



LCAL.org | 501c3 | lakecountyleague@gmail.com

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Sketches

Official Newsletter of Your Lake County Art League

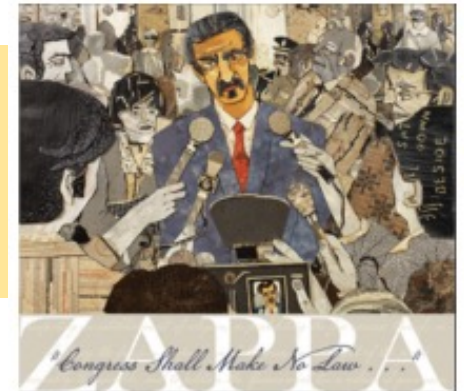
March 2023

Making Art from Discarded Linoleum: 20 March demo Virtual demo by Bill Miller from Pennsylvania home

Bill Miller calls himself a “collage artist.” He used to search abandoned facilities for materials. After discovering that vintage linoleum flooring was alive with scratches and scuffmarks from past use, it became his art medium. His art relies only on the found surface, with no added paint.

“I was in an old house, and they had pulled some linoleum out and had it on the front stoop for the garbage man to take, and I looked down at it and said, ‘That looks like the sky of an Impressionist painting or a Van Gogh sky...’ I fell in love with the material, the old stuff that was used in the early 20th century.”

Bill’s “Congress Shall Make No Law” cover for a Frank Zappa album was released posthumously in 2010 by the Zappa Family Trust on Zappa Records. It contains a recording of Frank's 1985 testimony before a Senate committee, where he spoke in support of the recording industry and against censorship.



Background : Miller’s art has long been shaped by the tragic impact of industrialization. He was raised in Cleveland OH’s industrial center and moved to Pittsburgh just as the steel industry collapsed, creating a rust belt of crumbling towns. After moving near NYC in 1998, he had a series of 1-man exhibits. In 2000, he moved near Washington DC where he focuses full time on his art.

<https://www.facebook.com/billmillerlinoleumat> and billmillerart.com



March 11: The 3rd Anniversary of the Pandemic

On March 11, 2020, WHO announced the Covid pandemic and the requirement to “social distance.” LCAL immediately

discussed ways to safely handle upcoming meetings and events, resulting the cancellation of the March demo and the Spring Membership show. Quickly, our members also suggested ways to share our artistic experiences. Four weeks after the WHO announcement, LCAL launched “**Pandemic Distractions**” to facilitate our artistic conversations.

Although our regular meetings were cancelled for months, forest preserved offered a safe place for officers to meet and for plein air sessions. Members stayed in touch electronically, and we soon mastered the skills of virtual demonstrations and even virtual critiques.



As restrictions began to ease, we felt safe to gather again that September for a demo. Thanks to our long relationship with Waukegan Park District we were granted use of their beautifully landscaped Bowen Park picnic shelter. The October meeting was our first Zoom experience, our Fall Membership Show was done entirely via email, and the season closed with a critique on Zoom.

2021 brought much discussion about conducting future events based on our 2020 experiences. Expecting continued avoidance of large gatherings, and the need to rebuild membership, we recognized the benefits of Zoom as an option to gathering and a way to provide greater program flexibility.

We also took note of our membership’s wishes to return to in-person interaction as soon as it was safe and comfortable.

2022 was about getting it done and finding a new normal.

Looking Forward

In **2023**, we will continue to rebuild membership. Finally, in **2024** we will celebrate 90 years of getting it done through major world events: the Depression, World War II, other foreign conflicts, recessions, and now a world-wide pandemic.



All Hands on Deck for Planning the LCAL 90th Anniversary!



Big plans are taking shape for next year's 90th anniversary celebration of the Lake County Art League!!

As mentioned in our February Sketches newsletter, next year's LCAL 90th anniversary celebration will include multiple events including member shows, a poster contest, and member critiques. Four member shows are currently in the planning stage and are listed in the table.

To bring these plans to life and create new ones, **LCAL needs you**, our members, to participate on the planning committee. This is an extraordinary opportunity for you to help in the administration of your art league.

Five people have already volunteered: Jeff Harold, Chris Tanner, Deb Edmunds, Val Brandner, and Gail Gudgeon. But more hands are needed.

