



LCAL Member News, January 2023

Our new Digital Library

Our new Digital Library, as presented in *Sketches*, is a series of doors, which is a useful metaphor. Doors are about the wanderings of our individual artistic journeys, our progression into the world of fine art. What exactly is fine art? Wikipedia offers an historic explanation at https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fine_art, and for the modern world it is about personal **expression**. What names should we put on these doors? Of course we want doors that lead to discussion and guidance on painting in oil, acrylic, encaustic, watercolor and ink. A video of our upcoming March demo will even make you wonder if a new door might be about the imaginative use of discarded linoleum. Our artistic experience has sent – or will send – many of us through doors like these into the expressive worlds of dance, poetry, sculpture, writing and music.

Our pragmatic needs say there should also be doors about the **effective** use of abstraction, alla prima, plein air and marketing. How about a door about **sharing of our artistic excitement**? That door should be labeled “art league involvement.”

Jeff Harold has initially offered these descriptions:

- Door One so far has eight YouTube videos about oil painting, more than five hours of video which include painting techniques of Caravaggio, DaVinci, and the Flemish artists.
- Door Two has a video on essential watercolor skills and another on intuitive watercolor, which lets the paint take you on a tour.
- Door Three gives you seven Artists Documentaries and art related video shows.
- Door Four has a virtual tour of the Barnes Foundation Collection and four Barnes Takeout art talks.
- Door Five has an art website to explore.
- Door Six is art related Netflix shows.
- Door Seven has Hulu art shows, and might include Amazon Prime art videos.

It's up to our members to recommend more videos and suggest names for these and more doors. Send them to Val Brandner at sketchit@yahoo.com. Much of our future *Member News* will be about where our members see this Digital Library growing.

What's in *your* artistic journey?

Message from the President: Finally, the answer – What is Art?

It's the start of a new year and what better way for an artist to start it than to have a definite definition of what art is or isn't.

First, what started all the hubbub in the first place. Going to the great Internet to find a definition of art resulted in the following definition: art is the expression or application of human creative skill and imagination, typically in a visual form such as painting or sculpture, producing works to be appreciated primarily for their beauty or emotional power. QED (that's math for end of proof), sort of. This narrows it down to your basic mediums like oil, watercolor, acrylic, sculpture, etc. But if this is the case, how did we end up with a banana duct taped to a gallery wall being declared art and selling for \$120,00 with a "third edition" expected to sell for \$150,00?

Let's go back to 1917 and Marcel Duchamp. Duchamp was on the board of the Society of Independent Artists. The story goes that the Society sponsored an exhibit that was not juried and had promised that every work submitted by its members would be displayed. Why Duchamp submitted a urinal from the J. L. Mott Iron Works has several theories. One goes that he did it as a practical joke. Another one suggests that he was encouraged by a lady friend. He did submit the piece, but under the name of "R. Mutt". The rest of the board refused to show this "artwork", not knowing the true name of the artist. This caused a stir in the art community and eventually leading to the idea of "concept as art" or "conceptual art" being a legitimate artform.



This led to other "conceptual" pieces such as "*Vertical Earth Kilometer*" by Walter de Maria. With the help of an industrial drill, de Maria dug a narrow hole in the ground exactly one kilometer deep, inserted a two-inch diameter brass rod of the same length, then concealed it with a sandstone plate. A small hole was cut in the plate's center to reveal a small portion of the rod, which is perfectly level with the ground. The result is a permanent work of art that people are forced to imagine but may never actually see. (By the way, this piece is still available if you want to buy some conceptual art. You'll have to pay the moving costs.)

And then we have the banana and duct tape. Back to the Internet dictionary where we find the definition of conceptual art: art in which the idea or concept presented by the artist is considered more important than its appearance or execution. In other words, anyone can call anything "art". I got out of bed this morning; anyone want to buy that for \$100,000 (I'll throw in my PJ's as a bonus)?

So, I lied. I don't have the answer to what is or isn't art. But I have to say that asking if something is art seems every bit as useful as asking how many fairies can you fit on the head of a pin.

Enjoy the new year, and if anyone asks you what is or isn't art, you can safely give them a knowing smirk, blink of the eye, and say "I could tell you but then, being an artist, I'd have to conceptually kill you".

