUR MEETINGS ARE CO-SPONSORED
BY THE:**

**Homer Township Public Library
14320 W 151st St, Homer Glen, IL**

www.homerlibrary.org

708-301-7908

Winter/Spring 2022

*****Please note that our events with the library are taking place on the 2nd Wednesday of the month via ZOOM*****

- Feb. 9: Mike A. Nelson-Illustration/Comic Art**
- Mar. 9: Ben Calvert-Wood Block Print Paintings**
- April 13: Caryl Yasko-Chicago/Lemont Muralist**
- May 11: TBA-Please stay posted for future details!**

has qualified to have his artwork printed in various years of Spectrum: The Best in Contemporary Fantastic Art. He also was in two different exhibitions for the Best of Spectrum show at the Society of Illustrators in New York City.

Other accolades for Mark include from Pencils to Inks, a monthly article on drawing comics 24 chapters, (Hero Magazine), Aphrodisia, the Art of the Female Form (#1 won Gold Fine Art Award and #2 cover), covers and interior art for Dungeons and Dragons Magazine, covers for books and interior art with Cemetery Dance Publications and Subterranean Press, Wizards of the Coast, World of Warcraft, Three Rings Publications game cards, TSR and Wizards of the Coast game module, monster and creature design, and book interior art, and his own created books: From Pencils to Inks and Visual Dialogues. He has had various exhibitions of his artwork both in solo and group exhibitions. You can view his website at <https://www.grazingdinosaurpress.com/>

To register to see this presentation and for more information on the Lemont Artists Guild, please visit www.lemontartistsguild.org or go to this link to Register for this Program:

<https://www.homerlibrary.org/mark-nelson>

President's Letter

Hi All,



Wishing everyone a wonderful February! We are excited for our upcoming programs this coming winter/spring. Hope you plan to join us on Feb. 9 to see Mark A. Nelson talk about his comprehensive illustration career. Mark is

an amazing artist and was my professor in illustration at Northern Illinois University. He is retired from there now, but, during his time teaching and afterwards, he has done so many projects in the illustration, comic book, and video game industry. Any artist could learn from his insights in his part of the art world! Thank you to all who joined us to watch our

annual "Show and Tell" meeting this past January! We had a lot of fun and we so appreciate all those that could watch and share! I hope you have a chance to visit the exhibit at the Lemont Center for the Arts, one of the artists is a LAG Member, Josiah Bara (Joseph Baranowski). Information is listed after this letter. Have a great February all!

Sincerely,

Liz Connelly, LAG President

E-mail: lemontartistsguild@gmail.com

Notes from the Editor: Information for the LAG newsletter should be given to Betty Kirk by the first of the month (630) 257-0565, or bettykirk321@gmail.com

Alliance of Fine Art (AFA)

The next AFA meeting will be Tues, Feb. 8 at 6:00 pm via Zoom. If you want to participate, please check with Liz. The AFA website is www.allianceoffineart.org.

While there is no Best of the Best this year, AFA has been planning for their annual Student Scholarship Competition!

As in the past, two students' artwork from Lockport High School will be entered into the competition. This year's student exhibit will be at the Naperville Art League & Gallery from March. 9-March 12. There will not be a reception, but there will be a video announcement of all the student artwork and the winners, which we will post when it is available. The AFA awards (2) \$500 monetary prizes and (2) \$250 monetary prizes and all the students entered in it from the AFA Organizations will receive a certificate of recognition. Stay posted for more details next month!

Sayings to Inspire You:

"Inspiration is for amateurs. The rest of us just show up and get to work. If you wait around for the clouds to part and a bolt of lightning to strike you in the brain, you are not going to make an awful lot of work. All the best ideas come out of the process; they come out of the work itself."-Chuck Close, Visual Artist and Photographer

Lemont Center for the Arts (LCA):

Come visit on a Friday, Saturday or Sunday from Noon to 4 PM. (Always Free Admission)

1243 State Street, Unit 10, Lemont, Illinois 60439, 630-243-7375, Website: <https://www.artlemont.org/>

LCA Current Exhibit Surreal Dreams/ Abstract Visions

FEATURING LAG MEMBER JOSIAH BARA (Joseph Baranowski) and Lauren Nichols.

Exhibit Runs from January 14th until February 27th, 2022

Closing Reception: February 27th 1-3pm

Facebook Event

Page: <https://www.facebook.com/events/902525580283048?ref=newsfeed>

LCA always needs volunteers during their open hours, if you are interested in volunteering, call them at the number above or email lemontcenterarts@gmail.com

More Sayings to Inspire You:

"When I was 15, I spent a month working on an archeological dig. I was talking to one of the archeologists one day during our lunch break and he asked those kinds of 'getting to know you' questions you ask young people: Do you play sports? What's your favorite subject? And I told him, 'no I don't play any sports. I do theater, I'm in choir, I play the violin and piano, I used to take art classes'...and he went, 'WOW! That's amazing!' And I said, 'Oh, no, but I'm not any good at ANY of them'....and he said something then that I will never forget and which absolutely blew my mind because no one had ever said anything like it to me before: 'I don't think being good at things is the point of doing them. I think you've got all these wonderful experiences with different skills, and that all teaches you things and makes you an interesting person, no matter how well you do them.'...And, that honestly changed my life. Because I went from a failure, someone who hadn't been talented enough at anything to excel, to someone who did things because I enjoyed them. I had been raised in such an achievement-oriented environment, so inundated with the myth of 'talent' that I thought it was only worth doing things if you could 'win' at them." -Kurt Vonnegut, Writer of Classics of the American Counterculture and Essays, Poems, and Short Fiction