



The Ontario Society of Artists

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FEBRUARY 2012

140th

ANNIVERSARY

1872 - 2012

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From the President

We know where we've been. Do we know where we're going?

As I arrive into the last quarter as President of this Society, I'm thinking about what's happened and what's going to happen. We're coming into our 140th Anniversary. I am so proud to be a member of this Society because we are moving in the right direction. We are active and energetic.

Yes, we do know where we've been. Do we know where we are going?

In the late 19th and early 20th centuries the OSA was a groundbreaker. We planted the foundations of many solid art institutions. We were innovators. We took risks and achieved great things. Today, in the 21st century there are many, many arts organizations, clubs, societies - several of them inspired by our own organization, whether by an idea, or a political rift with the OSA or a local need. Why are we still at it if all these other organizations are satisfying their members, offering a social outlet, exhibition opportunities and a level of prestige? If we were the first, the innovators, the groundbreakers, who are we now? Are we still necessary? Is the OSA important? Why would any artist today want to be a member of the OSA? How long can we thrive on the fact that we are the oldest continuously operating society of art? I've made that speech too many times now! I have many questions.

We are not a social club, even though the social aspects are wonderful. We are skilled in our artwork disciplines and work daily to explore and move ahead. Repeating the same work does not keep us as forerunners. We have to continue to take risks. What makes us unique? How will we keep moving forward?

This Society was formed with a mandate to educate the public, to establish education through art, to represent truly Canadian Art. That was "then". Now that we have lots of public and commercial galleries, are we still needed?

From my point of view, it is about our Voice - the voice of the OSA. We communicate with and through our work - the artwork, the projects and the exhibitions. We can have a voice that continues to be unique by continually moving outside the box.

This coming year, we have an excellent opportunity to engage with the public using our voice. It will take more effort on the part of members:

- offering talks** about work at shows
- using Social Media** - YouTube, for example. Our website director, Rob Montgomery, will gladly upload that video talk for you.
- pARTners** has been and is an excellent way of being heard. Let's continue that initiative. We need your help to do that.
- Sponsoring an emerging artist** to show with us once a year will encourage involvement and interest by a new generation of creative artists.

I'm sure you have a great many ideas that you could bring to our Council for discussion. I wish you all a happy and creative year. And thank you for maintaining your membership for 2012.

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Editorial

Stepping up to the plate

President Carmel's letter is an encouraging look at "where we're going" as an organization. Lots of positive programs, and a forward-looking focus. This has been achieved by much work on the part of many members - foremost among them, Carmel herself. With the Annual General Meeting coming up (June 2 at the Aurora Cultural Centre, following the opening of our anniversary exhibition there - see information below), it's time for members to step up to the plate in terms of active participation. Carmel will be stepping down as president at the meeting at the end of her two-year term, We need to elect a successor. We will also need to elect a new vice-president and a new secretary, and to appoint members of Council and directors at large willing to take on specific responsibilities. Without committed leadership and active volunteers, the OSA could become little more than a fine-sounding designation after your name. Right now, we have good momentum. We need to ensure that this continues. So consider stepping up to the plate in a leadership position or an active volunteer role. When someone seeks to nominate you, answer the call. Better still, go ahead and throw your name in the hat for a role where you can make a contribution.

Wynn Walters, editor

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Killarney...here we come

A report from Lynn Bishop, Chair

Plans are well under way for the OSA adventure to Killarney this September. We have 18 artists and guests booked. We have up to 30 spots, so please let me know if you are still interested in joining in.

Please send your reservation cheque to me (Lynn Bishop), as I am collecting all of our contact info and then sending to Killarney Mountain Lodge (KML). You will receive a confirmation email from the lodge.

Reservation cheques are for **\$50 per person payable to Killarney Mountain Lodge**. My mailing address is: 10695 Acton Rd., R.R.1 Sunderland, ON. L0C 1H0. Here's the info from KLM regarding the rates and deposits.

Re your booking for the 140th anniversary three night/four day celebration of the Ontario Society of Artists - arrival Thursday, September 20 and departure Sunday, September 23, 2012. The rate, including three meals daily (a packed lunch on as many of the days as you wish), will be \$135 per person per night based on double occupancy, and \$175 per night for single occupancy. 24 rooms have been booked, in the Main Lodge (8) and the Pine Lodge (16). If more rooms are required, they would be in the cabins, at a rate of \$165 per person per night for double occupancy, and \$215 for single occupancy. Tax is extra (13%), with gratuities at the discretion of guests.