Jeff Harold

Call for Art: Art in the Shire – 2023

"We are thrilled to announce the date for the 2023 Art In The Shire Exhibit and Reception **March 15, 2023!** Please find the following important information about the Exhibit and Exhibit Reception.

The Art in the Shire™ Exhibit will remain live throughout the months leading up to the exhibit reception. Accordingly, you may bring us pieces in advance of the exhibit reception. **Please contact us for details of drop- off of your pieces.** Our clients and members of the community are enjoying the exhibit. If any of our clients or members of the community inquire about one of your pieces or your work, we will contact you within 24 hours. Please note the following regarding the exhibit:

Please send your Artist Statement of your pieces by January 24, 2023.

Each artist will be able to showcase three (3) pieces in the exhibit. All pieces must be 2-Dimensional.

For each piece, please submit the Artist Entry form. (See attached)

There is **no entry fee** to participate in Art in the Shire™ Exhibit and Exhibit Reception.

Please contact **Renee Leonard** from **The Shire Law Group, PC ®**

renee@shirelawgroup.com

Art in the Shire™

ENTRY FORM: Exhibition Guidelines and Agreement

Submit by January 24, 2023.

Artist Name	
Address	
City, State, Zip	
Phone	
Email	

Presentation:

- Works on paper must be framed under glass or plexi. Unframed works on canvas should not have exposed staples.
- All 2-D work must be ready to hang and hanging apparatus included.

Insurance & Sales:

- Artists shall be exclusively responsible for loss, theft, damage or destruction of any and all artwork and other property exhibited or stored at the exhibition location (1 Overlook Point, Suite 650, Lincolnshire, Illinois 60047) or elsewhere on The Shire Law Group, PC®s premises.
- Sales are encouraged. All work for sale will be at the artist's valuation. Works not for sale (NFS) should be so marked.

Your signature and submission of this entry form constitutes agreement to all conditions and terms of this exhibition specified in the Art in the Shire™ Guidelines and related exhibition materials, including the Art in the Shire Exhibition Information for accepted artists.

Artist Signature

Date

Art in the Shire™

ENTRY FORM: Call for Entries

Submit by January 24, 2023

1.		
Title		
Dimensions (HxWxD)		
Value (Must be indicated even if NFS)	For Sale	Not for Sale
Medium		
2. Title		
Dimensions (HxWxD)		
Value (Must be indicated even if NFS)	For Sale	Not for Sale
Medium		
3. Title		
Dimensions (HxWxD)		
Value (Must be indicated even if NFS)	For Sale/Not for Sale	
Medium		

JURYING FEE: There will be no jurying fee for this show. There is no entry fee.

Email to: Alan Press, Shire Law Group, PC® alan@shirelawgroup.com

Caren Naidoff, Shire Law Group, PC® caren@shirelawroup.com

Renee Leonard, Shire Law Group, PC® renee@shirelawgroup.com

Please contact Alan Press, Caren Naidoff and Renee Leonard with questions or for more information.

Jeff Harold's Upcoming Classes

Jeff Harold will be teaching **Photoshop via Zoom** through the **College of Lake County** on Tuesday evenings. **Class starts 2/7/2023 from 6:30 pm until 9:00 pm and runs for 8 weeks.** I'm teaching **Photography for Beginners** on **Saturday mornings** at the **College of Lake County in Grayslake.** Class starts **Saturday, 4/1 from 9:00 am until 11:30 am.**

Phil Schorn's Classes and Exhibits



During January **Phil** will be participating in the Adler Arts Center Member Exhibit and also the 2023 Members Exhibition at the College of Lake County, Robert T. Wright Community Gallery of Art.

He has two workshops scheduled for January and February. January will be Black & White drawing and February will be Impressionist drawing. I'm offering each session twice during the month. Visit my [classes](#) page to sign up. Phil will be setting up a Watercolor Pencil workshop as well in the near future. He will be in the January issue of *Color*

Pencil Magazine. Phil wrote another workshop for the magazine and did a Winter Cardinal, this will be downloadable from the magazine. It will be on his website in March.

Phil also submitted his "Monet Antibes" to Circle Foundation for the Arts, in the UK. For their "Circle Quarterly Art Review Magazine Contest" he received their Artistic Excellence Award. Very cool.