If you are interested, please contact Jeff Harold at jeff@jeffharoldphotography.com

2024 Planned 90th Anniversary Shows	
Date	Locations
May	Robert T Wright Gallery at College of Lake County
Jul	Cook Memorial Park and nearby Civic Center in Libertyville
Aug	AFAF gallery in Antioch
Oct	Starline Gallery in Harvard
Nov	Carnegie Library in Waukegan (renovations to be completed in the fall)

For a **preview** of how we can highlight our 90th anniversary at next year's events, one idea is to bring back some previous practices from the league's earlier years. For example:

- Back in 1934, LCAL artists would display their works on fishnet drying in the sun near Waukegan Harbor.
- We can resurrect that practice by draping fishnet behind our works at the May CLC show.



Spring Membership Show

Check-in Saturday, 1 April; 10 am to 1 pm

Since 1934, we have had spring and fall membership shows, which have been held for many years at the Jack Benny Center in Waukegan's Bowen Park.

Our shows have followed a format, starting with a Saturday morning check-in of entries. After about 6 weeks, the show closes with a Monday evening critique in the Benny Center theatre. The major critique is performed by a professional artist, but participating artists often receive just as many comments and suggestions from other members.

This spring, the critique will be performed by Franki Johnson, who teaches at and manages the Mainstreet Art Center in Lake Zurich. Last year she opened the Center's adjoining Mainstreet Gallery, which features collections of fine art from top national and local artists, staff members, and students.

To Register, bring your Spring Membership Show entry to the Jack Benny Center for the Arts on Sat, April 1, 10am to 1pm. Chris Tanner will register you, confirm your paid membership, and collect your signed "Registration/Release Form" (attached to this newsletter). Extra forms will be available at registration.

Art will be hung in order of check-in. Or, hang your own art Mon through Sat am, April 3-8. Rods and hooks will be provided at the end of the hall.

Please Note: You must attach the signed Registration/Release Form to the back of your art.

The art will be cataloged by Chris Tanner that Sat afternoon (April 1).

Standing Rules

Current dues must be paid. (Confirm dues status with Membership Director Betty Perri at bettyaperri@gmail.com)

Work should be fanned or edge-wrapped, and wired for hanging.

Work must have been completed within the past 3 years.

Work must not have been in a previous Spring or Fall Membership Show.

REQUEST from the Waukegan Park District:

Please use discretion when deciding the theme of your entry. Art that is offensive (ethnic, religious, political, sexual) will be stored (not displayed) until the critique.

The Jack Benny Center
39 Jack Benny Dr
Waukegan, IL 60085

Hours: Sat 9am to noon; Mon-Thu 4pm to 8pm



Two Reminders

1

David Becker Watercolor Workshop; 15 & 16 April (Sat & Sun) 8:30am to 4pm

Registration for David's class has been extended to late March.

David works with thinned acrylic paint which becomes a transparent watercolor, and paints with remarkable speed! Preview his technique on the [YouTube](#) demo presented at the Oct 2022 LCAL meeting.

Workshop Details	
Location	The Antioch Township Center, Antioch, Illinois
Skill Level	All levels of painters
Supplies	A supply list will be provided before the workshop
Cost	Members \$100; non-members \$135
Details/Entry Forms	Email Jim Brooksher at jimbrooksher@gmail.com
Questions?	Call Jim at 847-223-1317 or Becky at 847-623-8863



2

ONE MORE SCHOLARSHIP JUDGE NEEDED: Volunteer for 2023 Scholarship Selection Committee

LCAL has been awarding scholarships to create more interest and appreciation of visual art in Lake County. Recipients are selected by volunteer judges from our league. This year, 2 scholarships will be awarded to students participating in the College of Lake County (CLC) Student Show taking place 13 Apr to 6 May.

We thank Clarese Ornstein and Mary Neely for volunteering to be judges this year, but **we still need one more judge** (preferably not a league officer). Must be a LCAL member and have no relationship to the students whose work will be judged.

Judging will be at CLC in Grayslake. Exact dates/times to be determined, but most likely Apr 7 or 8 around 9am, and estimated to last 1-2 hours.

Volunteers please contact Val Brandner at 847-445-2788.

All LCAL members and their families are encouraged to visit the show at the CLC Wright Gallery, Grayslake campus.

Times & locations:
<https://www.clcillinois.edu>



LCAL Meetings and Staff

LCAL meets Sep through Jun, 7-9pm; 3rd Mon as follows:

Jan, Feb, sometimes Mar	Virtual: eliminates winter nighttime driving / takes advantage of technology / see artist demos / meet prominent artists from across the country
Sep, Oct, Jan-Apr, Jun	Include presentations, usually a demonstration
Nov, May	Closing critiques for fall/spring membership shows
Dec	Holiday break

After Dec, newsletters are sent infrequently to members with unpaid dues.

