



# Sketches...

Official Newsletter of your  
Lake County Art League

March 2022

Since 1934 LCAL.org 501c3

## March demo: Bob Fesser is a 2D and 3D encaustic artist. He's on fire.

*Bob's demo and our brief business meeting, 7-9:00 pm March 21, will probably be our last virtual gathering until we become concerned about winter driving at night. This is from his web site <https://www.waysofwax.com/> :*

"Bob Fesser is an encaustic artist who lives and works in the Milwaukee, Wisconsin area. Originally from Chicago, Bob is a relative new comer to art and encaustics. His paintings and encaustic photo transfers have quickly gained recognition and acceptance.

"Bob graduated from Northern Illinois University in 1982 with a BS and MS in Mechanical Engineering and a minor in Art. It wasn't until 2016, however, that Bob's inner artist was awakened. He was asked to create a piece of art for a local fundraiser. The Bird Cage light box he created was a huge success at the event and a follow up piece, inspired by the musician Prince, also garnered notoriety. While his initial light boxes were a good blend of creativity and technology, Bob wanted to explore other media.

"In 2017, encouraged by his wife, a successful artist as well, Bob was told about encaustics and the process of encaustic painting. Bob was hooked as soon as he heard 'fire.' Feeling a passion in him had been ignited, Bob began taking classes in both 2D and 3D encaustics, but he is largely self-taught. Bob continues to experiment with new techniques and explore the possibilities of encaustic art. He began doing commissioned pieces in June 2018.



"In 2019 Bob began exhibiting in galleries. He was one of three artists chosen from an emerging artist exhibit at Morpho gallery in Chicago to exhibit again in October of 2019. In March 2019 Bob received an award of excellence from Manhattan Arts International for his submission of "Calhoun" in The Healing Power of Art exhibit. "Calhoun" also received a Best in Show from Saddleback Gallery of Scottsdale, AZ in May of 2019.

"Since 2019 Bob's work has continued to be recognized.

"Bob's work is now represented at - River's End Gallery in Waukesha, WI, The Gallori in Oconomowoc, WI, Art Lounge in Menomonee Falls, WI, Woodwalk Gallery in Egg Harbor, WI and Camelback Gallery (On-line) in Scottsdale, AZ"

## Profile: Maureen Ivy Fisher and Ernest J. Schweit

*After a 2-year break we are returning to sharing profiles of our members. As in the past, these will be members relatively new to LCAL, as we are hoping other members will find things in common that they can discuss to initiate friendships. Ernie wrote this profile and titled it "Artist couple thrives in their work, marriage."*



Above: Ernest photograph  
Below: Maureen fabric art



In the world of famous artist couples, everyone knows Diego Rivera and Frida Kahlo. Same for Alfred Stieglitz and Georgia O'Keeffe. But Maureen Ivy Fisher and Ernest J. Schweit.?

Not so much. To be honest, probably not at all. At least not yet.

And that's fine because the Lake County couple continues to produce fine art photography and mixed mediums work in a marriage of almost 24 years. While the idea of a husband and wife artistic relationship might sound challenging, Schweit and Rivkin view it as a benefit built upon their strengths as a couple. "We have a strong friendship in addition to an admiration of each other's work," she said. "We are partners in life as well as art."

Good communication plays a role too, Schweit said. "We have always been able to communicate very well. We are very good at talking things through and reaching some sort of accommodation, be it something involving each other's work, our schedules or who empties the dishwasher after dinner."

Even though they work in different mediums, Schweit points out that there's been a "high degree of cross-pollination. I definitely think we have influenced one another in our work," he said. Some of Maureen's mixed media work uses Schweit's photography as a base, and Schweit says his approach to editing his fine art work has been influenced by Maureen's approach to painting and sketching.

Maureen attended Illinois State University from 1975-77 before spending a year at the Sorbonne in Paris France and eventually graduating with a BFA from the ArtCenter College of Design in Pasadena, California in 1985.

She worked for a graphic arts studio in Waukegan and did decorative housewares design, such as for the clocks and dinnerware industries. She took time for parenthood the 1990s, balancing mom duties with a freelance business that included decorative product design and children's book illustration for publishers like Rand McNally and Scott Foreman.

She also created a prize-winning poster celebrating the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Chicago Symphony in 1991. Her work has appeared at art galleries and in local shows. Maureen also developed and taught various art classes for Harper College's adult education and summer kid's programs. Eventually she earned a Master's Degree in Education. Currently, she teaches French and art in Waukegan.

Ernest and Maureen met in 1997 and they were married in 1998. At the time, Ernest was the arts and entertainment editor at the Daily Herald in Arlington Heights, one of several editorial positions he held during 32 years at the paper. Ernest was laid off in 2009, around the same time "Wisconsin Barns," a book featuring his photography, was published by Far Country Press.

Ernest always had a passion for photography, but the layoff – plus encouragement from Maureen – gave him the chance to pursue it seriously. He found commercial work and learned the basics of the craft while shooting for a school photography company and a wedding photography studio. He shows his fine art photography in local juried shows and exhibits, and on his website, [www.ernestjschweitphotography.com](http://www.ernestjschweitphotography.com) while also publishing a monthly blog and newsletter.

Collectively, their business is known as M. Fisher Studios. Ernest is also a founding member of the Grayslake Arts Alliance and belongs to the Lake County Art League, Artists on the Bluff and the GAA.

## April 2 Spring Membership Show check-in at the Benny Center.



*As always, the first Saturday of April, April 2 this year, will be a 10-1:00 check-in and conversation window at the Jack Benny Center for the Arts in Waukegan.*

The following week will be self-check-in, 3-8:00 Mon-Thursday and 9-12:00 Saturday. A Show Release Form is included in this newsletter, and there will be additional forms available during check-in and self-check-in.