Check out more of **Phil's** art and events on his website: pschornstudio.com.



Mainstreet Art Center Upcoming Workshops

Mainstreet Art Center has a new gallery right next door to their Art Studio. It's a beautiful space, representing Midwest artists. They are looking for artists who would like to rent wall space monthly to exhibit original art work. They have monthly artist receptions to help promote their work as well. Open 5 days a week. Check on the Mainstreet Art Center's front page website for pictures & hours etc. We'd really like people to stop by. There are many opportunities for artists here. 16 E. Main St. Lake Zurich.

Cheryl Cook's Figure Drawing

Jan. 21, 28, Feb. 4, 11, 2023, (4 Sat.) 12:30 - 3:30, Cost: \$125. plus model fee.

Cheryl Cook Perspective Drawing Techniques / pencil & painting medium

Feb. 18 & 19, 2023 2 days 9:00 - 3:00, Cost: \$230.

Barb Benstein's Portrait Painting: Portrait Steps

Feb. 10, 17, 24 Mar. 3, 2023 (4 weeks) Fri. 9:30 - 3:00, Cost: \$300.

Susan Ploughe / Developing Artistry with Animals as Inspiration

Feb. 24, 25 & 26, 2023 9:00 - 3:00, Cost: \$345.

More description can be found on our website as well: www.mainstreetartcenter.com
20 E. Main St., Lake Zurich (downtown Lake Zurich)

Anne-Marie Bracken's Exhibits

During January, **Anne-Marie's** artwork will be found in the **Small Works** and **Member** exhibits at the **Antioch Fine Arts Foundation Gallery, 952 Main Street, Antioch**. Check Facebook or the website for more information about hours, etc.

<https://www.facebook.com/AntiochFineArts>

Website: <https://antiochfinearts.org/>

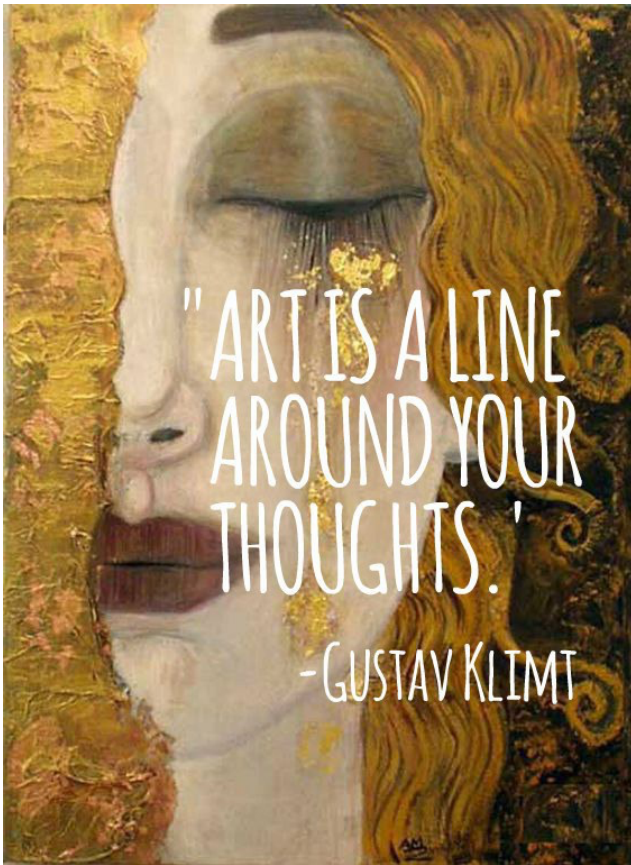
She will also submit a piece to the **Robert T. Wright Community Gallery at the College of Lake County** for their exhibit which will run from **January 20th – February 16th**. A reception will be held on **Friday, January 20th, 5:00 – 7:30 pm.**

CLC email: clcgallery@clcillinois.edu, website: www.clcillinois.edu/gallery.

In **March (reception on the 15th)**, her artwork will be on exhibit at the **Art in the Shire** show. Contact Renee Leonard: renee@shirelawgroup.com for more information.



Artist Quote



For inclusion in a future *Member News*, please send your news of exhibits, classes, awards and art-related comments to: **Anne-Marie Bracken**, amabracken@gmail.com.