



Sketches...

Official Newsletter of your Lake County Art League

February 2022

Since 1934 LCAL.org 501c3

Virtual Winter Presentations

January, February and probably March will be done virtually for the foreseeable future.

The pandemic has shown everyone – including artists doing demonstrations – how easily Zoom meetings can be done. Benefits can even outweigh the casual, personal interaction we have so badly missed. In our case, 7-9:00 pm winter meetings put our members on very dark roads that can be slippery, and now we have the means avoid that. This year, of course, there is also a real but hopefully diminishing risk of the Omicron Covid-19 variant that is worth avoiding for now.

Image Transfer demo for our Monday, February 21 meeting

Recent School of the Art Institute of Chicago graduate Richard Medina will show how he transfers inkjet images to initiate thoughtful layered paintings. That will be a 7-9:00 pm Zoom meeting.



Richard Medina is an artist, curator, and filmmaker based in Chicago. He has exhibited his paintings at Heaven Gallery, Union Street Gallery, Robert T. Wright Gallery, and the Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago, among others. Richard also curates Box Gallery, an experimental display space. He graduated in May with what they call a BFA with Distinction.

Mostly, Richard is a painter, drawing from the lessons of history, biology and literature to produce themes and narratives. He works on small to medium canvases and panels, and he primarily works with acrylics applied in layers over photographic images. His recent show at CLC's Wright gallery caught the attention our

Jeff Harold, who ultimately filmed a Zoom interview with him. Their discussion can be seen on our YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ulgq919-plw> where Richard shares his thoughts about nuclear disaster, manifest destiny and Paul Bunyan – whom he compares to the mystic Greek giant Enceladus referenced in Herman Melville's book "Pierre." Using Paul he has played with the double-edged idea of our natural western beauty, grand and inspiring but ultimately spoiled by logging and agricultural expansion. Jeff invited Richard to demonstrate image transfer and layering this month.

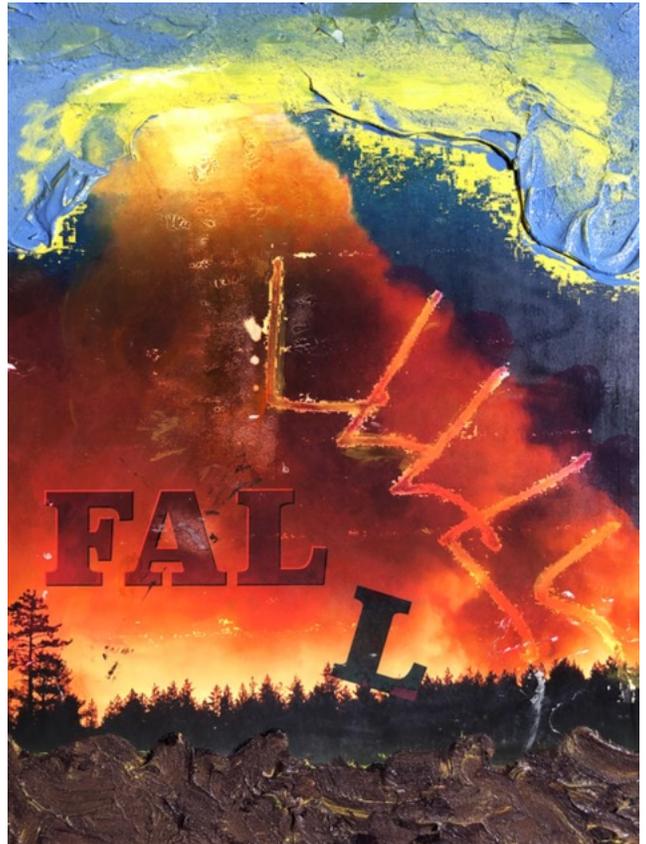
Image transfer begins with a digital photograph or other digital art, original or appropriated, printed in black or color on paper. Printer ink can be xerographic toner or inkjet. The print is glued face-down on a canvas or panel with acrylic gel medium, and the paper is later removed with water, elbow grease and patience. The image remains on the new acrylic surface as the foundation for a painting that Richard has in mind.

Bold painting over a photographic image is a dramatic contrast almost by definition, and the art can become rich with meaning. Much of Richard's work is like that, making it clear that the artist has something to say.

His inspiration for layered painting is Robert Rauschenberg (1925-2008), who also experimented with early transfer technologies, and Sigmar Polke (1941-2010).

Be sure to check out the www.richardmedina.com website as well as the interview. The website shows roughly 100 paintings, starting in 2017, and around 75 of those are image transfers followed with layers of painting, about half on canvas and half on panels.

After five years of labor-intensive scraping away of paper, Richard is now experimenting with printing directly on plastic panels and layering paint over that. He has a February show at Co-Prosperity, another alternative art space in Chicago.