Cancellation policy - If you cancel two weeks or more prior to your confirmed arrival date we refund the deposit less a \$25 bookkeeping charge. If cancellation is less than two weeks prior we hold the entire deposit for another reservation by you either the same season or anytime the following year - or you forfeit the deposit.

For those interested in camping - You can book camp sites at 1-888-668-7275 or www.ontarioparks.com. Campground reservations can be made on line - reservations open for booking 5 months in advance of arrival date. Backcountry canoe-in campsite reservations must be done by phone - reservations open for booking 5 months in advance of arrival date. OSA Lake is the most popular lake in the park - sells out quickly - so call 5 months in advance to the day at 7:00 am for best chances.

I encourage you to join us - if you have any questions, please be in touch with me - Lynn Bishop, lynnbishop@andrewswireless.net

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The OSA newsletter is published four times a year. The deadline for submitting material for the next edition in May is April 15. Submissions must be sent before the deadline to **Wynn Walters** (wwalters@allstream.net) and **Audra Noble** (audranoble@rogers.com). Remember that articles about art, or news about your activities, are very welcome. Please share your information! We are interested. Pictures regarding exhibitions must be sent at 300 dpi or better for printing. We hope to hear from you.



pARTners program hits the road

After four years of planning, negotiating and creating, the pARTners program had a successful grand opening in Woodstock in November, and is now “on the road” in a series of exhibitions throughout the province.

Members will recall that the pARTners program is a collaborative venture that pairs established OSA artists with emerging artists. The intent is to reinforce the OSA’s mandate of education in the field of art, and of providing encouragement and mentorship to young artists. The program is a joint initiative of the OSA and the Woodstock Art Gallery. The opening exhibition was the inaugural event at the new Woodstock Art Gallery.



At the opening of the pARTners show (left to right): Janet Hendershot, Ernestine Tahedi, Diana Harding Tucker, artist Waab-shki-makoons, Woodstock Mayor Pat Sobeski, Carmel Brennan, Robert Montgomery and artist Laura Bydlowska.

In the initial show, 11 OSA artists were paired with 11 young artists, and each provided one piece for the exhibit, and a collaborative piece. As Lillian Michiko Blakey, the OSA co-chair of the project, reported at the General Meeting in December: “The exhibition is an amazing testament to the courage and skill of the eleven OSA artists and the eleven emerging artists who collaborated to produce spectacular artwork, many of which were installations. This impressive body of work fulfills our vision to demonstrate to the art world that OSA still maintains its education mandate and is a leader in contemporary art.”

As part of OSA's 140th Anniversary celebrations, the exhibition will go on tour to five other galleries in 2012:

you me gallery - Hamilton, Feb. 10–Mar. 4, (OSA artists only)

The Japanese Paper Place Gallery – Toronto, Feb. 1–29 (collaborative works only)

The Aurora Cultural Centre – Aurora, May 8–26.

The John B. Aird Gallery – Toronto, June 26-July 20

Pentimento Fine Art Gallery – Toronto, August 2 - 27 (emerging artists only),

Upcoming opportunities & events

In addition to the pARTners touring exhibits, there are a number of other events to mark in calendars:

OSA Open Juried Exhibition

The annual OJE is gearing up for its opening on March 8 (6 - 8 p.m. at the John B. Aird Gallery, Toronto). The show will be open to the public March 6 - 30; 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. **Nancy De Boni**, program chair, reports that 339 entries were received from 123 artists, 40 of them OSA members, with 38 works selected for the show, including works from 16 OSA members. Nancy needs “sitters” for the show: one from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., and one from 2 to 6 p.m. A sign-up sheet will be at the gallery for exhibiting artists to sign in, or if anyone else can take a shift, please contact Nancy at ndeboni@sympatico.ca or 416-653-4598.

Ontario Government art collection

At the November General Meeting, Lani Wilson, curator of Government of Ontario Art Collection, reported on plans for an exhibition that will showcase the 2007 donation of works by OSA members to the permanent collection. The show, titled “**Gifted: Donations from the OSA**”, will include 39 works by 37 OSA artists. Acquisition of works by OSA artists, constituting a historical representation of Ontario through artists’ eyes, goes back to 1873. Some 200 works were purchased from 1873 to 1917. The first donation of works was made in 2005, with the donation of 18 works. The works to be shown in the upcoming show represent the second group donation. Lani reported that a third group donation is being organized for 2012, with further information forthcoming. The Archives of Ontario are the official keeper of OSA records. (cont’d on Page 4)

Ontario Government art collection

(cont'd from Page 3)

The exhibition of the 2007 donation will be **April 27 – Oct 12 at the Helen McClung Exhibit Gallery, York University**, with an **opening reception April 26**. During the running of this exhibition there are plans for speakers, and/or demos, info tour walks, talks, panel discussions etc. from OSA artists. President Carmel Brennan encouraged a good representation of OSA members at the opening, and urged involvement in the program of talks. More information is forthcoming.