LCAL 2023 Upcoming Schedule

Mon 20 Mar 2023, 7-9pm

Virtual meeting/demo

Sat 1 Apr 2023, 10am-1pm

"Come and go" Spring Membership Show check-in at Waukegan Jack Benny Center

15, 16 Apr 2023, 8:30am-4pm

David Becker Watercolor Workshop

Mon 17 Apr 2023, 7-9pm

Very 1st live and broadcast meeting/demo at Libertyville Civic Center

Mon 15 May 2023, 7-9pm

Live meeting/critique at Waukegan Jack Benny Center

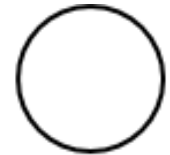
Mon 19 Jun 2023, 7-9pm

Live meeting/demo at Gurnee Viking Park (Libertyville Civic Center in wet-weather)

If you see a new way to bring fine art to Lake County, or you know how to improve the advantages of membership, please share that by contacting one of the members listed to the right.

Elected Officer	Name	email
President	Jeff Harold	jeff@jeffharoldphotography.com
Vice President	Debbie Kalinowski	artbydebbiek@gmail.com
Recording Sec	Jack Littlefield	thelittlefields@gmail.com
Corresponding Sec	Chris Tanner	chrisetanner@sbcglobal.net
Treasurer	Elizabeth Engle	betharoo30@aol.com
Directors	Name	email
Art Festivals	(vacant)	
Historian	Ali Albakri	nyika1940@gmail.com
Hospitality	Gail Gudgeon	gaile.gudgeon@gmail.com
Librarian	Debbie Kalinowski	artbydebbiek@gmail.com
Membership	Betty Perri	bettyaperri@gmail.com
	Bobby Swisher	bobby_swisher@outlook.com
On-The-Wall	Chris Tanner	chrisetanner@sbcglobal.net
	Fran Isaac	fmisaac@aol.com
Programs	Jeff Harold	jeff@jeffharoldphotography.com
	Fran Isaac	fmisaac@aol.com
	Debbie Kalinowski	artbydebbiek@gmail.com
Publicity	(vacant)	
Scholarships	Val Brandner	isketchit@yahoo.com
Newsletters	Chris Tanner	chrisetanner@sbcglobal.net
	Jody Bennett	jorbenn1@yahoo.com
Tours	Val Brandner	isketchit@yahoo.com
Workshops	Jim Brooksher	jimbrooksher@gmail.com
	Samantha McDonald	clintandsam@gmail.com
Connection to the Greater Art Community		
Social Media	Phil Schorn	phil@pschornstudio.com
Website	Phil Schorn	phil@pschornstudio.com
Plein Air	Chris Tanner	chrisetanner@sbcglobal.net
	Deb Edmunds	edmundsdl@gmail.com
Undercroft	Ali Albakri	nyika1940@gmail.com

**Lake County Art League
SHOW REGISTRATION/RELEASE FORM**



I, the undersigned, request the item described below (the "Item") be displayed in the **Lake County Art League Spring Membership Show** at the Jack Benny Center located in Bowen Park in Waukegan, Illinois (the "Show Space"). In consideration of the privilege of displaying the Item in the Show Space, I release the Waukegan Park District, the Lake County Art League, the show organizers, and any of their agents and/or employees from responsibility for any damage and/or loss to the Item on display.

I agree to indemnify the Waukegan Park District, the Lake County Art League, the show organizers, and any of their agents and/or employees from any and all losses and/or expenses, including all costs and attorneys' fees, and to hold them harmless from any liability arising out of, or resulting from, the exhibition of the Item in the Show Space.

Further, I agree to the following conditions:

1. I am responsible for installing and removing the Item at the pre-arranged times at the Show Space from **April 1 through May 15, 2023**.
2. I acknowledge and understand that the Waukegan Park District, the Lake County Art League, the show organizers, and any of their agents and/or employees will not provide insurance coverage for the Item being displayed, and it is the responsibility of the undersigned to secure any desired property insurance coverage for the Item displayed.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

THE ITEM CONSISTS OF (title or clear description):

Medium _____ **Value** _____ **For Sale? (Y/N)** _____

SIGNATURE: _____

DATE: _____

For any questions or to provide more information, please contact LCAL On-the-Wall Director Chris Tanner by phone at (847) 340-0275 or by email at chrisetanner@sbcglobal.net.