"Fall III," 2021, An acrylic and photo transfer on a 12 x 16 in. panel.

Looking ahead to unique shows

In different ways the pandemic has forced all kinds of organizations to rethink what they do, and the results are surprising.

The 2021-22 LCAL year found us displaying and selling art to large crowds in an abandoned factory an hour's drive west of Lake County. That of course was the rescued and refurbished **Starline Factory in Harvard, Illinois**. They approached us, and we have had the interest and imagination to make this unusual and well-managed venue work for us. This will become a continuing relationship under the guidance of Jeff Harold. We have submitted a plan to Starline to book the art league again for shows in October 2022 and June 2023.

For many years LCAL has had a productive relationship with the Waukegan Park District and their Jack Benny Center for the Arts in Bowen Park. Last year the park district began a \$22 million restoration of the **Carnegie library on Sheridan Road**, and we have been involved in the planning. Beginning in 2023 the art league will be able to have shows in the main room with large windows overlooking Lake Michigan and the developing new lakefront. This is part of a continuing relationship managed by On-The-Wall director Chris Tanner.

Last year we were approached by Lake County about joining the rotating display of local artists on the main floor of the County Building in the center of downtown Waukegan. Almost anyone leaving this very busy building must walk by the display. On-The-Wall director Chris Tanner asked why someone would take the time to stop and look at art, and of course at that moment a man stopped and studied the art. Farther along that same wall is a Starbucks coffee stand, and in the other direction are uniformed police officers screening people entering the building. Curiosity, hospitality and security seem to be assured. One or two of our

Waukegan members needs to actively manage this opportunity to balance the needs of the building managers and our displaying artists. Volunteers and needed now.

Lake Villa District Library has a new library and wants to return to a program it had started in the old library where artists both display and demonstrate. Their art will be hung near the busy new foyer, and they will be paid for a three-hour “demonstration” of working and discussing their work with passing library patrons. Currently the library is screening 60 applicants and will soon start to show art in earnest. For now, this opportunity is limited to residents of Lake Villa Township, which includes five of our members. One or two of those five will need to manage our involvement and work with other art leagues to encourage other libraries to have such a program.

In 2024 we will make our own unique venue to commemorate our 90th anniversary. We will recreate the one-day membership show and critique that our members pioneered when they hung their art on drying fish nets in Waukegan harbor. We will set up decorative nets and display our art on rented chairs for one day in **Libertyville’s Cook Park**, with great fanfare of course. The adjoining Civic Center will be a rainy-day contingency. Artists will set up their art in the morning and hang around all day engaging passers-by until a very public 4:00 pm critique by a professional artist. We will also do this in **Waukegan’s Bowen park**, again with great fanfare, so we can cover both spring and fall membership shows. A few of our board members are working out the details. Volunteers will be needed, and should contact Chris Tanner or Fran Isaac at chrisetanner@sbcglobal.net and fmisaac@aol.com.

2022 Scholarships to be awarded in April

The \$500 LCAL and Phoebe Boyd Scholarships will be awarded to CLC students during the 41st Annual CLC Student Art Competition in April 2022.

There are no details yet in the CLC Student Art Competition, but it will be open to Studio Art and Digital Media & Design students attending CLC from Spring 2021 through Spring 2022. This is a juried show and students can submit up to two pieces of work that were part of a class assignment. It is anticipated that accepted work will be shown on the Robert T. Wright Community Gallery of Art website (<http://www.clcillinois.edu/campus-life/arts/wright-gallery>) during the month of April.

Selecting the LCAL and Phoebe Boyd Scholarships for the show this year will be LCAL members Clarese Ornstein, Jeff Harold, and Fran Isaac.

If judging this show interests you, please contact Val Brandner at isketchit@yahoo.com or 847-445-2788. Certainly we have the committee for this year, but we would like to have names for coming years. New members are especially welcome to do this rewarding work. Three members of the art league are needed each year to make the selection, and in normal times (non-COVID) the work is accomplished with only one or two meetings at the college during the month of April. One caveat: members judging art should have no existing relationship with the students.

Watch **Sketches** and **Member News** for the dates and times of the show, and find time to visit the Wright Gallery to see the art of these very talented students.

And ...

The Lake County Art League year runs from September through June. In the past we have met on the third Monday of these months, 7-9:00 pm. Meetings in September, October, January, February, March, April and June included 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.

| | Board Meeting 7-9:00 pm | General Meeting 7-9:00 pm |
|----------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| January | 3 | 17 |
| February | 7 | 21 |
| March | 7 | 21 |
| April | 4 | 18 |
| May | 2 | 16 |
| June | 6 | 20 |

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 |
|----------------|----------------|--------------------|