Lani Wilson addresses members at the General Meeting.

Members' Exhibition - Aurora Cultural Centre

An exhibition of OSA members' work will be held at the **Aurora Cultural Centre, May 30 - July 12**. The opening will be on **June 2 (1-4 p.m.)**, and it will be followed by the **OSA Annual General Meeting (4-7 p.m.)**. Members are invited to submit up to three works for selection, with at least one work from each artist included in the show. The exhibition will accommodate about 100 pieces depending on sizes of works. There will be no fee to participate. Since this show celebrates the 140th Anniversary, members are encouraged to participate. An impressive catalogue will be produced, with a full page devoted to each artist who chooses to be included in the publication. It will include an artist's statement, image and contact information. There is a fee of \$100 for inclusion, to cover production costs. Members are encouraged to book their page (and pay for it) as soon as possible. Fifty members have already done so. You can do this by sending your cheque, and intent to participate in the catalogue, to Carmel Brennan at the Ashbridge House address. The Call for Entry is posted on the website and has been sent by mail. **George Boyer** is chairing this project.

St. James Cathedral exhibition

Report from **James MacDougall** (project chair)

This exhibition, to be held at St. James Cathedral, Toronto, celebrates the 140th anniversary of the OSA, and is coordinating with a major anniversary of the Ontario Association of Archivists and an anniversary of the cathedral. It will exhibit work of the 22 existing active members who have held or now hold the positions of President or Vice President of the Society. Since the connection with St. James celebrates our founders, most of whom contributed to the Cathedral and were members of that congregation, it is appropriate to celebrate those who have "stepped up to the plate" to continue their work and vision. There are of course many other deserving members who have accepted executive positions, but this gallery space can accommodate only a limited number of participants. **Pat Dumas-Hudecki** is undertaking the design of the catalogue which will accompany the exhibition and will become an archival document, the text for which is being written by the current head of the Toronto branch of the Ontario Association of Archivists. **Judy Finch** is helping with the administrative responsibilities of putting this undertaking together. **The exhibition will be open from June 13 to 29 at the Parish House Library/Gallery of the Cathedral with an opening reception on Saturday June 16.**

Nine new members elected

Nine new members were elected at the general meeting in November. **Peter Barelkowski**, chair of the New Member Committee, reports that there were 33 applications, and 13 were presented for final jurying. Congratulations to these new members:

Agnieszka Foltyn, Toronto - painting
Anthony Batten, Toronto - painting
Edward Babiarz, Toronto - paper-making, mixed media
Lilian Lampert, Toronto - painting & drawing
Rebecca Last, Toronto - painting
Sheila Davis, Beaverton - painting
Slobodan Dosic, Toronto - painting, mixed media
Sumer Alhindavi, Mississauga - painting, mixed media
Christine Proctor, Etobicoke - painting

NEWS FROM AND ABOUT MEMBERS

Here's your opportunity to tell us what's happening in your artistic world . . . upcoming or recent shows, commissions, awards, classes or programs you're involved in . . . or other items of interest. Please send input to Wynn Walters (wwalters@allstream.net) and Audra Noble (audranoble@rogers.com), with picture(s) if relevant. Be sure to include all necessary information (what, when, where, etc.).

A number of OSA members exhibited at the Salon 6 show at the Propellor Centre for the Visual Arts, Queen St. West, Toronto, with the show open most of January. Included in the exhibit were **Carmel Brennan, Peter Barelkowski, Joseph Muscat, Pat Dumas-Hudecki and Maya Foltyn.**



John Schweitzer, an OSA member and long-time Montreal resident, has been awarded an honorary degree by the University of Western Ontario. John, himself a practicing artist best known for his large collages, opened the Galerie John A. Schweitzer in Montreal in 1984, starting with a ground-breaking exhibit of works by photographer Robert Mapplethorpe. He has also made significant donations or art and funding over the years to Western and to a number of health institutions and public galleries.