Some check-in adjustments we tried during the pandemic days proved to be useful and will continue. If it's a nice day we will move check-in and chatter to the landscaped picnic shelter. All entries will be carefully photographed a week later, after self-check-in is complete. Entries will now remain on the walls in the order they were checked in, and that order will be maintained in the show catalog and during the critique.

All entries must include the Show Release Form, and the old rules again apply:

- One piece per member.
- Current dues must be paid.
- Work should be wired for hanging.
- Work must have been completed within the past three years.
- Work must not have been in a previous Spring or Fall Membership Show.

Please use discretion in your selection of work for this event. Art that is offensive by its ethnic, religious, political or sexual expression cannot be accepted. The display of nude art puts the Waukegan Park District in an awkward position and will be stored until the closing critique.

The hours for viewing the show will be 3-8:00 Mon-Thur and 19-12:00 Sat. The Spring Membership Show closing critique will be Monday May 16, 6-8:30, and the critique will be performed by Leisa Corbett, LCAL member and former president.

## \$500 scholarships to be awarded to emerging artists April 8

*The \$500 Lake County Art League scholarship and the \$500 Phoebe Boyd Scholarship will be awarded to two emerging artists on Friday, April 8 at the 41<sup>st</sup> Annual CLC Student Art Competition*

The Competition reception will be held in the Robert T Wright Gallery on the Grayslake Campus of the College of Lake County. The April 8 reception time is from 5:30-7:30 PM, and the art show will run from April 8 to May 8.

All Lake County Art League members and their families and friends are encouraged to stop in and view the work of these creative students. Displayed art will have been made as part of the student's class assignments during 2021 and 2022 semesters.

Visitor parking is available at the main entrance of the school, or you may park in any student lot. Go to [www.clcillinois.edu/campus-life/arts/wright-gallery](http://www.clcillinois.edu/campus-life/arts/wright-gallery) for additional information about the gallery.

## Plein air sessions are again open to the public, but with changes.

*Lake County Art League will soon start its plein air season, once again open to the general public.*

Plein air sessions will now be limited to days with reliably warm, sunny and dry weather, but aggressively expanded from March to November, sometimes with 1-hour sessions if it's just too cold to paint. For that to happen, however, advance

notice may be as little as three days, and the sessions could be any day of the week. Yet we will be out there capturing beautiful scenes, even when patchy snow leaves dancing white patterns in the fields, or on warm dry days with wildflowers blooming. In the summer we will be able to paint, photograph and draw midweek farm markets, holiday parades and urban festivals. We'll still be out late into the fall while the sunshine still lets the last scraps of fall color pop in our paintings. And we will stubbornly postpone the day we pack our art gear away for the winter.

## And ...

The Lake County Art League year runs from September through June, meeting 7-9:00 pm on the third Monday of these months. Meetings in September, October, January, February, March, April and June include presentations, usually a demonstration. November and May meetings are the closing critiques for our popular fall and spring membership shows. Finally, we take a holiday break in December. After December our newsletters will be sent only occasionally to members who have not paid their dues.

If you sense there is new way to bring fine art to Lake County, or you know how to improve the advantages of membership, please share that. Contact one of the members below.

### ELECTED OFFICERS

President	Gail Gudgeon	gaile.gudgeon@gmail.com
Vice President	(vacant)	
Recording Sec	Jack Littlefield	thelittlefields@gmail.com
Corresponding Sec	Chris Tanner	chrisetanner@sbcglobal.net
	Anne-Marie Bracken	amabracken@gmail.com
Treasurer	Elizabeth Engle	betharoo30@aol.com

### DIRECTORS

Art Festivals	(vacant until festivals again become viable)	
Historian	Ali Albakri	nyika1940@gmail.com
Hospitality	Fran Issac	fmisaac@aol.com
Librarian	Debbie Kalinowski	nyika1940@gmail.com
Membership	Betty Perri	bettyaperri@gmail.com
	Leslie Nauta	nautateam@comcast.net
On-The-Wall	Chris Tanner	chrisetanner@sbcglobal.net
Programs	Debbie Kalinowski	artbydebbiek@gmail.com
Publicity	Tom Perkowitz	perkowitz@mac.com
Scholarships	Val Brandner	isketchit@yahoo.com
Sketches	Chris Tanner	chrisetanner@sbcglobal.net
Tours	Val Brandner	isketchit@yahoo.com
Workshops	(vacant)	

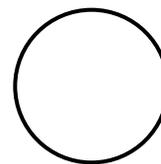
### CONNECTION TO THE ART COMMUNITY

Social Media	Phil Schorn	phil@pschornstudio.com
Website	Phil Schorn	phil@pschornstudio.com
Legacy Art	Thom Kapheim	kapart1@sbcglobal.net
Plein Air	Chris Tanner	chrisetanner@sbcglobal.net
	Deb Edmunds	edmundsdl@gmail.com
Undercroft	Ali Albakri	nyika1940@gmail.com

### ALSO

Past President	Oliver Merriam	omerriam@yahoo.com
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## SHOW 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 2 through May 16, 2022**.

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 (HOME):** \_\_\_\_\_ **PHONE (WORK):** \_\_\_\_\_

**EMAIL:** \_\_\_\_\_

**SIGNATURE:** \_\_\_\_\_ **DATE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**THE ITEM CONSISTS OF (title or clear description):**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Medium** \_\_\_\_\_ **Value** \_\_\_\_\_ **For Sale? (Y/N)** \_\_\_\_\_

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](mailto:chrisetanner@sbcglobal.net).