Marg Peter is conducting a one-day workshop in landscape fluid acrylic painting at the Williams Mill Visual Arts Centre in Glen Williams (Halton Hills). The workshop is on Sunday Feb. 19, 9.30 a.m. - 4 p.m., \$100. For more information: admin@williamsmill.com.

Editt Davidovici will be participating in an all female international sculpture exhibition in Pietrasanta, Italy from February 19 - March 11, at the Chiostro di Sant'Agostino. It's the 10th anniversary of this event honouring female artists for International Woman's Day. The event is sponsored by the cultural department of the Municipality of Pietrasanta. Editt will be traveling to Italy to attend the opening and will remain there for a week taking part in the sculpture symposium. She promises to send pictures of her sculpture for the next newsletter.



Nancy De Boni has two paintings juried into the Agora Gallery, 530 West 125th St., Chelsea, New York, Jan.17 – Feb. 7 (www.agora-gallery.com). The show is titled Figuratively Speaking. One of the paintings selected is shown.

An exhibition of works by current and former teachers with the Toronto District School Board (TDSB) was organized by OSA member **Joseph Muscat** at the Propellor Centre for the Visual Arts.

The show, held as homage to the many teachers who have inspired and guided students, ran from Feb. 1-12. Joseph is also involved in an installation at the Art Souterrain / Art Underground and Nuit blanche 2012 in Montreal in February 2012, as part of the three-artist collective PADEJO. They will also be participating in the Foire d'art alternatif de Sudbury / Sudbury Alternative Art Fair in May 2012.

Jesse Gledhill has a solo show entitled "Cycles" at the Swords into Plowshares Peace Centre and Gallery, 333 East Adams Ave., Detroit, from Jan. 24 to March 24 (Tue., Thur., Sat., 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. or by appointment), with reception on March 10. One of his works in the show is pictured.



Theatre 101

Judy Finch has just completed her sixth portrait commission of a headmistress of Bishop Strachan School Toronto.

An exhibition of recent works by **Maria Gabankova** will be held at the Loop Gallery, 1273 Dundas St. West, Toronto, from Feb. 4 - 26, with a Q&A session on Feb. 12 at 2 p.m. Gallery hours are Wed-Sat 12-5 p.m., Sun 1-4 p.m.

George Boyer will be showing works at The Artist Project, March 1-4, Queen Elizabeth Bldg, Exhibition Place, Toronto.

Andrea Bird is offering on-going workshops in encaustic at "The Hive" in Alton Mill, just north of Toronto. A schedule of her classes can be found at www.andreabird.com, or call her at (519) 323-3437. Andrea has also recently joined the Mad & Noisy Gallery in Creemore. They have an exhibit called "Subzero: a celebration of all that is winter", Feb. 4 - 27. More information from www.madandnoisy.com

Gil Caldwell had two paintings juried into the Toronto Watercolour Society's Fall exhibition. "Winter Solitude" received an award of Merit. He also had a watercolour accepted into the new Woodstock Gallery's annual show entitled "Visual Elements." The Colour and Form Society's annual open juried show at the Etobicoke Civic Centre Gallery juried in a lino print.



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*SEE pamphlet in the OSA Newsletter for more information
6 Ontario Locations - DESERRES.CA

DeSerres art supplies stores are offering a "double points" deal to OSA members. See the pamphlet enclosed, or check on line.

Sheila Davis, one of our new members, has an exhibition at the Marianne van Silfhout Gallery at St. Lawrence College, Brockville from Jan. 8 - Feb 19 (gallery hours Tuesday - Friday 10 am - 8 pm, Monday & Saturday, 10 am - 4 pm). The show, "Walk with me", was in collaboration with Sheila's mother, a poet, whose works were also featured.



Sheila and her mother at the opening

Tara Imerson is organizing a one-day show and sale featuring her watercolours, together with works by other invited artists - Saturday April 1, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., at Monora Park Pavilion, Highway 10, just north of Orangeville. More information from www.taraimerson.com.

Janice Mason Steeves has issued her 2012 schedule of workshops: Abstract Painting with Cold Wax Medium. This schedule is available on her website: www.janicemasonsteeves.com. Janice will also be showing in a two-person exhibition at Granville Fine Art in Vancouver, 2447 Granville St., Vancouver. The show opens April 28. For further information: www.granvillefineart.com



Synge's Chair 24" x 24" oil/cold wax medium on panel. Inspired by Janice's recent artist residency in Ireland.